

CREMATION THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Ronnie W Rogers

1. When God created everything, including man, He pronounced it as good. (Gen. 1:31) This included the body. God created man's body from the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7) and pronounced that when it died it was to return to the ground. (Gen. 3:19; Ecc. 12:7).
2. We bury Presidents, Popes, and other societal notable's bodies with significant pomp and circumstance; why would we treat anyone created in the image of God with less respect.
3. The Jews always bury their dead in tombs or in gravesites. There was a lot of ceremony attached to funerals because of the reverence that they gave to bodies. Cremation was never a consideration for them.
4. The pagans all around them cremated the body because their belief was that the body was not something to be concerned about.
5. Fire in the Bible is usually used as a symbol of judgment, e.g. Matt. 8:11-12, 13:42-50; Rev. 19-20.
6. The Bible predicts the resurrection of the body. When Jesus rose from the dead He rose in a physical body. Therefore, you do not burn that which is going to be used at a later date.
7. Burial is the final Christian testimony of our belief in the resurrection, and cremation is the pagan testimony that your spirit has been forever delivered from the prison of the body.
8. The Christians throughout history have followed the same traditions as the Jews of not burning the body. Even up until modern times, cremation was virtually unknown in America. This is because of the strong presence of the Christian belief. As a matter of fact, bodies are laid in the tomb facing eastward based on the fact that Jesus has said He would come out of the east at the resurrection (Matt. 24:27).
9. Even in our own time, with few exceptions, fire is seen as a destroyer. We protect our most prized possessions from fire. The body is something God created and the Lord Jesus Christ died for. He did not die merely for our bodies, but His death did include the redemption of our bodies; consequently, to burn what Jesus died for is an unthinkable contradiction.

I believe the rise in the number of people being cremated in our country is directly proportionate to the rise in the humanist and pagan mentality of our country. Though I do recognize that funerals are expensive, and many are against the whole procedure, the funeral itself serves us well for many reasons. It reminds us that death is an enemy to be conquered by our Lord Jesus Christ. It gives us an opportunity to show respect, not only for the person, but also for the body that God created. It serves a great purpose in allowing a person to mourn and to go through the grieving process so they

may go on with their life after the funeral service is over. It allows us one last time to witness to our faith in the resurrection.

We bury treasure, and we burn trash.

What if Jesus had been cremated?