

# Free Funeral Sermons



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## Christian Funeral Sermon

### Welcome:

We gather here this afternoon with the desire to say goodbye to John. When we lose a loved one, there is grief, there is sorrow, and there is sadness. However, today there is also rejoicing.

You see, John was a Christian. In fact, John had been a Christian for many, many years. John knew that death was not the end but only a change of place.

As Jesus Himself said to His disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

Death for a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord is simply a translation from the limitations of earth to the freedoms of eternity with Jesus Christ in heaven.

John is with His Lord in heaven. And because of this we can rejoice. Yes, there is a sense of sadness with John’s parting but overall we rejoice because he is in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think of that wonderful verse of Scripture which says: “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

As I speak, John is in the presence of the Lord - no more pain, no more suffering. He is with the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven.

So this afternoon the family wants you to celebrate John’s life (he lived a long life on this earth) and the family wants you to cherish the memories you have of him. To me John was a gently, God-fearing man. And his life reflected God’s presence.

**Prayer:**

With that in mind, let’s pray.

Heavenly Father, we are going to miss John but Father we know that he is in a better place. We thank you for his life and his love for you. Father, we know that he trusted you in life and in death. Father, we give you thanks for him now. Father, we pray for his wife and his family. We think of all those happy memories we have of John. May we cherish those memories as we reflect upon his life today! Father, we pray in Jesus name.

**Song:**

John enjoyed singing, especially singing praise to God.

One hymn all Christians love to sing is *Amazing Grace*.

So, let's stand together and sing this wonderful song that speaks of God's grace and protection, not only in life but also in death.

Look at the word in verses three and four.

Through many dangers, toils and snare I have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home. What a wonderful promise!

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

**Eulogy:**

The eulogy will be shared with us by John's sons.

**Prayer for John's life and Family:** Rev. J. Jones

**Bible Reading:**

2 Corinthians 5:1-10; John 14:1-6

**Hymn:**

*Father, hear the prayer we offer*

**Sharing Time:**

If you want to share anything about John, I want to give you that opportunity now - it maybe just a word or two or a poem that reflects your feelings at this time of John's passing. Please feel free to share if you wish.

**Message:**

I want to take a little of your time to reflect upon John's faith in God. As John approached death, he knew that his life was in God's hand. John was confident of this very thing. Whatever happened, his life was in God's hands. Usually, facing death most people are fearful; however, John was peaceful because he was confident that his life was in the Lord's hands whatever happened.

You know, John's confidence came from knowing God in a real and wonderful way.

John didn't just know about God. John knew God in a personal way. John knew God in an intimate way.

How did John know God in a personal way? Well, he simply trusted the words of Jesus, which said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one

come to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

You see, John believed those words of Jesus and he accepted Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life. In fact, John lived out his life believing in Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

Whatever happened, John knew he was in the Lord’s hands.

In many ways, John had prepared for this day. He knew with confidence that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

Without a doubt, John’s Christian faith was reflected in the way he faced his last days here on earth. But let me say this, John also knew that death was not the end. Yes, death was the end of his earthly existence, but not his eternal existence. John knew he was bound for heaven.

You know, sometimes we have this vague picture of heaven. But eternal heaven is not some vague, fanciful thought that man has made up in his mind. No, the Bible paints a clear picture of eternal heaven. Let me read some verses of Scripture from Revelation 21:1-8.

**Notice, eternal heaven is a real place**

There are two qualities about eternal heaven that are reassuring.

1. Eternal Heaven is a new place.

Verse 4 says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

2. Eternal Heaven is a beautiful place.

Read Rev 21:18-21

3. Eternal Heaven is a populated place.

Verse 3, God is there (Read verse 3)

Verse 6, Jesus is there (Read verse 6)

Verse 7, Christians are there (Read verse 7)

4. Eternal Heaven is a personal place.

Rev 22:4-5 says, “They (Christians) shall see His face (Jesus’ face), and His name shall be on their foreheads...And they shall reign forever and ever with the Lord.”

Yes, we are saddened that John has past from our presence, but above all we rejoice because he is in heaven now with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If John’s life says one thing to us today, it is this: Don’t forget God in

your life.

John lived and died trusting Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. Yes, he has departed and is no longer in our presence, but he is in a better place because of his faith in Jesus Christ.

May we learn from John's life not to forget God in our lives!

