

# **A Passion For Souls**

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**Dr. Stan Frye, Editor**

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**Congolese Refugees Needing Christ**

## **A Word From The Editor's Desk.....**

Dear Beloved Friends, In **John 4:35-37**, we find these words, ***"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth."*** Are you rejoicing together with me and others in the harvest? Better still, are you involved in planting the seeds and then reaping the fruits at harvest time? Truly we are living in great days of harvest if we will open our eyes and look upon the fields that are white already unto harvest. In other words, time is running out and the harvest fields are overly ripe as almost two billion people in the world still await someone to bring them the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and present a message of hope to them! The brevity of time and the soon coming of our dear Lord and Savior mandate us to be busy telling the world that Jesus loves them and that He is the only hope for heaven. I do pray that all of you, our dear readers, are extremely busy working in the harvest fields. I pray that you are not too weary in well doing, because I promise you that you will reap if you don't give up! God has truly promised this in His Word, and He has never broken a promise He has made!

### **Compassion Leads To Passion**

Please permit me to share another passage of scripture about the harvest. In **Matthew 9:35-38**, we find the following words. ***"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the LORD of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."***

I would like to ask all of you who read this article to really take a look at the phrase, ***"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them."*** This is a profound statement about our Lord. In the Greek text the word for compassion has to do with the bowels or the seat of emotions. The Bible is saying that when Jesus saw the lost multitudes without a shepherd that He was so moved in his bowels that he was literally made sick on his stomach over the condition of these lost and scattered people. I have no doubt that most of us have received some bad or fearful news at some point in our lives when we felt so emotionally upset that we too were almost sick on our stomachs. If you have experienced this, then I know that you understand how Jesus was feeling, and you can relate to just how He felt. The only difference is that Jesus was so emotionally upset over the lostness of souls that he almost threw up. My, what feelings Jesus had for these dear multitudes that needed to be saved! We too should carry such a burden for the lost multitudes in the world that we are moved not only in our emotions until we are sick on our stomachs, but we need to be moved outside of our comfort zones to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to

these lost ones. I must tell you that there will never be passion in our hearts that moves us to action until we are so close to Jesus that we experience His compassion. We are told in **Philippians Chapter 2** that we are to “*put on the mind of Christ*”, and if we do this, then we will have on our minds what He has on His mind—lost souls. In fact, folks, let me say that I believe that if we are like Jesus in having compassion for the lost people in the world, then we will be obsessed with winning people to Jesus. Yes, you heard me correctly! I said that if we have compassion in our hearts for the lost souls like Jesus, then I believe that we will literally be obsessed with winning men and women to Christ. I know it is not popular in our day to feel this way, but I can assure you that if Jesus came all the way from heaven in order to give Himself to die for this lost world on an old rugged cross, you might say he was resolute, determined, and maybe even obsessed with rescuing a lost world. Should we not follow His example and make sure that we make whatever sacrifice that might be necessary so that our lost friends, lost relatives, lost neighbors, those across town, and even those across the oceans might be saved. What a great challenge this is, but even more so, what a glorious opportunity it is for us to take the message of salvation to a helpless and hopeless world! I assure you that we could be involved in nothing any greater in all of the world! Are you busy about demonstrating passionate action in order to bring men, women, boys and girls to Jesus while there is yet time? Are you prayerfully and deliberately going after those who are not saved and on their way to heaven? Do you every stop to consider what the priorities of your life are? Maybe this is what you should do even this day as you are reading this article. Maybe you just need to say to Jesus, “Lord please stir my heart for lost souls around me and yes, even around the world!”

## Which Clique Or Camp Are You In?

By: Dr. Stan Frye

Many of you who read this magazine know very well that I have been in full-time ministry for many years. In fact, my wife, Jo Anne, and I have tried to serve the Lord faithfully together for 54 years. During these many years, it has always bothered us tremendously about the divisiveness of those in the body of Christ who will have absolutely nothing to do with other believers if they don't fit into their clique or possibly their camp. This sinful attitude has probably done more damage to the Kingdom of God than any sin I know. We all know that God has taught us that believers should live in unity with other believers, even if we might differ on some things such as doctrines that are nonessential to salvation, personal opinions, which make no difference in light of eternity, and many other things. In fact, I personally believe that most of the church fights, the arguments among pastors, the friction in pastoral groups, and even the division in most large associations and denominations happen because of a buddy system which produces these cliques and camps. Yet, when we read the Bible, we discover that it is God's will for us to be unified in the church body and with other believers. For instance pay attention to these next verses found in **Ephesians 4:11-16**. ***"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."***

