

SCRIPTURAL
BURIAL
CEREMONY IS

A PERIOD OF
MOURNING

NOT FEASTING
FOR HOLY
CHRISTIANS

SCRIPTURAL BURIAL CEREMONY IS A PERIOD OF MOURNING NOT FOR FEASTING FOR HOLY CHRISTIANS

Copy right © Pastor Paul Rika 2022 first published April, 2022.

ISBN 978-978-57835-9-9

Printed, Published and distributed by

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INTRODUCTION

Ecclesiastes 7:1-2

*1 A good name is better than precious ointment;
and the day of death than the day of one's birth.*

*2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than
to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of
all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.*

The above scripture reveals to us that death and burial ceremony among those that fear the Lord should be a time of sorrow and mourning and not a time of feasting and joyful celebration.

All through scripture, the events of death and burial ceremony have been moments of mourning and lamentation.

2 Samuel 1:11-12,17

*11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:
12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword. 17 And*

*David lamented with this lamentation over Saul
and over Jonathan his son:*

The scripture says the day of death is better than the day of birth, because men regain their consciousness of God and of the eternal end of their souls at incidence of death and burial ceremony: through sober reflections and self-examination of their lives. Alas, today, the word of God has been ignored and laid aside. Christians are now following the world in their tradition and customs.

Burial ceremony now is turned into occasions of feasting, dancing and celebration, not minding the eternal soul of the dead. The Lord is speaking through this book to His godly children not to follow the tradition and custom of the world.

Many godly children of God are turned away from righteousness and holy living during burial ceremony. Some spend up all their earnings to honour the dead who may be in hell. They become poor, go into debt, hence, become offensive even at God. Be instructed brother and sister, that you should return to scriptural burial ceremony to maintain righteousness and holiness before the Lord.

Follow the teaching, instruction and counsel of this book to maintain God's righteousness and holiness in your life in cases of burial ceremony.

Pastor Paul Rika

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CHAPTER ONE

YOU CAN CONDUCT BURIAL WITHOUT POLLUTING YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

God wants to teach us His way and will concerning burial ceremonies. He does not want His people to follow the tradition and customs of the sinful world as it is practiced by many families, tribes, societies and nations. He does not want His children to be defiled during burial ceremonies. Many believers in Christ are not able to maintain their righteousness and holiness due to compromise with their family or society on occasions of burial. May this not be your case in Jesus name.

1.1 Burial Ceremony Among Christians.

Matthew 28:18-20.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying,

All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing

*them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost:*

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Here the Lord is saying, GO and PREACH and MAKE CONVERTS. When you have made the converts, MAKE THEM DISCIPLES, by TEACHING THEM ALL THE WORD OF GOD, whatsoever I have commanded you. He said to those who have believed on Him, ***“If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).***

Paul the Apostle said he had been teaching and warning every man that he might present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. This is what we are doing to those who have come to the righteousness of Christ.

***Colossians 1:28
Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.***

The Lord is raising in this last days, a body of true believers in righteousness and holiness. These must be taught the word of God in all respects so that they can be perfect before God and be ready for the rapture. One of the things the Lord wants me to teach the believers at this time is on Christian burial ceremony. Believers of all races, tribes, and communities carry out burial ceremonies in various ungodly ways to the defilement of their lives, provoking the holy God to anger. Many believers living among their people in the world are not aware of God's standard on burial ceremonies. They follow the tradition of the land thus destroying their Christianity. When they die, they miss heaven because they have been defiled by the custom of the people around them.

Isaiah 6:1-6

1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar.

"I dwell among the people of unclean lips and I am also a man of unclean lips." But the Lord wants you to be taught the truth so that, although you are in a corrupt and perverse world, you should shine as light having no spot or wrinkle,

Philippians 2:15, 16

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a

*crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye
shine as lights in the world;*

*16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may
rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in
vain, neither laboured in vain.*

CHAPTER 2

BURIAL OCCASION IS A TIME OF SOBER REFLECTION

2.1 There is a Time and Season To Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

Death is a common occurrence in the world. People of all kinds die; sinners and saints alike. This means you will experience deaths around you, including those of your family members, church members, friends, and other people in your society. You too will die in your time. Before your time comes, one reason or the other will make you attend burial ceremonies.

Ecclesiastes 7:2-5

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than

to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

2.2 What the Scripture Says About the House of Bereavement

This Scripture clearly relates to a burial ceremony. It defines a burial ceremony and gives the following description of it.

I) It Is the House of Mourning

Genesis 37:34-35

34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and

he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Ecclesiastes 7:4

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

As we can see, the Bible tells us here that the heart of the wise is in the house of mourning because when he attends the burial ceremony of someone who has died, he is supposed to change his life and his foolish ways through meditating on the events surrounding the death. It is now turned into the house of celebration and joy where various kinds of foods and drinks are being served as in feasts. Music and dances are being employed for the people's pleasures. Some serve alcohol and make the people get drunk. They eat, drink and dance and forget the godly sorrow meant to change their lives through mourning for the dead.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in

nothing.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

ii) It Is the House of Sadness

Luke 24:17-20

17 And He said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, Art Thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19 And He said unto them, What things? And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word

before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him.

iii) **It Is the House of Sorrow** where people put on sorrowful and sober attitude.

John 11:33-36

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!

iv) **It Is the House of Rebuke** where God rebukes people of their wrong and evil ways.

Ecclesiastes 7:4, 5

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Psalm 39:11

When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity.

2.3 What A Bereaved Home is Not

I) It is not the house of feasting where people eat, drink and dance with joy and shouting

Esther 9:17-19

On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

ii) It is not the house of laughter where people crack jokes and laugh to forget their sorrows and the lessons God wants them to learn.

James 4:9

Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

vii) It is not a place of careless living, where people commit various kinds of sins and blaspheme God.

Isaiah 47:8

Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children.

CHAPTER 3

SINFUL MEN HAVE CORRUPTED BURIAL CEREMONY

Isaiah 1:4

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the holy one of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

From the above descriptions, you can see how many Christians have missed it. Many have missed what God ordains burial ceremony to be and to achieve in the hearts of men. God says it is the house of mourning. God expects people to go there to cry and mourn. Today's culture, custom, tradition and churches have turned burial ceremony into feasting. It is a house to go in with sorrow and sober reflection. You are to go to burial ceremony with the questions: did he make it to heaven? Where is his soul now? Did he live righteous and holy? If he died in his sins, he is not with God now, but in

hell fire.

Hebrews 12:14
Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Psalm 9:17
The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Another thing that should come to your mind is: if I die now, where will I go? Will my soul make heaven?

