

Funeral Order of service

Name _____ date _____

location _____ time _____

Funeral home _____

graveside _____

arrival music _____

1. opening music _____

2. Opening remarks by Pastor _____

3. Hymn or song _____

4. Eulogy, Obituary

5. Prayer _____

6. scripture and message

7. song _____

8. closing remarks, prayer _____

9. exit music _____

Luke 23:32-43

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

To Die Is Gain - Funeral sermon

Phil 1:21 – “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

When I read this verse I can't help but think of _____ .

When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church at Phillipi, the circumstances of his life weren't exactly ideal. He was in prison - under house arrest in Rome – chained to a Roman soldier as his guard. Paul was a prisoner and yet this entire letter shouts with triumph. It is filled with the words “joy” and “rejoicing”.

Right Christian experience is the outworking of the life and mind of Christ in our lives whatever our circumstances might be.

_____ lived the last years of his life a prisoner in a body that was filled with sickness – yet he never complained. He seemed to show joy and to rejoice in his affliction.

To those who do not believe in God – Life on earth is the best there is. For the non Christian, it is only natural to strive for the world's values. Money – Popularity – Power – Prestige.

For the Christian it is different. – “To die is gain”

What do we gain?

1. We Gain a better body – a glorified, immortalized, resurrected body.

In this present body of clay we are subject to all the sorrows and tears that life is heir to. Age, sickness, and finally death are the inevitable end of this house made of the dust of the earth. But in death and the resurrection we gain a better body, one that can never grow old, know disease, suffer pain, and can never die. We gain a better body.

2. We Gain a better home.

However the beauty and the embellishments of any house we may possess in this world, it is nothing compared with our mansion in the beautiful city of God. Look at the promise of our Lord in John 14:1-3.

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The longing of the Apostle Paul for his home in heaven is expressed in Phil 1:23> "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"

3. We Gain a better inheritance.

Our final reward is not here – it is in Heaven.

4. We Gain a better fellowship.

All of us live in this world of a dissolving family circle. Mother is gone – Father is gone, or a child is gone, or our beloved grandparents are gone, or a close friend is gone. But the circle is unbroken in Heaven forever and ever. There is no death there, no sorrow or crying or pain, for these former things are passed away. Jesus is there.

5. If "for me to live is Christ," then to die is gain.

If for me to live is money – then to die is loss.

If for me to live is self – then to die is loss.

If for me to live is ambition – then to die is loss.

If for me to live is sin – then to die is loss.

But if for me to live is Christ – to die is gain.

THE MEANING OF DEATH

Dying, Christ destroyed our death.

Rising, Christ restored our life.

Christ will come again in glory.

Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.

What we shall be has not been revealed,

But we know when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Those who have this hope purify themselves as Christ is pure.

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and I am the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive forever more, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you shall also live."

Let Us Pray

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray.

You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Give to us now your grace, ;that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity.

Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and death.

Help us to live as those who are prepared to die.

And when our days are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

In the presence of mine enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

John 14:1-10a, 15-21, 25-27

The Bible says many wonderful things about the death of a Christian. But the trouble is that we don't believe these things. We think of death as an end to all things good. We think of death as a time of separation. We think of it as a hideous monster come to cut off all our joys.

But the death of a Christian is a wonderful thing. Suppose you were in a prison camp where you were persecuted and beaten every day, where you had nothing to eat but a dry crust of stale bread every day and you had to sleep on the cold, damp ground every night. Then suppose some army friends came in and rescued you and took you to a place of rest and good food and happiness. Wouldn't you consider these rescuers as good friends?

Well, we ought to look upon death in that way. We live in a cruel world, a world of many hardships, injustices, trials, tears, sorrow, and separations. Now when death comes to take us into the presence of the Lord, where we shall have perfect health and perfect rest, wouldn't you say that death is, after all, a good friend? We look upon death as an enemy, but really death takes us to a better place.

Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints." When a Christian dies it is a matter of concern to the Lord. He knows about every breath that we draw, every pain that we endure, every groan that we utter. It all means something to Him. Now our text says, not that death is precious in our sight, but in God's sight. The Psalmist is talking about death from God's standpoint.

We can't understand the why's and how's of death. But we do have this wonderful promise from God.