

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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LYING ALL AROUND THE CASKET

I have been to my fair share of funerals where the one who had died was either not a Christian or an apostate member of the Lord’s body. Well, on each of those occasions I am sad to report that falsehoods were spewed by both those in attendance and by those “officiating.” I say this because at each of those occasions the same kinds of points were made clearly; i.e. that the dearly departed was in a “better place.” Folks, if one has died unfaithful to the Lord that person is not in a “better place” (**Mark 16:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:11-13**).

Now let’s each think about our own death for a moment. Unless the Lord returns before you or I take our final breath, we are going to die (**Hebrews 9:27**). The same applies for all who “live under the sun” (**Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**).

Let’s remember something: only bona-fide Christians can expect to be blessed in death (**Revelation 14:13**). If one is a “SMO” (Sunday Morning Only) “Christian” we cannot expect anything good – no, we have nothing to look forward to. Most reject this idea and, thus, offer false comfort at funerals – emoting falsehood after falsehood and telling lie after lie to all who will listen. What a sad scenario.

However, there is a way to ensure that people do not have to lie at our respective funerals. Yes, we can do our part to see to it that no lying is done around our caskets. The way to stave off “funeral parlor lies” is by genuinely striving to walk upon the narrow road to glory (**Colossians 1:9-10; 2:5-7**). If we will pay the price now, then **and only then**, will folks be able to **honestly** say of me or you after we die:

- “He/she fought a good fight” (**2 Timothy 4:7**).
- “His/her death is gain” (**Philippians 1:21**).
- “His/her death was precious” (**Psalms 116:15**).
- “He/she is far better now” (**Philippians 1:23**).
- “He/she left us an example to follow” (**Philippians 2:15**).
- “He/she was faithful until death” (**Revelation 2:10**).
- “He/she is comforted” (**Luke 16:19-25**).
- “Jesus was his/her friend” (**John 15:14**).
- “He/she will receive the crown of life” (**2 Timothy 4:7-8**).
- “He/she will be missed” (contrast - **2 Chronicles 21:16-20**).
- “He/she will abundantly enter the everlasting kingdom” (**2 Peter 1:5-11**).
- “He/she will eat of the tree of life” (**Revelation 2:7**).
- “He/she will not be hurt in the second death” (**Revelation 2:11**).
- “He/she will not have his/her name blotted out of the book of life” (**Revelation 3:5**).
- “He/she will be greatly rewarded” (**Matthew 5:10-12**).
- “He/she will receive a wonderful inheritance” (**2 Peter 1:4**).
- “He/she will never cry again” (**Revelation 7:17**).
- “He/she is at peace” (**Luke 16:27-28**).
- “He/she is basking in the love of God” (**Romans 2:6-8**).

Do you really want people lying at your funeral? If not, do something about it.