Psalm 119:59
I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Alas, the church has gone the way of the world and has turned the bereaved home to a Place of feasting: eating, dancing and rejoicing. They have no consideration that a soul has left the earth to eternity, and most probably, to eternity of everlasting hell. Remember what the Bible says about hell fire.

Mark 9:43-48
43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to

go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

3.1 Reasons for Sorrowing Over the Dead

The following may account for the reason of people sorrowing over the dead:

- I) His loved ones shall not see him on earth again.
- ii) His contribution to the blessing of his family, church and society shall not continue.
- iii) Many people may go into suffering for his permanent absence.

- iv) His wife shall suffer widowhood.
- v) His children shall be fatherless.
- vi) His good work in society shall not continue.
- vii) If he died a sinner, he shall enter into the everlasting judgment of God in hell fire.
- viii) If he died a believer, his ministry and kindness among believers have come to an end.
- ix) He might have died untimely due to some unfortunate incident; hence people mourn over him for his misfortune in life.
- x) If he died after a long sickness or hazard, people mourn over him in pity for what he suffered.
- xi) If he died young, people mourn because he did not live his full years and so has contributed little or nothing to his family, the Church and human society.
- xii) There are others reasons why people go into sorrow for the dead.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Scriptural Caution on Believer`s Death

1 Thessalonians 4:13,14

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

The Bible cautions believers in Christ on their sorrow over the death of a saint. The scripture tells us the following about those that die in Christ.

- I) Those who die in Christ are taken away from evil to come. Their death is for their good.

Isaiah 57:1, 2

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none

considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

2 He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

Isaiah 26:19

The dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of the herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

ii) We Shall See Them Again in the Resurrection if they died in Christ`s righteousness and holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which

are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

John 11:23-25

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

iii) The death of the saints is precious to God. It is of joy to God and angels when a person dies in Christ and makes it to heaven.

Psalm 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

Isaiah 26:20

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

- iv) They shall rise from the dead with glorious eternal body

Mark 12:26-27

*26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?
27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.*

John 5:25

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

2 Timothy 2:11

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him.

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

CHAPTER 5

GODLY PRINCIPLES DURING BURIAL

5.1 Financial Burden on the Bereaved Family

1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The society has turned burial ceremony into feasting and prideful display of money and family wealth and the church allowed it so. Now, when someone dies in the family, apart from being sorrowful for the death, the family members also go into

sorrow for the financial burden involved in the burial ceremony. Much money has to be gathered. The family must display their wealth to the society. They want to ensure that the ceremony is attended by as many people as possible. The family members sell their properties, take loans and borrow from individuals for the burial project. This is not the will of God. This worldly spirit in burial ceremony brings crises and hatred and causes many problems among the family members. After the burial, many go into regret on the huge amount of money they spent or borrowed for the burial project. Many in Christ are made to stumble in the faith by these things because they do not want to be left out.

Romans 14:13

Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

5.2 Follow the Instruction of God

God wants His children to be trained on the path of wisdom, knowledge and understanding in order to make them overcome the tradition and customs of men, masterminded by the devil. When you listen to God and maintain His ways, you will enjoy peace and victory in your life.

Proverbs 4:1-11

1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a Father, and attend to know understanding.

2. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not My law.

3. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

I) First of all, you must know that there is time for everything. There is time for feasting and there is time for sorrow. Burial ceremony is a time of sorrow. The spirit of feasting must not be introduced.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

ii) Know the activities to run in your burial ceremony to achieve the scriptural aim of the ceremony.

Ecclesiastes 7:2,3

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart

3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

iii) Do not change the burial ceremony into feasting by bringing in activities of feasting that make people forget what God designs the burial ceremony to achieve.

iv) Do not compete with others in the excellency of your burial ceremony. Put pride away from you, your family and the name of the dead.

v) Do not introduce sinful things, sinful men and sinful society into your burial ceremony.

Jeremiah 10:1, 2

1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

vi). Do not participate in family burial where the members are worldly and are in conformity with the world. Be firm in your stand, but play wisely.

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me

and my house, we will serve the LORD.

vii) Do not obey the ungodly demands of your family or the people of the land and do not fear their persecution, threats and witchcraft.

Acts 4:18-21 18

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

viii) Know that the Lord your God is with you always to protect, deliver, empower you, and to keep you holy for

His name.

Psalm 91:1-16

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

3 Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him

My salvation.

5.3 Weep with Them That Weep

Jeremiah 31:15

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Roman 12:15

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Let us exercise this Christian spirit. There is a time of mourning and there is a time of rejoicing. In the above context, Rachael had lost her two children to sudden death. Christianity is calling upon you to join your sister to mourn over the death of her children. Believers should learn to join their brethren to mourn over the death of their close ones. Jesus came to the bereaved home of Martha

and Mary to mourn with them and comfort them.

John 11:32, 33

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

Many do not bother. They do not bother to say a word of comfort to a bereaved person. They do not bother to send a text message to someone that lost a relation. They do not bother to visit the bereaved to comfort them. The brother or sister is saying in their heart: “this is the time my brethren will come to comfort me.” Alas, nobody came! Believers who are close to the bereaved brethren but do not bother to visit them or say a word of love and comfort to them are erring. Learn to sympathize and empathize sorrow with your brethren which situation of life has made

them sorrowful. Even Jesus attended a bereaved home to comfort those who were mourning. Let men and women in leadership learn to express this love and care to church members and leaders passing through sorrow because of hazards of life.

Lamentation 1:12, 13

12 Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger.

13 From above hath He sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: He hath spread a net for my feet, He hath turned me back: He hath made me desolate and faint all the day.

5.4 It is better to give to the bereaved than to receive from them

Acts 20:35

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Let those who come to the bereaved home to comfort them answer the following questions, having understood the state and condition of the bereaved well.

a) Is it the bereaved home that should supply food to everyone that comes to visit them or those coming to them that should come with food and money to support them?

Job 42:11

Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money and every one an earring of gold.

Note that the earring of gold given to him was not for his use but for his treasure. Gold is malleable and this could be fashioned into other items for clean uses.

b) Is it proper to go to the house of bereavement to collect gifts of various items as though they organized a feast for joyful celebration?

The scripture below shows that giving out gifts to others marks or characterize celebrations of joy and not of sorrow

Nehemiah 8:9-12

9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto

them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.

12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Sharing of gifts is done during the period of joy and not during mourning. Hence, distributing clothes, plates and other items is not required during burial ceremony. Things like this are excesses that should be avoided in Christian burial ceremony in order not to conform to the world.

