

## FUNERAL DISCOURSE

(Note: This discussion may be opened by a short, appropriate prayer, to be followed by a few words mentioning the occasion as one of sorrow, death being an enemy. Then state the need of turning to God's Word for comfort.)

- 00:01 I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING MAN
- A. Man made a living soul
  - B. To live and inhabit earth
    - 1. To multiply and fill earth
    - 2. To dress the earth
    - 3. To obey Creator
  - C. Disobedience the only way to death
- 00:06 II. WHY MAN DIES
- A. Adam died for disobedience
  - B. Sin and death passed on to children (Rom. 5:12)
- 00:09 III. CONDITION OF THE DEAD
- A. Not in heaven or torment
  - B. Dead are unconscious, nonexistent
    - 1. Soul dies
    - 2. Breath goes forth, body to dust, thoughts perish
    - 3. No knowledge, remembrance or praise
    - 4. Likened to sleep, no suffering
  - C. Dead in Sheol, grave, hell, awaiting resurrection
- 00:16 IV. HOPE FOR THE DEAD
- A. The ransom
    - 1. Need for a ransom
    - 2. Basis for ransom arrangement
    - 3. Ransom provided through blood of Christ Jesus
  - B. The heavenly resurrection (spiritual)
    - 1. Christ the firstfruits of those who sleep
      - a. Is now alive forever
      - b. This gives assurance to all men
    - 2. The congregation His "body"
      - a. To be limited to 144,000, "little flock"
      - b. Sleep until God's kingdom and Christ's coming to the temple
      - c. Remnant changed in "twinkling of an eye" at death
  - C. The earthly resurrection (fleshly)
    - 1. An early resurrection of worthy ones
      - a. For men of faith before Christ
      - b. For "other sheep" dying before Armageddon
    - 2. The later resurrection of the rest of the dead
      - a. Millions of human dead brought forth on earth
      - b. Opportunity provided to serve God and live on earth
      - c. No resurrection, no "second chance," for those who willfully spurn Christ's ransom
- 00:25 V. KINGDOM WILL ACCOMPLISH GOD'S PURPOSE TOWARD MAN
- A. King, Jesus Christ, now reigning
  - B. God's new order and Kingdom blessings at hand
    - 1. End of wicked rule near
    - 2. Those with faith continue living everlastingly
    - 3. Beloved dead join living
    - 4. Sorrow removed, man to beautify earth
  - C. Fulfillment of God's purpose source of comfort (2 Cor. 1:3, 4)
    - 1. God will act toward the deceased mercifully
    - 2. Hope of resurrection, new order, comfort for living
    - 3. Appreciative persons moved to learn of and serve God now

### 00:29 PRAYER

(Note: Much material may be obtained from the books *"Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie"* and *"Make Sure of All Things: Hold Fast to What Is Fine,"* as well as other publications. The purpose of this talk is not to attack false religion, but to uphold Jehovah as a God of love and mercy and at the same time to bring comfort to those who are bereft of a loved one. The talk may be closed with a short prayer. Where arrangement is made to go to the grave, it is well to consider there very briefly the hope through the Kingdom, reading one or two fitting scriptures. The service may be closed with prayer, thanking God for the hope that is a great comfort. The time schedule is approximate and will be determined by circumstances and the audience, but in no instance should the talk exceed 30 minutes.)