

## THE FUNERAL SERVICE

\* Opening Prayer

\* Thank everyone for attending.

Scripture **ECCL. &7:1-2** With comments - a good reputation is better than an expensive fragrance and death is better than birth when you know Jesus.

Comment - we are living in the land of the dying and when we die we go to the land of the living. Where we spend our eternal living is determined by what we've sown in the land of the dying.

### Our Threefold Purpose For Being Here

1.) To pay a final tribute to the one who has departed.

A.) I have the family fill out a questionnaire if no one is willing to speak and I don't know the deceased.

B.) I open the floor for anyone who would like to share a memory or an adjective describing the individual.

2.) To offer words of comfort and encouragement to the bereaved.

A.) I always emphasize that only Jesus is qualified to give us insight on life, death and eternity.

B.) Jesus taught death doesn't mean cessation of life--the rich man and Lazarus.

C.) You can see your loved one again--the Rapture.

\* Comfort one another with these words.

D.) I emphasize the gain experienced by the deceased if they know Christ, and how knowing their loved one is well taken care of should comfort their hearts.

3.) To prepare the living for the inevitable.

A.) I define prepare: The process of action by which we get ready for a test, duty or occasion.

B.) I use King David's comment when his infant son died and he said he can't bring him back but must prepare himself to go be with him.

C.) I share motivations for being prepared.

\* Test - Taking a driving test at age 16. 1st - you really want to drive, and 2nd to avoid embarrassment for failing.

\* Occasion - a wedding reception. No one calls a caterer on the day of the wedding.

\* Duty - our government prepares soldiers for war or people die!

\* Spiritually speaking I use three powerful motivations: the brevity of life, the certainty of death, and there's no second chance. **JAMES 4:14 & HEBREWS 9:27.**

**D.)** Jesus said we must, not could, not should, but must! I then explain God's love for us and lead in a sinners prayer.

\* 37 years ago when I officiated my first funeral service an elderly woman approached me and said she accepted Christ when I gave the invitation. She said she never thought she would find him at a funeral service. She concluded by saying "And I'm Jewish!" Needless to say, that inspired me to always include a sinners prayer.