



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Conversion of A Civil Officer
Evening: Fellowship: Basis & Limits – Part 1

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| FOR THE RECORD | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 37 |
| Sunday AM Worship | 47 |
| Sunday PM Worship | n/a |
| Wed. Bible Study | 33 |
| Offering | \$1721 |



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM CEMETERIES? Roger D. Campbell

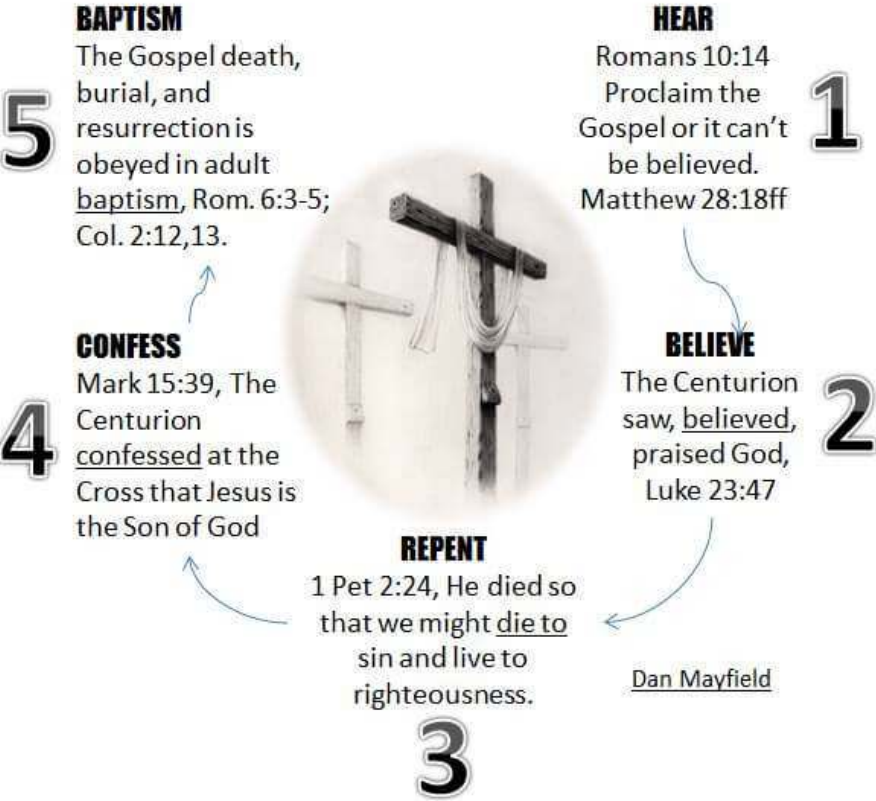
Call them what you wish: "cemeteries," "graveyards," or "burying grounds." We all know what they are. They are places where the bodies of dead people are buried. While some young people may enjoy childish antics in a cemetery under the cover of darkness, most of us do not look at a graveyard as a place of pleasure or joy. We approach them with solemnity and respect. To talk or write about cemeteries may be counted as morbid by some, but have you ever considered a cemetery as a place to learn or be reminded of certain lessons?

The existence of graveyards is a reminder of the truth that is recorded in the first portion of Hebrews 9:27: "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*" We describe the death of some people as "untimely," while we wonder how others survived for decades after being diagnosed with what was thought to be a deadly disease. Yet the folks whose bodily remains lie in the burying grounds of the world share this common trait: they are all dead. And, one day, perhaps even before this day's end, we will join them. Graveyards are a clear reminder of the brevity and temporary nature of our physical life.

Continued Inside

5 STEPS TO SALVATION

the response of faith to the cross



Cemeteries also remind us that death is no respecter of persons. A close reading of tombstones reveals that some whose remains are buried there died in their infancy. Others lived to be well over 100 years of age. Graves contain the remains of females and males, the married and unmarried, wealthy and paupers, veterans of military service and non-vets, the famous and relatively unknown. Yet, each has gone *"the way of all the earth"* (1 Kings 2:2).

Cemetery tombstones come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, can be attractive or blah, and might be inscribed with long paragraphs or without any "extra" words. And, do you know what else? A tombstone has absolutely nothing to do with the deceased's spiritual standing or success in the sight of the Lord. Just as the decorations at a wedding ceremony have zero to do with the future success of the marriage, so a tombstone reveals nothing whatsoever about the real quality of a person's life. Oh, I know that some tombstones have words of praise and adoration inscribed on them, but those are the sentiments of humans, not God. In reality, our spiritual standing with our Maker has nothing to do with the tombstone or cemetery plot that we select or others choose for us. The Lord promises a crown of life *"to them that love him"* (James 1:12). Faithfully serving the Master should be a whole lot more important to us than a plot of ground that encompasses a casket and the rock that sits above our bones, right?

Some family members give more attention to a tombstone and the territory surrounding it than they do their own lives. Many folks like to keep the area around the graves of their loved ones looking nice. Some are downright particular about how everything looks on and around the tombstone. Nothing wrong with that. But, I find it amazing that people will spend time, energy, and money for the meticulous upkeep of a graveside, but never give any serious thought to *the well-being of their own soul!* Jesus said, *"Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mark 8:37). Keeping our souls clean is a whole lot more important than keeping a tomb sight clean and nice looking, would you not agree?

I am a big believer in being respectful of the memory of family members. That being said, the way to show the greatest respect for our parents and other loved ones is by the way that we serve them *while they are still alive*. Some take great care of their deceased family members' grave areas, but they did little, if anything, to provide tender care for those same family members while they were still alive. They bawled their eyes out after their loved ones died, but showed them little, if any respect, while they were still among the living. Christians are *"to show piety at home, and to requite their parents"*

and provide for them, if needed (1 Timothy 5:4,8). Again, the time to do that is while they are still alive.

Another lesson that I learn from graveyards is that the bodies that are now in the graves are totally safe from the so-called miracle-workers of our day! Jesus and Spirit-empowered disciples raised the dead in the first century, but no one has done it since. Those misguided souls of our day who claim to do miracles (or claim that God actually does the miracles) avoid cemeteries like the plague. Can you blame them?! They know that if they go to a graveyard and order a body to come out of the grave, but you tell that same body, "Stay where you are," you are going to "win" every time!

There is one final reminder that we must not miss. One day every cemetery will be emptied by the voice of the coming Christ. Not one body will remain underground forever! Jesus said, *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"* (John 5:28,29). I am not nearly as concerned about where and how I will be buried as I am about living my life in such a way that I can be raised and go to heaven with the righteous. How about you?

"I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (II John 4-7).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 12 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- Nov 26 – Song Service
- Dec 3 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell