

Covenant Class

9.25.2016 – week 7



## the perfect funeral

### **The perfect funeral begins with preparation**

- a. Knowing why I am here II Tim. 4:6-8
- b. Knowing my unique good works Phil. 1:21-25
- c. Knowing who I want to impact II Peter 1:12-15, Eccl. 7:1-4

### **Once I have set my affairs in order**

- Relational focus is love
- Financial focus is kingdom and family
- Personal focus is peace
- Spiritual focus is joy

### **Why focus on a funeral?**

- 1. It is your opportunity for a final way to glorify God I Cor. 15:58
- 2. It is valuable to God Ps. 116:15
- 3. It gives your life continual meaning Heb. 12:1-2
- 4. You may be watching it from heaven Luke 15:7, Heb. 12:1

5. It is a way to love your family and friends I Cor. 13:7-8a, 13

**So the questions to ask:**

1. How do I make the ordinary extraordinary for God's Glory? Gen. 23:1-20
2. How can I take the commonplace and help people see the spiritual place? Gen. 50:4-5

**Unique funerals**

Callie Curnes – A gift certificate

Bunker Hunt – A DVD of The Jesus Film

Glen Graham – Favorite verses

Aljeana Kole – Booklet

Fred Smith – video

Mary V. Johnson – Bulletin

Charlie Little – Humor

Bill Simpkin – Music

Patsy Denman - Invitation

**What are my opportunities? Areas of creativity:**

Video tape your life story

A written version of your testimony

A list of your favorite scripture

A list of friends who could speak

Obituary thoughts – let others write it

A specific video or written piece with final words of wisdom, challenge and encouragement

Suggestions for memorial gifts – think kingdom

What to do with the flowers

The bulletin – scripture, music, participants, pictures, poems, quotes (reflect Christ and yourself)

Mementos, gifts, walkaways (reflect Christ and you)

Thoughts for the pastor – who needs the gospel, etc.

The reception – make it elegant, not extravagant, make it fun and helpful

**Finally, remember those who will bear the burden of loss**

- Provide for a get away
- An annual vacation
- A worker friend (mutual) to help transition
- Encourage attending Grief-Share
- Leave hidden notes of love
- Suggest a financial, estate planner
- Give permission to dispose of any and all possessions and to form new relationships as desired
- Time dated wisdom in sealed envelopes for key events
- Leave all digital information, passwords, etc. for easy access.