5.5 The bereaved family may share Bibles and Christian materials

c) Can the bereaved family share a copy of the Bible and Christian materials to those who come to comfort them? Yes, because the Bible or good Christian materials can produce conversion to Christ in those that receive and use them. This is the best thing to do in a Christian burial ceremony.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

CHAPTER 6

EMPATHISE WITH BEREAVED FAMILIES

6.1 Jesus' Visit to A Bereaved Family

John 11:14, 17

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

17 Then when Jesus came, He found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus were disciples of Jesus. When Lazarus died, Jesus visited the family to comfort them. His words, emotional display and actions gave them deep comfort. Christian leaders must learn this from Jesus. Make effort to give personal and practical comfort to bereaved brethren.

John 11: 32,33

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother

had not died.

33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

Who is more righteous than Jesus? Who is more knowledgeable than Jesus? But here we see Jesus expressing heart pain and heart sorrow. He did not come to advertise His credentials as a man of faith who has authority to raise the dead. He did not come to them with the air of greatness to command attention to Himself. He came to empathize with the bereaved brethren. He came there to mourn with those that mourn. He came to identify with them in their pain and sorrow.

John 11:36-38

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself

cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

6.2 Jesus Wept (John 11:35)

Jesus wept aloud and people heard Him. Tears ran down from His eyes. The Jews, the unbelievers, saw the full identification of Jesus with the bereaved brethren. See what they said, *Behold how He loved him!*

Love is not only in words, but in action and sincerity.

1 John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

What Jesus did will require humility in our lives. So, it is good to attend a burial ceremony of loved ones and of Christian brethren. Visiting a bereaved family is a commendable thing. It offers us opportunity to comfort the sorrowful by mourning and weeping with them. Let us, as much as it is possible, go personal and practical in the comfort of our fellow brethren. There are times the circumstance may not require our personal presence. We

should try to delegate others to do this for us.

Philippians 2:19

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

Not only should we visit the bereaved home for condolence, we should be there in the right spirit, to meditate on our life, on the time of our death and on the eternal life or eternal damnation hereafter before all men.

Ecclesiastes 7:2:

It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

6.3 The Heart of Mourning is Required in Burial Ceremony

The scripture shows clearly that burial ceremony is a mourning time. Consider a few examples:

Genesis 50:10, 11

And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned

with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which is beyond Jordan.

Deuteronomy 43:8

And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

However, the scripture exhorts that mourning over the death of a saint should be with control because we shall see them again at the resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God

bring with Him.

This is the reason why you must work on the salvation of your loved ones so that when they die you may sorrow with hope. You too labour to serve the Lord Jesus in righteousness and holiness so that when you die, your loved ones will be comforted in hope.

Now the question is: if sorrow and sadness can be expressed at believers' death and ceremony, can a burial ceremony of a sinner whose soul is in hell be celebrated with dances and joy and giving out gifts to invitees?

Luke 16:22-24, 27, 28

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue;

for I am tormented in this flame.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Ezekiel 33:11

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Mark 9:43, 44

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Is God pleased with this joyful celebration?

Paul said, that Epaphroditus was sick unto death but God healed him and showed Paul mercy for that; otherwise, he would have had sorrow upon sorrow.

Philippians 2:25-27

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Now, if we can have sorrow over a believer or a true man of God that dies and mourn for him as Jesus wept over righteous Lazarus, can we agree that the death of a sinner whose soul is in hell fire and is passing through the torments of hell should be celebrated with dances, joy, and

giving of gifts and souvenirs to people, or killing cows, goats and chickens; eating and drinking in pleasure? If the person is your relation, will you go into merry-making and employ comedians to crack jokes to make people laugh? Will that not be a great mockery over the dead? Jesus is lamenting over a soul He lost to hell, you are celebrating over his life.

Can you be blameless before God for doing that? Those who do second and third burial to celebrate the dead are sinners and idol worshipers who are ignorant of what they are doing. Do not join them nor contribute money for such.

Proverbs 24:17, 18

17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.

Job 31:28, 29

28 This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

29 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him.

1 Corinthians 13:6

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.

6.4 What Sinners Do in their Ignorance

Ephesians 2:17, 18

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

When a person dies, sinners see it as an opportunity to gather together to celebrate the death with feasting.

They bring in musicians to sing for them. They celebrate the dead with dances and pleasures. They wear uniform attires with imprinted picture of the deceased, who is suffering in hell. They do not mourn for him but rejoice over a suffering soul. They are ignorant of the eternal state of an unsaved soul. They will often say among

themselves, “May his soul rest in peace.” They do not know that there is no peace for the sinner. They are not aware of the eternal damnation of a soul that died without Jesus! Without His righteousness!

The radical Christians the Lord is raising up in our generation in this end time will say no to pollution in burial ceremony. Take the position of the scripture in the burial ceremony of your relatives or anyone. Do not follow the people of the world in their sinful and ignorant deeds. Do not go to collect gifts or take souvenirs home from a burial ceremony except what will promote the name of the Lord Jesus. Why should you collect gifts over the death of drunkards, fornicators, thieves, witches and wizards? Some sinners in their pride boast that they bury their dead with live cow, a car or expensive jewels. Some boast about the price of the gold-plated casket they buried their dead. Do not follow this worldly spirit of burial anymore. If you did this before, repent of it now. If the wearing of uniform clothe is in the simple spirit to identify family members or for any acceptable reasons, it`s alright.

Do not yield to family pride of display of wealth and greatness. Abstain from all acts of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:22.

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Acts 17:30

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

1 Peter 1:14-16

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

CHAPTER 7

CASE STUDY OF BELIEVER'S DEATH AND BURIAL IN SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-3, 11-15, 19-27, 32, 40, 43-45

1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.

11 These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

12 Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 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?

27 She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that

Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

43 And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.

Simple Burial Ceremony in Scripture

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime

were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Here is a biblical example of the burial ceremony of a believer. See the way the believer conducts burial ceremony of a relation. If maybe, it is your child or wife that died, and you are in a position to exercise power over the burial, make it a Christian burial.

7.1 See the Simple Burial Ceremony for Lazarus

When Lazarus died, the relations, friends, neighbors and loved ones were informed as many as the bereaved family could contact. The church leadership got the information, hence Jesus too was informed. Lazarus, Martha and Mary were living in their family house. Lazarus was buried in the family house. It is common in every community that a general place of burial is provided for those who have no suitable place to bury their dead. Such a place can be used to bury any believer that dies.

We must avoid the tradition of conveying the dead to his family which may be too far away, that a huge amount of money has to be spent in transportation.

The gospel of Jesus and the relations alive need more money than the dead. The place and cost of burial does not affect the eternal state of the dead. This is a good practice observed by sinners, how much more the believers. Many came to the family to witness the burial and to comfort the bereaved.

John 11:19
And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary,
to comfort them concerning their brother.

