

Biblical Guidance when Deciding for Burial or Cremation?



Lesson Part 1 Introduction



The Bible states in II Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;” So what does the Bible say concerning the care of a body after death?

The preacher in Ecclesiastes tells us in chapter 3 verse 2, “A time to be born, and a time to die;” He goes on to say in chapter 6 verse 3, “If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say that an untimely birth is better than he.” And in chapter 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

This lesson has to do with the care of the physical body after death. As was stated before, the body decomposes but the spirit is already gone, to be with the Lord if saved, or to hell if unsaved; you have God’s word on it! That decision was made by the person before his or her death, if the person was of age physically and mentally. David made this positive statement about his baby who died, II Samuel 12:23 “But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

The body must be cared for after death. What will be your decision for that? What would God have you to choose for you or your loved ones? **Let us look into the Holy Bible for direction.** {Much thanks goes to Way Of Life Literature and David Cloud for the information we used to build this lesson. }

Emotional and Financial Concerns



If we don’t prepare our own funeral, that sad and very emotional time will be left to our closest loved ones. It will be very stressful, and many things may come into play; their emotional state and their financial concerns to name a couple.

The emotional strain can only be handled by the proper application of the Scriptures and the love of other godly people in and through the difficult time. We need to make sure of our salvation, be in fellowship with God, and do our best to see that our loved ones are saved and walking with God. This lesson can also equip you to handle the pressures of those who have little knowledge of God’s Word and may pressure you to go against your Bible based convictions.

The other thing is financial concern. This is one thing I wanted to talk with you about. Most people will consider cremation because it is less expensive in both the funeral and the disposal. But should we consider it? *What would God have us to do? What did our forefathers*

do? Why did they do it the way they did? To not consider God in this decision is to tell Him His will does not count. Are you willing to say that to Him?

Historically, Christians chose burial as a testimony of faith in the bodily resurrection. You find the body facing up (looking to Jesus for a resurrection) and often toward the east as Jesus will return from the east and will enter Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate.

In contrast, cremation has been practiced by Hindus and others who teach that there is no resurrection or that the spirit was to return in some other bodily form through reincarnation.



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The Bible and Burial:

God's people in the Bible practiced burial. We ought to follow their example. It is not directly commanded but, read Romans 15:4-6.

“For whatsoever _____
_____ were written _____ that we
through patience and comfort _____.
Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be _____ one
toward another according to Christ Jesus: _____
_____ even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
See I Corinthians 10:11 “Now all these things _____
_____ and _____
_____ upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

We are to follow examples as well as direct instruction;

The following are some examples from the Old Testament times:

Genesis 23:1-4 And _____ was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 And _____ in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and _____ for Sarah, and to weep for her. 3 And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, 4 I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a _____ with you, that _____ out of my sight.



Genesis 25:8-10 Then _____ gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people. 9 And _____ Isaac and Ishmael _____ in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is before Mamre; 10 The field which Abraham

purchased of the sons of Heth: there _____, and Sarah his wife.

Genesis 35:19-20, 29 And _____, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. 20 And _____: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day. Ge 35:29 And _____ gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and _____



Genesis 49:33 And when _____ had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people. Please read Genesis 50:1-13 which is an amazing account of Joseph's care that Jacob gave him! Verse 5 says " My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again."

Genesis 50:26 So _____, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was _____.

If inconvenience is a problem, patiently pray and work through the inconvenience to honor God by following godly, time-honored examples!

Joshua 24:29-30, 33 And it came to pass after these things, that _____ the son of Nun, the _____, being an hundred and ten years old. 30 And _____ in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. 33 And _____ the son of Aaron died; and _____ in a hill that pertained to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim.

I Samuel 25:1 And _____; and _____ were gathered together, and lamented him, and _____ in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

I Kings 2:10 So _____ slept with his fathers, and was _____ in the city of David.

To be continued:

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Lesson Part 2

Continued:

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Here are some examples from the New Testament time:

Matthew 14:10-12 And he sent, and _____ in the prison. 11 And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. 12 And _____ came, and _____, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.



In Acts 5:5-10 and Acts 5:5, the time of the Church had begun. Two Church members died because of their sin against the Holy Ghost. Who were those people? _____ and _____. They

both were taken out and were Burned Buried *circle one.*

Acts 8:2 And _____ carried _____, and made great lamentation over him.

Here are some examples of burial by God’s people during difficult times. We can learn from Genesis 50:24-26 and Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32.

Genesis 20:25 “And _____, saying, God will surely visit you and _____. So _____ being an hundred and ten years old; and _____ and he was _____ and he was put _____ in Egypt.

