

Grace Family Church, Newtown, CT, Pastors Barry & Sheila Fredericks
WAKE /FUNERAL SERVICE

Date: _____

1. Condolences – sad about _____; honored to share truth

I Thessalonians 4:13 And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope.

- a. God wants you to understand the truth about death and also about life and why things are the way that they are – **it is too important for you to wonder/guess**
 - b. to those who do not know Jesus, death is terrifying – **people make up things like reincarnation; return as animal, one with the universe; oblivion.** A Christian, has sorrow, because they miss the person who has passed away, but if the deceased was a Christian we are not like those who have no hope
2. What kind of a God created _____? TV, radio, newspapers and some people paint a frightening picture of God
- a. they say He is angry, mean, the cause of war, tragedy, disasters, storms, sickness, poverty and death. That He gives an endless list of do's and don'ts and is glad to punish us if we sin. There was a TV show on **“The Wrath of God”**
 - b. **people go to jail for what God is accused of doing**
 - c. if this is true, it is no wonder that people fear Him, distrust Him and are angry with Him – **Gospel = Good News**; is His idea of Good News different?
3. the Bible paints a very different picture of God; the Bible tells the truth about God. God loves you; He knew you even before you were born; He has a wonderful plan for your life; desires you to prosper and be in health. God knows you intimately – the hairs on your head are numbered and He has your picture on the palm of His hand

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good Yet so much of what we see is not good

4. if God is so good (and He is); and the world is messed up (and it is); what is the reason? **The Bible tells us clearly: The sin and disobedience of Adam**

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 2:16 But the LORD God gave him this warning: "You may freely eat any fruit in the garden v17 except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die."

- a. A/E created to rule the world; they were given a free will and God said literally if you eat from this tree, ‘**dying you shall die**’ (implying two deaths); more later....
- b. they were given one commandment – God wanted to see if they would obey Him because they loved Him; religion is rules; God always has wanted a love relationship and to spare us from the pain and misery sin brings; sin is not fun God deprives you of, it is destruction He wants to keep you away from

5. The Greatest Betrayal

Romans 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

- a. Adam sinned – he legally represented the human race. His sin cursed the earth – that curse in essence was three fold – poverty, sickness and death

6. what is death?

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person.

- a. **(I Thessalonians 5:23)** we are three part beings – we are a spirit, we have a mind and we live in a body
- b. a spirit is eternal – once it is given by God, it will always be
- c. death in the Bible means separation, never termination

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead....

7. Adam’s sin, caused his spirit to be separated from God (spiritual death) – started the process of physical death (body separated from spirit); the human race was effected

8. The Greatest Love Story is not Romeo & Juliet or any other book/movie

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
v 17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.**

- a. God loved us too much for us to be eternally separated from Him

- b. God is holy and man is a sinner – we have no way back to God; not good works, going to church, giving money, being good; more later.....
- c. Life means united with the Lord (spiritual) and the body (physical)

9. The Most Daring Rescue Mission

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He (God the Father) made Him (the Lord Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- a. **Jesus never sinned, He came and died on the cross, becoming our sins giving us His right standing with God – God forgave you 2000 years ago**

10. The Most Generous Offer –

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, v9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- a. so often people believe good deeds get you to heaven – think of Jesus’ sacrifice

v10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- a. we are to do good works – they do not make us a Christian; we do good works because helping others is the right thing to do (everyone seems to know that)

- (Psalm 139:14) fearfully & wonderfully made – if we are not careful we can think everything we have is because of us; (I Corinthians 4:7) everything we have the Lord gave us – tempted to think this way by pride so that you will fail; (Genesis 2:19) Adam and the Lord worked together; (John 15:5) without the Lord we can do nothing; (Jeremiah 9:23-24, Psalm 91:14-15, David) if you love the Lord seek to know Him and you will be blessed in all you do; Jesus our Example (John 6, 12)

- b. **works do not get you to heaven – must be one ‘thing’ everyone can do or it would not be fair and it would keep everyone worrying if they did enough to get them in – the Lord does not want you in a constant state of agitation (Ethiopia – if you have the means it is called human good)**

11. The Happiest Beginning Ever

John 14:1 "Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. v2 There are many rooms (mansions) in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. v3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

- a. **(John 14:2-3) mansions in heaven; (I Corinthians 2:9) eye did not see; streets of**

gold; God's glory lights heaven (His presence = peace/joy); a big universe; (Psalm 23:6) forever to dwell in the House of the Lord; we will see many loved ones; Father's House

- c. heaven not boring (harp/cloud) snow flakes, sparrows, universe; Matthew 25 the parable of the talents
- d. **Psalm 16:11** greatest joy will be to be with Jesus, **in Thy presence is fullness of joy**

12. Physical death is not to be feared

13. **Philippians 1:21, 23** Paul couldn't wait – called heaven gain/far better – not true if the end

Philippians 1:21 For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better. v23 I'm torn between two desires: Sometimes I want to live, and sometimes I long to go and be with Christ. That would be far better for me,

- a. (2 Corinthians 5:4) Bible calls next world – life; (2 Corinthians 5:8) transition instant – absent from the body is to be present with the Lord; (1 Corinthians 15:4) death swallowed by life

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

14. How To receive Eternal Life – Forever with the Lord in heaven & _____

John 20:30 Jesus' disciples saw him do many other miraculous signs besides the ones recorded in this book. v31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life.

- e. Bible great historical Book; tells the story of great men of faith; teaches a high moral code – written for one reason to introduce you to Jesus

I John 5:13 I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending (Jesus) Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

You do not become a Christian by going to church, doing good works or giving money, you become a Christian by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (your sins were forgiven 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us); (John 16:7-9)

Altar Call – Sinner's Prayer