Did they come to eat and drink? What did they come to do? They came to comfort the bereaved family. After the burial ceremony, did they go home with souvenirs? The sincere neighbor would rather support them with money or foodstuff to help them feed those that came to comfort them, who may have to stay for a longer period. This is done to ease the bereaved family of extra burden.

7.2 Immediate Burial of the Dead Body

John 11:

6 When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was.

It appears when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, that same day he died. Meanwhile, Jesus stayed back where He was two more days. That means He continued His journey back to Judea on the third day and arrived on the fourth day. We can deduce that Lazarus was buried the same day he died.

John 11:39

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Why did they not leave Lazarus's body unburied waiting for Jesus to come and see him before burying him? What you see today is that when a man dies, they will not bury

him until his son in England or the daughter in America or the other one in Russia or Cameroon comes home. Why are you practicing delayed burial to keep people in suspense? This is done no doubt to have time enough to gather money and invite multitude of people for family display of wealth for fame. Be informed that the believers in Christ time and in the early church did not practice that. They buried their dead immediately as we can see in the case of Lazarus.

The believer is a steward of God's money and material resources. He must not waste it over that which has lower value than the spread of gospel of Christ. The Lord will hold him guilty for wasting His resources on unnecessary cost tantamount to waste.

Luke 9:60

***Jesus said unto him, let the dead bury their dead:
but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.***

Proper counsel is required for any exceptional case.

Proverbs. 10:14

Wise men lay up knowledge but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Again, consider the case of Tabitha (Dorcas)

Acts 9:36-43

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper

chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Certainly, Tabitha would have been buried that day except that she was raised back to life by Peter the same day she died. When was Jesus buried? The very day He died. Why do some believers delay their dead for days, weeks, months, and years after the pattern of the celebrative world? Again do not waste money in mortuary expenses,

unnecessary conveyance of the dead to long distance to your impoverishment and that of family members. You cannot love the deceased more than Jesus. Obey Jesus and have his peace and blessing *-1Corinthians 4:1&2*

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

7.3 Ungodly Reasons for Delayed Burial

The people of the world delay burying their dead relatives for the following reasons:

- I) To raise sufficient money to convey the corpse to their desired destination.
- ii) To prepare the home or burying-place to meet the standard required for human praise and commendation.
- iii) To plan for high-class burial in order to show the status

of the family in society competition with others.

iv) To gather sufficient money in order to celebrate the burial ceremony.

v) To plan for proper entertainment of invitees.

vi) To provide quality souvenirs for the participants.

vii) To waste family resources on their dead for their pride.

These involve huge financial contributions, borrowings and going into burial contracts with others to support them so that they too will reciprocate the gesture when it gets to their turn to do burial. This is not the will of God. If sinners will do this, let not the believers join them to waste precious time and resources that God has given them.

Luke 9:59-60

59 And He said unto another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Believers must spend both time and money paramountly on the spread of the gospel of the Lord Jesus which gives salvation from sin, Satan and eternal death and gives eternal life to souls. If the dead person has gone to hell, what meaning do you give to this excessive time and money spent? Even if the soul has gone to heaven, is it worth all these troubles?

However, if a few days of preparation are required to secure a burying place or for vital preparation, that is acceptable. The believer must always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and counsel of sound Christians.

7.4 Formal Burial Ceremony

Genesis 49:33

And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 50:1-13

1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, wept upon him and kissed him

2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father, and the physicians embalmed Israel.

3 And forty days were fulfilled for him: for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.

4 and when the days of mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, if now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying

5 my father made me swear, saying lo I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou burry me, now therefore, let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.

6 And Pharaoh said, go up and bury your father,

according as he made thee swear.

7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt.

8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren and his father`s house: only there little ones and their flocks and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.

9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.

10 And they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

*11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called *Abelmizraim*, which is beyond Jordan.*

12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them.

13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of the burying place of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.

We recognize the death and burial ceremony of State men and women who require the attention of the society and the government. This are men and women of high stance and fame.

The case of Jacob in scripture was that of State burial, the following things are observed in the death and burial of Jacob

- i. Joseph went over the dead body of his father Vs 1.
- ii. Jacob's burial was State burial and was taken over by the Government of Egypt in Joseph's time vs 4-9.
- iii. Jacob made Joseph to swear that he would be buried in the land of Canaan. This request was according to the will of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These were all buried in the land of

Canaan, the land of promise. It is not every body that will give the condition for his burial that needs to be obeyed, because his demands may not be in accordance to God`s word or will. Vs 4.

- iv. Jacob`s burial ceremony was characterized by weeping and mourning and not feasting vs 10.
- v. Note that apart from Jacob`s peculiar case, there is no record in scripture that children of Israel were always conveyed to the land of Canaan wherever they died.

CHAPTER 8

CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR BURIAL

8.1 Burial Arrangements Should Not Be Made to Be Complicated

A burial ceremony can be as simple as this:

- i) The mourners and comforters should be led to the presence of God in prayer.
- ii) They should be led into praise and worship.
- iii) The bereaved family members may be called out for an introduction to the people.
- iv) An appointed person may come before the congregation to read the biography of the deceased.
- v) An appointed Minister may come forward to preach the word of God to the audience.
- vi) The congregation should be made to pray for the

bereaved family members.

vii) The people should then move to the grave for the internment, to lower the coffin into the grave.

Some culture requires the wife and others to throw some earth into the grave to signify that his body has gone back to the dust where it came from.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

***Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was:
and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.***

viii) Refreshment may be provided for the people. If the family or any member of the family has money or resources, it should be spent on organizing crusades or edifying programme for the salvation and edification of the people that come for the burial programme.

ix) If there is enough money to give souvenirs to the people, it should be to get Christian materials that is of spiritual benefits to the souls of men. In this way, the burial ceremony of a Christian family is accomplished

to the glory of God.

- x) Some family members and loved ones may want to stay in the bereaved home for some days. There is no problem in that. Some families use burial time to settle scores and to discuss on family peace and progress. This also is good. But all things should be done to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 14:14

Let all things be done decently and in order.

8.2 Seek to Please God in the Burial

The main person you should seek to please is God. The main person you should fear and refuse to disappoint is God, not man.

Galatians 1:10, 11

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I

should not be the servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

If it is in your power to handle the burial ceremony, do not go about begging for money or allow your family members to do that. Let those who want to assist do so willingly. Do not be flamboyant in the burial ceremony. Direct and control all things according to scripture and let Jesus be glorified. Where the believer is not in control of the unbelieving family members and relations, then the believer should contribute that which is in the light of the scriptures and stop there. They may come up with a large sum to be contributed, you must give just that which you can afford for the simple burial of a relation and stop there. Your money is accountable to God. Do not become afraid of witches and wizards in your family, or in the village or the society. Let men and Satan be embarrassed by you for not submitting to the ungodly tradition and custom of the world. Do not embarrass God. Do not backslide from your precious faith because of a burial ceremony.