**Hymn:**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind.

**Closing Prayer:**

Father, we thank you again for the life and testimony of John. Father, we thank you for the fond memories that we have of him. Father, may we cherish those memories in the days that lie ahead. Father, we thank you for his faith that reminds us not to forget you in our lives. We pray in Jesus Name. Amen.

## Non-Christian Funeral Sermon

### Welcome:

On behalf of Jane's children and their families and also the Smith family, I thank you for coming and showing your care and compassion as we gather together this day to lay to rest with dignity, the body, the outer shell of Jane Jones who passed away quietly and peacefully on October 16, 2006.

When we lose a loved one, there is grief, there is sorrow, and there is sadness. So, we come together today to share the sorrow and sadness of those who mourn and to offer them our love, support, and comfort.

Jane was born on February 29, 1941 in a mining village in England called Smithville. She was the 6th child to John and Joan Smith. She came to Australia with her family in 1951 and settled firstly at Jonesville and later moved to the North Coast area. Jane met her husband, Jason, in Granville and they married in 1960. They had five children.

They lived most of their married life at Granville near Turnsville until Jason's sudden death after which Jane moved to Johnsville. It was at Johnsville where Jane lived her final days.

During the week, Jane's son was telling me that his mother was a keen gardener and that she loved knitting and crochet. Moreover, she was always willing to help when possible and usually did not hold a grudge—a

good quality to have. It's amazing the things we remember when we reflect upon someone's life.

Today we want to take some time to reflect upon the life of Jane Jones. As we do this, let's cherish those memories we have of Jane as we say our goodbyes to her today.

### **Eulogy:**

I invite Tony Smith to share with us the Eulogy for Jane Jones.

### **A Few Words:**

I now invite Sean Davis to share a few words in memory of Jane.

### **A Message In A Poem:**

As I discussed the funeral service with Jane's son, he asked me to read a poem that in some ways reflected Jane's wishes for her funeral service.

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room:  
Why cry for a soul set free!

Miss me a little—but not too long

And not with your head bowed low:  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me—but let me Go!

For this is a journey we all must take  
And each must go alone;  
It's all a part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds  
Miss me—But let me go. (*Author Unknown*)

I want you to notice for a moment the third stanza of that poem.

For this is a journey we all must take  
And each must go alone;  
It's all a part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home.

It says, “Death is a journey we all must take.” You know, we seldom think about this part of the journey of life. In fact, we don't usually talk too much about death. After all, who wants to talk about such a sad subject? And yet, death is part of the journey we all must take.

You know, when we think about death, there is a question that often confronts us.

### **What's the point of life when it ends in death?**

I don't know if that confronts you. It confronts me. As a minister of God's word, I find that people are often confronted by that question when a loved one passes away.

### **What's the point of life when it ends in death?**

Let me take you back to the third stanza of that poem I read to you.

It says...

For this is a journey we all must take  
And each must go alone;  
It's all a part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home.

You know, this poem gives us an insight into what happens when we die. It says God has a plan and it involves heaven. We may not talk much about death. In fact, in our society we fear that word so we don't talk about it. However, we do talk often about heaven. Did you know that God talks about heaven in his book called the Bible? In fact, God talks often about heaven in the Bible.

For example, God's son, Jesus Christ, said this: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

When Jesus said those words about heaven, a man was standing by and his name was Thomas. After thinking on these words about heaven, Thomas said to Jesus: "I don't know where heaven is and I don't know how to get there."

You know, that's not unusual. I meet many people who don't know where heaven is or how to get there. But Jesus did not want to leave Thomas in the dark concerning heaven, so Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

In other words, Jesus is the way to heaven. When we choose Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, God rewards us with a home in heaven when we die. However, we must reach out to God and choose Jesus as the way to heaven.

You know, as death approaches, I find that people often reach out to God and make their peace with Him. I pray that Jane has reached out to God and made her peace with Him.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Let's bow our heads in a word of prayer as we commit Jane's soul to God's care.

Lord, we bow in your presence and we give you thanks for Jane's life. Almighty God, we thank you for all the beautiful memories we have of her. Lord, we now commit her soul to your care. Lord, we pray for family members. We pray Lord that you will comfort them in this time of loss. We thank you Lord for friends and family at this time. We pray that as we meet together today, as we say our final goodbyes that we will not forget the message in Jane's favorite poem. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

## **Flower Pedals:**

If you would like to say a final goodbye by placing a flower pedal on Jane's coffin or pay your last respects to Jane, I now invite you to do so. Again, I thank you for coming and showing your love and care at this time.