SUGGESTED ORDER FOR A BURIAL OR FUNERAL SERVICE

Following is a brief outline of the service, followed by a brief outline for the message to be given.

All can be adjusted according to different circumstances, customs, cultural differences and of course, a different emphasis, depending on if the deceased was consecrated or not. We are blessed because either way we have the truth from the Bible that offers hope to ALL.

1. Family and friends, we are gathered together to remember our dear \_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. We want to open with a word of prayer\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. State how old, where born, family members, etc. regarding the deceased.
4. Acknowledge the different family members, recognize their sorrow.
5. Give a warm but brief eulogy (highlights, important aspects) of the life of the deceased.
6. Bring out the connection, or love of the Truth from God’s Word, of the deceased.
7. Give a presentation on an aspect or a part of the Divine Plan of the Ages.
8. Why is there death? Quote from Genesis on Adam’s disobedience to God’s instructions, and how we have all suffered from inherited sin.
9. How God had foreknown Adam’s disobedience and permitted sin and death as an education for humans to learn from. Ecclesiastes 1:13, 3:10. This is freedom of choice.
10. That God sent His Son to be Adam’s redeemer (and redeemer for all of his descendants, the whole human family)—all to be ransomed from death. I Timothy 2:4-6 (emphasize God’s plan of having all saved—out of death—and then to know the truth). I John 2:2, I Timothy 4:10.
11. The 3 Ways illustrate God’s Plan for everyone who has ever lived:

• Matthew 7:13, 14, the Broad Way – all are dying because of father Adam.

• The Narrow Way – only few during this Gospel Age will consecrate themselves to be true disciples of Jesus. These have sacrificed the earthly hopes and future resurrection on earth for the greater privilege of working with God and Jesus in the uplifting of all the mankind in the Kingdom. (Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven).

• Isaiah 35:8-10 the High Way of Holiness. Open to restored mankind during the time of Restitution of all things. Acts. 3:19-21. It is at this time in the future that all the hard lessons of this life will be so useful to humans coming forth from the grave (condition of death), to make progress in choosing to follow God’s way—love, selflessness, the Golden rule. It is at that time that the faithfully consecrated Christians will be in the spirit realm—heaven, empowered and educated on how best to help their fellow humans to overcome sinfulness in themselves and accepting Jesus as their redeemer, gain life eternal.

(if the deceased was consecrated, it can be emphasized that this was their hope and purpose in life, they have graduated from the school of Christ).

Close this part of the service with Psalm 116:15: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Revelation 14:13: “…blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yes, says the spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.”

According to the local custom, you ask for or allow for any short personal testimonies or memories anyone may have regarding the deceased.

You may have a closing hymn (perhaps one that the deceased particularly enjoyed) or perhaps “In the Sweet Bye and Bye” or “Amazing Grace”.

Finally, close with a prayer of hope and encouragement for the kingdom of peace.

NOTES

Depending on time and circumstances, other verses that are appropriate:

Luke 2:10: “…behold, I bring you good tidings (Gospel), of great joy, which shall be to all people”.

Revelation 22:17: “And the spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say, come, and let him that is athirst come and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.”

John 5:28, 29: “Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life and those that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment.”

End.