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 24:21

My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change.

If you will overcome the many temptations of burial ceremony, God will be glad with you.

1 Peter 3:13-17

13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye

suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Who will harm you when you follow divine instructions backed up by divine power?

Luke 10:18-20

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Isaiah 54:14-17

14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Will you please God or men? If you will please men, then you are not a servant of Christ. Do not fear the anger and accusation of your family members. Back up your works with fervent prayers and bind the authority of darkness and subdue them.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of

strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

The overcoming Spirit is in you. You are born of God and have overcome them because greater is He that is in you than he that is in them. Many will follow your good example and will be delivered from hell by watching your exemplary life.

CHAPTER 9

GOD'S WORD ON THE WIDOWS AND THE FATHERLESS

9.1 What The Widow Should Know

Colossians 2:6-8

2 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:

7 Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Maintain your life of righteousness and holiness. Be guided by the word of God in everything. Walk in the liberty of Christ and do not submit yourself to customs and traditions of men over your dead husband which are opposed to the word of

God.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Do not submit to rules such as:

I) Cutting yourself, or printing any marks on your body, or wearing only one cloth for a stipulated period of time, or wearing only black cloth, or cutting your hair, or remaining indoors for a period of time, or whatever the ungodly tradition may demand. These are not required of you from the Lord. Therefore, refuse to do them.

Leviticus 19:28

Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

ii) Appearing before an idol or swearing by it for any cause. Don't submit to it even in the face of threat or

pressure.

iii) Transferring your marital relationship to another relation of your dead husband. Your marital relationship to that family and the dowry paid on you ended at the death of your husband. At the death of your husband, their family has no marital power over you anymore. The person that should give you husband now is God and the man must be a true Christian who will pay a new dowry or bride price on you.

1 Corinthians 7:39 & 40

39 The wife is bound by the law, as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to marry whom she will; only in the Lord

40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

9.2 Proper Treatment of Widows and the Fatherless

The Lord Himself is the Husband of the widows and the Father of the fatherless.

Psalm 68:5

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

He cares for the widows and the fatherless. Hence, He does not want any person or family to maltreat a widow or the fatherless because the head of the household has died and they have no one else to protect them. God places a curse upon oppressors of the widow and the fatherless.

Deuteronomy 27:19

Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Children of God and those of you that have the fear of God, do not oppress your brother's wife and his children after his death. As much as it lies within your power, do not allow any of your family members to do so either. It is evil in the sight of God and will incur His wrath upon the

family.

Exodus 22:22

Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

Job 22:9

Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.

9.3 God`s Warning Against Evil Treatment of Widows and The Fatherless

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

*20 But ye have not so learned Christ;
21 If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been
taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:
22 That ye put off concerning the former
conversation the old man, which is corrupt
according to the deceitful lusts;
23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
24 And that ye put on the new man, which after
God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

1. Avoid doing wickedness against the family of the dead.

Avoid wickedness against the widow (the wife of the dead) and against the fatherless (the children of the dead).

2. Avoid greed and covetousness against the late man's money and property that he has gathered for his family. Sinners will run after those property and will say, “No burial until you bring the bank account” or until they are able to take all the property. They have no feeling or

human sympathy. They are on queue for divine judgment. Do not join them to do treachery against the widow. The woman has children, and now you want to take all the property from the house, claiming they are your brother's own. Did your brother acquire them for you? Who will cater for the needs of the children? It is all wickedness!

If you overcome that woman because you say she is a weak woman, the God of the widows will fight for her and deal with you. You may be stronger than her, but there is somebody stronger than you too. You want to put her to shame? God of the widow will put you to shame too. Will you not have sympathy for the deceased's children on how they will live and survive? Child of God, do not join those wicked people because you are a child of God. If there is anything the woman will give to assist you, let her give it willingly. If you will need to make any request, let it be done with gentleness and not with force. Even if the woman did not have any child for the man, the fact remains that she laboured with her husband for all these

years to acquire the property. Will she therefore not have her portion? Has she also died the day the husband died? Will she not live and eat? Everything should be settled amicably and to her satisfaction even if she decides to go back to her father's house or marry another person. Be just and fair to her so that God would bless your family. I speak to those related to her husband who have the fear of God.

John 13:17

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Be as the Psalmist that said, I am purposed that my lips shall not transgress. Also be like Daniel who refused to defile himself with what was going on in the college.

CHAPTER 10

DIVINE REVELATION OF A BACKSLIDER THAT WENT TO HELL

My name is Sis Linda Paul Rika. I am sharing with you a revelation the Lord Jesus showed me on the 9th of April, 2014 about late pastor Moses Semeka. Late pastor Moses Semeka was a pastor and member of Deeper Life Bible Church. He was also a Coordinator in Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide, non-denominational.

10.1 The Voice Keeps Telling Me That Moses Semeka Missed Heaven

After the death of Pastor Moses Semeka in June 2013, I began to hear a voice witnessing to me that he missed heaven. I rebuked the voice because I said the pastor was a holy man. I also noted that God gave him a long time on the sick bed for repentance and restitution. We even visited him in two of the hospitals where he was admitted

in Abuja. I concluded that the voice was from Satan because the pastor knew all the doctrines of holiness and was among those teaching others. I resisted that voice because I doubted that it was not God speaking to me. But this voice kept coming back to me even when I was working in the kitchen, or taking my bath, or talking to people. The voice kept telling me that the pastor was in hell.

Hebrew 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Job 13:16

He also shall be my salvation, for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

I said to myself, what kind of thing is this? I was not so close to this pastor because I came to Nigeria in April 2013 and he died in June that same year. Why was I thinking like this? It was not even that I kept his death scene in my mind that should make me to be thinking about him. Daddy Paul Rika only told us about his death when we

were in Kaduna and we prayed about it and I forgot all about it. However, this voice continued and I kept rebuking it. On 9th of April, 2014, I and my husband, Pastor Paul Rika, were praying together in the morning at about 7:30am. As we were singing, the thought came back again: Moses Semeka missed heaven. My husband wanted to take a prayer point, but I interrupted him and said he should wait. I told him about the things happening to me after he told us about the death of the Pastor Moses Semeka. I told him that a voice kept telling me that the pastor was in hellfire. As I was explaining to pastor Rika, I heard the voice telling me again, “You don't believe what I am saying to you that Moses Semeka missed heaven? Now, I will make you hear him live from hell so that you will know it is true.”

Matthew 24:51

And shall cut him asunder and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

10.2 Moses Semeka Received God`s Judgment on His

Sins

Immediately, I started hearing the decree of judgment against him. I heard a voice was asking Pastor Moses Semeka questions and I recognized it as the voice of the Lord Jesus.