Exodus 13:19, “And Moses _____ of Joseph _____: for he had...”

Joshua 24:32 And _____, which the children of Israel _____ they in Shechem _____.”

Joseph could have been cremated and his “ashes” carried in a small container. But this they refused to do. Joseph, who was a follower of the true God, was a man who looked forward to the bodily resurrection. He was placed in a coffin, a hope chest, that testified of His faith in God and in God’s Word, God’s promises!

He was given a proper and honorable burial about 350 years later! The Israelites rejected the economical and easy way to carry Joseph to the Promised Land. Cremation was the way of the heathen people, not of God's people!



Burial looks back to Christ's resurrection and forward to the resurrection of the saved in Christ:

Romans 8:21-22 Because the creature itself also _____ from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For _____ that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for _____, to wit its redemption of our body.

I Corinthians 15:20-23 But now is _____, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also _____. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so _____. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; _____.

I Corinthians 15:51-57 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We _____, but we _____, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the



and we shall _____. 53 For this _____ must put on _____, and this _____ must put on _____. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O _____, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which

The book of Job, thought to be the oldest book of the Bible, stated in chapter 19:26-27 "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, _____: Whom _____, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another: though my reins be consumed within me."

I Thessalonians 4:15-17 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the

archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ _____:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be _____
_____ in the clouds, to _____:
and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Yes, the body decomposes. Yes, there are occasions when burial is impossible. But, when, at all possible, we bury. Why? Because it is an expression of our certain hope that the same individual will be raised in the same body, only changed. The physical body is called the seed of the resurrection body. When planted, a seed decomposes, and a new plant comes forth. I Corinthians 15:35-44.

The unsaved have no such hope or knowledge. Some cremate because they believe the individual will be reincarnated in another unrelated body, or unto a non-physical sphere of existence. Please take note that we need to help show others the way of life through Jesus and teach of the hope that lies within us.

Cremation is a sign of God's Curse:

Destruction of the human body by fire is used as a sign of divine wrath. Consider these examples: List the ones whom God destroyed by fire:

2 Peter 2:6 _____

Leviticus 10:1-2 _____

Numbers 16:35 _____

Joshua 7:25 _____

Revelation 20:15 _____



God practices Burial:

God buried Moses. Deuteronomy 34:5-6. "So _____ the servant
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the Lord. And he (God) _____ in a valley in the land of Moab **The**

Lack of burial is a dishonor:

Read now I Kings 21:23-24 "And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, 'the
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Psalm 83:9-10. "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook
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_____ into lime.

Shall we dishonor our loved ones by failing to give them a proper Christian burial? Do you love your savings more than your family members or the Lord?

The Christian's Body is Not His Own:

I Corinthians 6:19-20 "What, know ye not that _____ which is in you, which ye have of God, and _____? For ye are _____: therefore _____, and in your spirit, which _____."

Romans 14:8 "...whether _____ therefore, or _____, we are _____."



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This should not be the case for Christians. Unfortunately, America has moved away from God and is adapting to the pagan ways of the world! Christian, humans are not as an animal which has no soul. You are made in the image of God who breathed into man the breath of life.



You are not to be a respecter of man, but a follower of the ways of God..

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Corinthians 10:11 “Now all these things **HAPPENED TO THEM FOR ENSAMPLES:** and **THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION** upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

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Joshua 24:32 And **THE BONES OF JOSEPH**, which the children of Israel **BROUGHT UP OUT OF EGYPT, BURIED** they in Shechem **IN THE PARCEL OF GROUND WHICH JACOB BOUGHT ...”**

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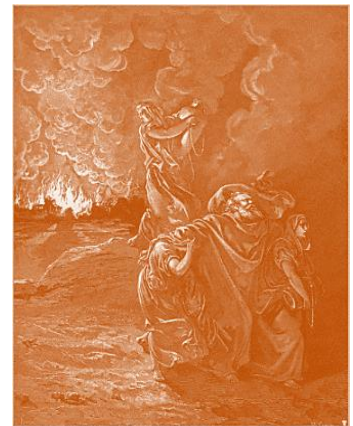
2 Peter 2:6 **SODDOM AND GOMORAH**

Leviticus 10:1-2 **NADAB AND ABIHU**

Numbers 16:35 **250 MEN THAT OFFERED INCENSE**

Joshua 7:19-25 **ACHAN**

Revelation 20:15 **WHOSOEVER WAS NOT FOUND IN THE BOOK OF LIFE**



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Romans 14:8 " For whether we live, we live unto God: and wether we die, we die unto the Lord: **WE LIVE** therefore, or **DIE** , we are **THE LORDS.**"



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