

Those who love their families and friends will naturally be concerned about their eternal destiny. We become so emotionally bonded to people that the thought of them facing eternal suffering causes problems, even to the point of ignoring or rejecting the clear word of God. Death causes us to sometimes say things or think in ways that are inconsistent with what we know to be the scriptural truth. Satan uses opportunities like this to promote false ideas as a way of “coping” with grief. If we are not careful we can fall into some of these traps. For each of these things often heard at funerals, read the supplied scriptures and answer the questions:

They will be in heaven because:

-they were such a good person, always busy doing helping others

Read [Matt 7:21-23](#) => Are good works what ‘earns’ heaven?

-they believed in God, and after all, there are many paths to God

Read [Gal 1:8-9](#), and [John 14:6](#) => Are there different paths to God?

Read [John 12:48-50](#) => By what standard will we be judged?

Read [Matt 7:13-14](#) => Will many people be saved?

-God is love, and so He wouldn’t condemn anyone

Read [Rev 20:15](#) and [Rev 21:27](#) => Will everyone be in heaven?

-they had a good life, they’ll be all right

Read [Matt 16:26](#) => Is a good life or physical gains what will matter in eternity?

-everybody loved them, surely God owes them heaven

Read [Heb 5:9](#) => To who will Jesus give salvation?

Will God make an exception to His plan for anyone?

Read [Acts 10:34-35](#) => What does God require from everyone?

Read [Mark 16:16](#) => What does God’s gospel plan say:

People may say ‘if they aren’t in heaven, then I don’t want to be there either’, but read **Luke 16:27-28** and tell what do those who have died say?

Read **Vs 29-31**, and tell what answer was given to the request to send a message back to the living?

Read Joshua’s challenge in **Josh 24:14-15**, and tell what choice we must make:

We must want to please God more than anything or anyone else. Paul was rejected by his fellow Jews. Read Romans **9:1-3** and **Romans 10:1-3** and tell how Paul felt about his countrymen:

If we loved the person who died in an unsaved state, what should we do for those who are still living in disobedience to the scriptures?

We can ask the question – ‘what would ----- have wanted you to do?’ or “what would ----- have done if they knew what you know?” While it is hard to think of a loved one being lost, it does not change our obligation to do what we know is right.

Read the words of Jesus in **Matt 10:37**, and tell what Christ requires of those who would follow Him:

The truth of the scriptures must take the highest place in the life and heart of the Christian. The fact that all Christians have family or loved ones who have chosen to reject God and be lost must not change the Christians determination to live according to the truth of the Bible

A lady lost her son, who had shown no interest in spiritual things, in an automobile accident. In her anguish over his death, she stopped taking the Lord’s supper. When questioned about it, she said “I feel I’m condemning him by taking the Lord’s supper”. Her emotions had clouded the issue. She couldn’t condemn her son by

what she did; he had done that to himself. All she was doing was placing her own soul in jeopardy by willful disobedience. What good would it do her son if she were lost too?

Faith requires us to continue to believe what we know is right even when emotions make it difficult.

Also consider:

Read **Matt 23:37-38**, and tell how Jesus felt about Jerusalem and its continual rejection of God:

How did Jesus show His feelings (**Luke 19:41**)

Read **2Tim 4:14** and **2Cor 5:10**, and tell- according to what will God repay evil:

Read **Rom 1:21-22**, and tell how the scriptures describe those who refuse to recognize God:

Read **Rom 2:5** and **2Thess 1:6-9**, and tell how God's judgment is described:

Read **John 7:2-5**, and tell if Jesus experienced unbelief even in His immediate family:

How do strong emotions tend to change our perception of things?

What can keep us grounded in truth in times of emotional turmoil?