The first question was: *Why were you not serious with your Christian life? Why were you careless with My work?*

Pastor Rika sat close by my side, but because the Lord's voice was mighty and terrible, I couldn't hear him again. Then I heard the voice of Pastor Moses Semeka replying in a sad and sorrowful way, "Lord, I was working in Your Movement and was attending Your holy Church, Deeper Life Bible Church. I read my Bible and fellowshiped with Your holy people. I paid my tithes and offerings. I know You, Lord Jesus. Have mercy on me."

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord Lord have

we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that worked iniquity.

And the terrible voice said, “You said you know Me, Moses Semeka? Which way did you know Me? Which way did you benefit Holiness Revival Movement and the Church you were worshipping with in My name? How was your life impacted as you were still in your sins?” And the Pastor replied; “Lord, I was planning to pay my debt, do my restitutions and put my life right but death came upon me. Lord, have mercy.”

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

And the Lord Jesus pronounced upon him Judgment thus:
“You failed to keep My word. I sent several messages to the world saying Holiness Revival Movement is My movement, but you were playing with My word as though I was a man like you. You did not promote My Movement. You did not win souls as I expected of you. You feared man and still held onto your sins, Moses. You failed to follow peace with all men. You carried secret sins that men did not know about, but I your Creator knew what you were hiding. Everything a man does, I know; even things that you forgot, I the Lord know. I sent a message to Deeper Life Bible Church to warn them of My judgment but they would not hear. They neglected it because of the fear of man. Now, you are here like many of them. Who will save you now Moses? I showed you mercy by giving you the good privilege to cleanse yourself from your secret sins and perfect your life, yet you held unto your sins. Moses, is your time in your hand or My hand? Now you are here, there is no more mercy. Depart from Me Moses Semeka! Hell is the place for all disobedient children.”

Psalm 9:17

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Suddenly, I heard the voice of Pastor Moses shouting, “Have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.” Then I stopped hearing him. What I heard next were cries of multitudes in hell fire. After I heard the cries, I fell in the hands of my husband, telling him, “Cover my ears; cover my ears; I don't want to hear from hell;” because the sounds from hell were very terrible. (*Hebrew 10:31*)

Suddenly, I heard a voice distinct from the other voices I was hearing from hell. The voice started calling my name, “Sister Linda, Sister Linda, forgive me. I was not convinced about your testimony. Ohhh, tell our Sister to forgive me. Ah, Lord, it's painful here. My heart was bitter against her. Lord have mercy. I had secret sins in my life while among you in Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide. Ah, Lord, have mercy; what have I done to myself? I did not pay the debt I owed some people. I have the sin of unforgiveness, and the Lord judged me for

failing to follow peace with all men. Oh God have mercy! Why did I live carelessly in my Christian life? See me now; I am in pain. This place is too painful; Lord, have mercy on me.

Luke 16:24

And he cried and said Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

I was backbiting and gossiping people with some of my friends within and outside Holiness Revival Movement. Tell them to stop because God sees everything. Oh! Even my wife, I failed to nurture her in the fear of the Lord, to keep His ways. I encouraged my wife in sin. See me now suffering. Pray for me. Lord, have mercy.”

When he had said all these, I started hearing him grinding his teeth and crying bitterly.

Mathew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

10.3 Moses Semeka Sent Admonishments

Moses Semeka continued, *“Tell my wife to forgive the people she is bitter with. Tell her to forgive my friends and other relations she is bitter with. Tell her to pay all her debts and immerse herself in the teaching and activities of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide in life and practice. If you are not promoting or serious with Holiness Revival Movement or with your Christian life, please my people, do it now so that you will not come to hell. Hell is painful. O Lord, have mercy on me.”* God loves this Movement and judges people because of it.

Tell Daddy Rika that I am sorry. I was not committed to the spreading of Holiness Movement because of Deeper Life persecution. Tell him to pray for me. It is painful here. Pray that God should send me back as He did to Sister Linda and Brother Michael Sambo, so that I may warn the world of hell fire. It is too much here Daddy.”

Then I started hearing him saying things in his Tiv language which I didn't understand.

Thereafter, he said, *“Tell the Coordinators in Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide to immerse themselves in the teaching of the Movement. Let them take the teaching seriously and change their lives. Let them not come to hell. They should take the Movement as their ministry because God judges people for it.”* How serious are you with God's Movement?

Warn Deeper Life Bible Church. Many of their members are here in hell and others are also trooping in here. They will suffer God's judgment if they do not repent for the following reasons:

- i. There is lack of true Christian love in their lives.
- ii. They are proud of their Christian lives, seeing themselves as superior to other Christians.
- iii. Many of their members have secret sins.
- iv. They do not win souls to Christ.

This judgment is pronounced by the Lord Himself on those Deeper Life members who come to hell. Tell Deeper Life Bible Church that these are some of the reasons why

their members end up in hellfire. Tell them the devil is laughing at us by saying I have cast the spell of fear into the Deeper Life Bible Church and I have held them in captivity to the fear of man. They do not know that they have failed the commandments of God already. Because of that, many of them are coming to hell. Satan is laughing at our damnation and is calling us fools. Tell them to win souls and love other Christians. They should put away all manner of secret sins and work out their salvation individually. They should go out and evangelize and put away from them the fear of man. They should be serious about their Christian life.

10.4 Remarks on Moses Semeka

My fellow brethren, this is the message from hell. Why is Jesus doing this? He is making all effort to make sure we go to heaven. Please, if you are under the denominational power of man, or the fear of man, you are endangering yourself. Our late pastor Moses was a pastor under Deeper Life but denomination did not save him because of the fear of man. He failed to do the will of God. He feared what the

denominational Church or Pastor would do to him, if he carried out the will of God in Holiness Revival Movement.

1 John 4:18;

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

10.5 Burial Ceremony of Moses Semeka

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4

It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter; for by sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

The story of Moses Semeka is well known to me the writer. Moses Semeka, a Tiv man from Benue State, Nigeria, was a member of Deeper Life Bible church Makurdi, and one of the Pastors. When he joined Holiness Movement, I made him Benue State Coordinator of Holiness Revival Movement. He showed much zeal but died after a long sickness.

Sister Linda Paul Rika is my wife. She received this divine experience from Jesus right in my presence. The main thing of consideration here is on burial ceremony;

- I. Should his body be kept long in the mortuary in preparation for a great burial ceremony?
- ii. Should all family money, including borrowing and loan be used to give him great burial?
- iii. Should there be eating and drinking in feasting with dances in celebration at burial ceremony?
- iv. Should second burial or third burial be conducted on him?
- v. Would God be happy and glorified if these things

were done on one in hell fire for his judgment?

vi. God`s ways are different from man`s ways.

