

I Must Ask several pointed questions:

Does it make any difference to God whether a Christian chooses to be cremated or have a family member cremated?

Is cremation mirroring the truths found in God's Word or following traditions and customs of man?

Is there such a thing as proper burial? Is it a commandment, precept, or a custom I am basing my decision upon?

Does cremation bring about God's judgment or bestow a curse?

Is cremation a neutral area where God's Word is silent allowing Christian liberty through choice, or is my decision based on precepts and teachings of the Bible?

Is the act of cremation defacing the image of God and following after a social "death fashion trend" of this world?

How does God view cremation and burial?

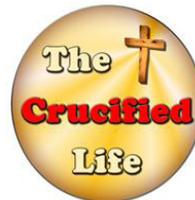
Jesus Christ gave the ultimate example ever of life, death, burial, and resurrection. The Bible contains many examples of death and burial practices, from patriarchs to paupers and from kings to servants for us to take to heart in a proper understanding of God's view. People of all races and social status were buried in caves, sepulchers, and in the ground upon physical death in the Old Testament; but rarely was there a recording of persons burned as a result of death. Any recorded as being burned at the climax of their physical death were ultimately living in enmity against the things of God and the burning of their body was done in agreement with the wrath of God concerning poor life choices and their lifestyle practices in this wicked world.

Cremation is Popular Today

The choice of cremation is a popular one today. Does it often boil down to strictly financial concerns? Choosing cremation is certainly less expensive.

In recent years there has been an influx of individuals choosing cremation for themselves and loved ones due to their strained finances. Many would argue with a strong opinion that being cremated is both less costly and more environmentally friendly to this earth, therefore being an overall better choice.

What is becoming less popular and frankly missing from many important decisions is placing the study of God's Word into the decision making process. Armed with God's Word, I have determined that burial is the best option for myself and I believe it is also best for any sincere child of God.



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WABS2331

**WHAT
ABOUT
THE
PRACTICE OF
CREMATION**

*and
Christian
belief?*

Choosing Burial or Cremation

Today we have the complete Word of God including godly precepts concerning both life and death, this timeless and pertinent information is useful in making choices between burial and cremation.

The Bible does clearly teach all mankind has been given a physical death sentence. Solomon penned views about death

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; (Ecclesiastes 3:2 KJV)

Paul wrote about death in the New Testament:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrews 9:27 KJV)

It is important to understand what God's Word has to say about physical life, death, and for use in attaining a spiritual understanding about the future and in making our own end of life decisions concerning burial and cremation. Every person faces physical death since sin. Both life and death are widely represented in the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially in His own sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection, which is the crux the gospel message. Each sincere child of God chooses to identify with Him in both life and death.

Every person must be prepared with his own response about his coming death and in any concerns about his own family.

John 11:25-26 (KJB) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Lazarus is a great example of a person buried in the grave upon his death and was raised by Jesus Christ unto new life.

The Bible tells us our body is His temple (**Romans 12:1-2**) Christians then, of all people, should live with the utmost respect for their physical bodies and in representing the temple of God in both life and in death.

How to properly handle a dead body is not presented as a commandment of God in Exodus. However, there are several teachings and precepts we can gather in making a biblically based decision in an involved study of His Word.

Life always has the best choice, good choices, and poor choices. As a Christian, I often hear God's precepts and man's opinions, but must base all my decisions upon the truth only found inside God's Word. This process includes forming an unwavering spiritual answer for all things, including in dealing with death.

Glorify God in All

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 (KJV)

If burial in death is not important why would Abraham seek a place for his wife in the course of an entire chapter in **Exodus 23**? Abraham desired to be pleasing to God and respectful with the deceased body of Sarah.

If burial in death was not important, why would the dead bones of Elijah react in the grave when touched. Some might say that in death we are just an empty shell, but the book of Second Kings miraculously records a wondrous spiritual feat using the dead bones of Elisha according to the will of God:

And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. (2 Kings 13:20-21 KJV)

God's supernatural presence and power is not in any way diminished upon our physical death. **Romans 14:7-12** tell us that God is the God of both the living and the dead. He remains God, whether we are alive in this world, or are present in eternity with Him or spiritually dead without Him.