

THE FUNERAL OF A NON-BELIEVER

Prelude

Call to Worship Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 147:3, 5

Invocation

Scripture Reading Psalm 24; Psalm 89; Psalm 119; Psalm 142; Ecclesiastes 3; Romans 10; Philippians 4:6-13

Obituary Information and Family and Friends Comments

Meditation

Funerals are for the living rather than for the dead. In the case of one who does not profess to be a Christian the minister should avoid the extreme of condemning the deceased to eternal punishment or preaching the deceased into heaven. He must avoid judging the heart as well as giving false hope. The Good News of the Gospel can be faithfully presented without saying that the promised blessings necessarily apply to the deceased.

The meditation could be as simple and powerful as sharing the Christian hope as outlined in Steps to Peace with God by Billy Graham. A simple presentation of the basics of the Christian hope: (1) God's Idea: Peace and Life Forever; (2) Our Problem: Sin gets in the way; (3) God's Answer: The Cross; and (4) Our Part: Accept Christ.

The funeral service is a unique opportunity to speak to the living about their imminent death. It is not a question of will they die – it is only a question of when they will die. While we can't do anything for the dead, we can minister to the living by sharing with them a positive message of the Christian hope which depends upon a personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn or special music

Benediction