Isaiah 55:7-9

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD; and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts your thoughts.

vii. Follow the word of God, celebrate burial ceremony in the spirit of mourning and not feasting.

CHAPTER 11

A SAINT THAT WENT TO HEAVEN

Again I am Sister Linda Paul Rika. I am sharing here a blessed revelation the Lord gave me concerning our Late Sister Zenum Tanko Hassan who passed away on the 13th of January, 2014. Sister Zenum was one of the seven women the International Director, Pastor Paul Rika, selected to be praying for the Ministry, Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide. On the 13th of January 2014, Pastor Rika called the seven women to come to Abuja for prayer in preparation for the approaching International Leadership Conference. On her way to Abuja from Lagos, she had an accident that led to her death.

11.1 Sister Zenum Made It to Heaven

Isaiah 57:1-2.

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from

the evil to come.

2 He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

Sister Zenum was not known to me clearly; although, she was described to me and I was reminded of the gift she had given me. But still, I did not remember her face again. At first, I was troubled about the accident and her death, but later, I felt peaceful and became calm. I thought I enjoyed that peace because I didn't know her well. During the wake keep on 30th of January, 2014, some brethren testified of her holy Christian lifestyle before her departure. One of our pastors that preached at the wake-keep said confidently that Sister Zenum was in heaven. When the pastor said that, I heard the voice of the Lord Jesus saying to me, *“My daughter I am here. Many are saying in their hearts, “Is it because Zenum joined Holiness Revival Movement that she qualifies to enter heaven? Are they not just trying to promote their ministry? Many don't believe when I say in My holy word that without holiness no man shall see Me. Tomorrow I will*

show you how Zenum made heaven so that you will share it with them during the burial service. This will help those who do not still believe in holiness to believe and practice it.

When I woke up in the morning and was observing my quiet time, the Lord Jesus said, “*My daughter, I am here to show you what I told you yesterday about how Sister Zenum made it to heaven. I will also show you how they were persecuting and calling her all sorts of name in the Church and among some of her relations.*”

Psalm 15:1-5

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

5 He that putteh not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these shall never be moved.

11.2 How Zenum Made It to Heaven

Instantly, I saw myself at the scene of the accident. I saw the vehicle moving but not at high speed. The enemy attacked this vehicle and the driver could not understand what was happening. He began to struggle with the steering and the vehicle began to somersault. Sister Zenum was thrown out of the car window and her head hit the ground and was broken. As she landed and blood began to gush out of her, people around began shouting for help to rescue her. Many people rushed to the accident scene, but suddenly, her soul came out of her body. She stood watching her body and discovered that she was two – one standing up and the other lying down. She was surprised to see herself two. She started asking people around her, “What is going on? What is going on? Why am I two?” But people were not hearing her. She was confused and started running up and down. Then, a man's

voice called her name twice, “*Zenum! Zenum!*” She turned and saw the man standing at the other side of the road and crossed over to meet him. She said, “Thank God you can hear me. What is going on here? Why am I seeing myself two?” The man replied, “*I am an angel sent by Jesus to take you to heaven. You have died. Say goodbye to the world.*” She exclaimed, “Ah, ah, so this is true! So, holiness is true! So I made it to heaven?” She was exceedingly happy and was acting as if she was out of her senses. With great joy she kept asking, “So I made it to heaven? I made it to heaven. So this thing is true! So holiness is true! So what I believed is true!”

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me

2 In my Father`s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that were I am, there ye may be also.

Then she turned to the man and said “My family members are not aware that I made it to heaven. I don't want them to be sorrowful about my death. How can I tell them and my friends and Church members that they should not cry because I made it to heaven? How can I do that because these people are not hearing me” Then the angel replied, “*Don't worry. Jesus has sent His peace to His righteous and holy children that believe in him in holiness and righteousness that you are in heaven. Don't bother about what you want to say to them.*” When she heard this, she was consoled and happy.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

She saw how her body was taken to the hospital. When the husband came to the hospital and saw the body of his wife, he stood and was looking at her with deep sorrow. She started calling on him, “Tanko, Tanko, see me here. I made

it. Please, don't be in pain. Holiness is true. Please, hold on to holiness. Draw my children to holiness. Don't leave holiness, follow holiness. Holiness brought me here. I made heaven, tell my children not to cry because I made it to heaven.” She continued talking to her husband so that he could hear her. “Tanko, look at me. I am here. I made it.” Then the angel held her hand and there was a force that took them up through the sky. She started waving to her husband, smiling and happy as they went up. The angel too was smiling, she kept on waving at the world, saying 'I made it’ until the cloud received them out of my sight. Jesus showed me how they entered into the cloud and how they went into heaven. I saw her in the midst of angels, wearing white garment and praising God. Her garment was bright, shining and glowing as the light. The saints and the angels were waving and worshipping God. She was so happy, worshipping God among them.

Then the Lord closed the vision from my eyes.

Rev 7:13-17

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me,

*what are these which are arrayed in white robes?
and whence came they?*

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 21:4-7

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: And there shall be no more death, neither, sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, it is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; And I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

11.3 Why Zenum Made It To Heaven

Then I started hearing an audible voice saying to me, “*My daughter, have you seen how Zenum made it to heaven? Now, I want to tell you why Zenum made it to heaven so that you can go and tell those who do not believe in My holiness and righteousness.*

Zenum was a Christian for many years and was zealous in My vineyard. She believed and knew Me but she was not in My holy way. That is why I sent My servant, Pastor Apollos to Lagos to teach her My holy way and to let her know that without holiness no man can see Me. This was

because I knew her time was short on earth. She harkened to My voice, believed and obeyed My words, and transformed herself to My holy standard, both inwardly and outwardly. She did all her restitutions and took away all the properties of Jezebel on her; rings, earing, necklace, chains, bracelet, perming, attachment, weavon, wool trousers etc. She was zealous in My vineyard in righteousness and holiness. This made her to find favour in My sight and the gate of heaven opened for her to enter in. She pleased Me her Creator in her work in this one year.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your

reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Now, go and tell them in the burial service because many of those that persecuted her in the Church and in the house, and some of her friends and family members are there for the burial. Tell them it is not how long you have worked in My vineyard that will make someone enter heaven. What will grant them access to heaven is righteousness and holiness. Tell all that are crying for Zenum to cry for themselves. Tell all those calling her names and laughing at her because she decided to remove all satanic properties from her body; those that are still doubting and have not believed My message; they will not enter My Kingdom. Nothing that defiles will enter there. Tell them to hold on to holiness, inward and outward. Then the Lord closed the vision.

Revelation 3:7-13

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; these things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works, behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name

9 Behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not but do lie: behold I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shalt come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold thou fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh, will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:

and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith, unto the churches.

11.4 Burial Ceremony of Sister Zenum Tanko Hassan

Number 23:10.

Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

The burial ceremony of sister Zenum held in Takum, Taraba State, Nigeria. I and my wife sister Linda were personally in the ceremony. The revelation the Lord gave her was in the hotel where we lodged. She knelt beside the bed that morning in prayer, while I was preparing the sermon to preach at the burial. The Lord gave her the vision on her knees that Saturday morning.

Numbers 24:4&5. He hath said, which heard the word of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob and thy tabernacles, O Israel!

The burial ceremony of saintly Zenum, the wife of our beloved brother Tanko Hassan and mother of three children, was scripturally simple as described earlier in this book;

1. Mourners assembled
2. Worship songs were raised
3. The corpse was placed before all to see
4. Hymns were sung
5. People gave testimonies on the deceased
6. Her biography was read
7. I preached the sermon
8. Sis Linda gave the revelation of the Lord on Zenum
9. Prayers were offered

10. Snap shots were taken

11. The body was covered for internment.

Although we knew that Zenum made it to heaven, there was mourning on her death and burial according to human nature and scriptural pattern.

1. There was mourning over Jacob`s death. Gen. 50:10

2. There was mourning over the death of Moses. Deut.

34:8

3. There was mourning over the death of Lazarus

John11:32-35

Mourning with Caution

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that

ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

You noticed in the revelation account of Zenum that she sent comfort to her loved ones encouraging them not to

cry because she had made it to heaven, although her words were not heard, being now removed from the physical realm. The Lord want fellow believers to sorrow and mourn with peace because the late brother or sister has gone to be with the Lord and if we remain in Christ righteousness and holiness to the end, we shall meet them again and be in everlasting fellowship. It is not seen in scripture and in contemporary times that even the burial ceremony of a saint was celebrated in a festive way with eating, drinking, laughing, singing and dancing in jubilation. Be scriptural, be holy.

**HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE
(a.k.a) HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE
(HOREMOW)**

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

HOREMOW is a non-denominational Ministry having the following aims and objectives:

1. To hold Crusades, Conferences and Revival meetings in churches and nations of the world, so as to bring sinners to Christ's salvation and believers to His holiness. (Acts 26:16-18).

2. To produce Christian literature that promotes salvation of souls, sound Bible teaching and holiness of believers in churches and nations of the world. (Luke 1:1-4).

3. To produce audio and visual taped messages for the spread of the gospel truth in churches and nations of the world.

4. To bring denominational churches into Christian unity through the belief and practice of the faith once delivered unto the Saints. (Eph. 4:12-15).

5. To support believers, ministers, ministries and churches with free Christian materials for their spiritual development in holiness. (Isaiah 65:1).

6. To raise members and supporters of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide from churches and Christian ministries all over the world who will submit their lives to Biblical holiness and be spiritually, materially and evangelically equipped to make others righteous and holy in their churches and in the society around them. (2 Timothy 2:2).

7. To establish Christian bookshops in many places within and outside the nation, equipped with holiness materials for the promotion of holiness in the churches of Christ in the world. (Romans 17:17).

8. To establish a body of believers called Holiness Revival Movement in every Nation who will sponsor the production of the holiness materials of the ministry and other recommended holiness materials. (Acts 4:36; 2 Cor. 8:1-7).

9. To translate or interpret ministry materials into as many local, national and international languages as possible. (1 Cor. 14:9-13).

10. To place the Ministry book: Escaping Hell Fire and Entering Heaven Made Simple by Pastor Paul Rika in hotels, hospitals, prisons and in places that can attract public reading, for the salvation of sinners and holiness of believers. (1 Cor. 9:18-22).

11. To own Satellite Channels for the publishing of the messages and programmes of Holiness Revival Movement to the world.

12. To establish Bible colleges where believers and ministries can receive biblical and ministerial training for sound Christian ministry. (2 Tim. 2:2).

13. To have ministry camp grounds in various quarters and nations where holiness camp meetings can be held regularly. (Hebrews 10:25).

14. To hold zonal, national and international holiness conferences regularly for the promotion and spread of holiness in the lives of believers and in Christ's Church. (Colossians 1:28,29).

15. To mentor Churches registered under the ministry on sound doctrine, holy living and ministerial establishment. (Titus 1:5-14).

16. To support believers, ministers and ministries financially where required for their spiritual encouragement and establishment in holiness.

17. To have chapters of HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT in local Governments, states and nations, holding regular meetings, with clear goals and uniform operations, which are submissive to central administration. (Philippians 4: 8, 9; Hebrews 13:17)

PASTOR PAUL RIKA
Int'l Director/Founder

HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLD-WIDE (a.k.a) HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE, is a non-denominational Ministry given to the promotion of biblical Righteousness and Holiness in Churches and Nations of the world through Crusades, Conferences, Revival meetings, production and spread of Holiness literature and materials. The membership of the MOVEMENT is open to all that love to live a Righteous and Holy life and to spread same in their church, Christian community and nation.

For Audio and Video messages, Christian literatures and other materials of the Ministry/ Movement or for enquiry, call: +2348136356813; +2348056834323;

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OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR

1. Worshipping God In The Beauty Of Holiness
2. Escaping Hell Fire And Entering Heaven Made Simple
3. Daily Devotional
4. Marriage In Biblical Perspective
5. Pure And Corrupt Dance In The Bible
6. Delightful Revelation Of Heaven And How To Get There
7. A Generation In Quest For Miracles
8. The Peril Of Ignorance Among Christ's Followers
9. Scriptural Examination Of Handkerchief, Apron, Water, And Other Substances In Gospel Miracles
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11. Marital Sex, Child Bearing And Adoption
12. Purify Yourself
13. The Key Of Your Life Is In Your Hand
14. The Passion For Purity

15. Diligent Persuasion On Others For Heaven
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16. The Doctrine Of Sanctification And Holiness
17. Serving God In Righteousness And Holiness
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19. Truth, Holiness And Reward In Christian Giving
20. Passion And Wisdom For Soul Winning In
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21. Praise-worship Of The Holy God
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25. Holiness Is Complete Obedience And Submission
To God's Word
26. Be Careful With Your Marriage Because Of
Heaven
27. Prayer Made Simple For Holy And Faithful
Christians
28. Faith In God That Gives Success And Victory To

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29. Joseph: The Youth With A Bright Future
30. The Holy Life And Ministry Of A True Preacher
31. Superiority Of Christianity Over Other Religions
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32. The Doctrine Of Christian Restitution For Your
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33. The Challenge Of Children To Christian Families
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