Folks, these verses are some of the greatest verses in the entire Bible. Why? Because they specifically tell us that God has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to help the church, the body of Christ, become unified and brought together in order for God's people to bring edification to the body and to each other as individuals. The purpose of these men who are to lead the churches is not to divide the churches, but to bring them together and help them to grow in the Lord so that they will not be led astray with unsound doctrine. And yet, what I have seen for the past 54 years is an increasing isolationism which causes some in the body to avoid other believers based upon the most flimsy excuses you have ever heard. Most of these so called "reasons in the shells of excuses" are man-made excuses based upon self-concocted opinions and personal preferences. Ninety-nine percent of the time, it is not a valid reason for separating from another believer, but it is simply because pastors, evangelists, teachers, church leaders, and many others have been taught to avoid all others that don't fit into their clique or camp. It is sad to say, most of those who participate in this isolationism do so just simply because some well-known preacher, Bible college professor, or other church leader has taught them in order to

be super-spiritual they must follow these instructions to stay away from these other believers just because they are told to.

Now, let me mention some of these cliques and camps that are being used all across America to keep saved, Bible believing people away from others. One of the primary camps is the colleges or schools where these church leaders attended. I remember as a young pastor having other pastors come up to me as a young man. The first thing they would ask me is, "Where did you go to school?" And if it wasn't the school that they approved of, then they would have nothing to do with me. They didn't ask me if I was saved, when God called me to preach, or any other valid question. They just wanted to know if I was in their camp. Right here in North Carolina, I have found more of this probably than any other place I have ever been. It is amazing to me how professing believers and pastors can pretend to be so spiritual that they won't have anything to do with anyone who didn't go to school where they believe everyone should go. For instance again, there are those here in our area that will have nothing to do with other Christians or church leaders if they didn't attend West Lenoir Bible College. Then, there are others that believe if you didn't go to Southeastern Seminary, you don't rate. Of course, Fruitland Bible College is the only place God prepares preachers properly. Also, what about Bob Jones University in South Carolina or Ambassador College in Shelby, N.C? Maybe even Tabernacle Bible College in Greenville, S.C., or Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga. Then, there is Pensacola Bible College, Liberty University, Clearwater Bible College, Luther Rice Seminary, Crown College in Tennessee, and on and on we can go, trying to promote our clique or camp and none other. I am sure that if these believers don't belong to my camp, then they must be going to hell and the preachers are ill-prepared for the ministry. Where did we ever come up with this terribly divisive concept that everybody else is wrong if they don't agree with us? I can truthfully tell you that Jesus has had nothing to do with this rotten attitude.

Why folks, I even see here in our area of North Carolina, especially with our radio preachers, that if you don't sound like a certain group of preachers when you pray and preach, you can't be genuine. There are the preachers with the "holy-hack", and then others with the "holy uh". There are some that feel that they have to even breathe like their mentors have taught them, and if they don't, they can't be preaching. To me it seems like many of these people have become so enamored with others that they want to be just like their instructors and not just be themselves as God made them and called them.

Also, there are people who can't even hang out with people who use a different kind of music in their churches or possibly have another style of worship. I am not saying that we have to accept everything that comes down the pike, but why can't we be at least civil and interested in the others who don't dot their "i's" and cross their "t's" just like we do? Why do we automatically cross off some missionary that was not trained in our school or camp? Why do we reject even listening to others who are not from our camps or cliques? Or possibly, why do we just fellowship with those who agree with us and let us always have the final word? As I have been thinking about this, the Lord reminded me of a great illustration. We are told that if schools only have former students who teach in their schools and no one else, this is called inbreeding and eventually, the student body will be limited in knowledge because the

information they learn will have come only from their own teachers. In addition, what about the intermarriage of family members who have married incestuously only people within their own families way back up in the mountains somewhere? When this happens, often times the mental ability of these people becomes very limited. These family members are looked upon as having been inbred! Is this what is happening with our preachers, church leaders, teachers, and others who only accept those within their own camps and cliques? I sincerely believe it is, and our churches and the Christian community are the worse for it. I might go so far as to say, "Some pastors and church leaders should be ashamed of themselves for the damage they have done. Instead of being church builders, they have become clique builders!" If you remember from your teenage years, no one is hated more than a clique builder! So, where is the edifying of the body in this generation of Christians? It seems to me that much of this is about preachers who want to control others, live like Pharisees with their heads in the clouds, and make sure that they keep inbreeding their people so that only their people can pastor the churches in their areas and fully submit to the Pope-like antics of these super spiritual leaders. By now, you should be as sick on your stomach as I am on mine. I can't stand this arrogant, egotistical attitude anymore than I can tolerate dust, smoke, and chemicals as I struggle with my incurable lung disease. So, before I move on, I must warn you sarcastically not to associate with someone who didn't go to your school, doesn't worship just like you, and especially if he or she doesn't pray with the same rhymes and the same tone of voice.

By the way, before I forget! I have worked on the African mission field for 35 years. During these years I have watched missionaries who have to walk a thin line and behave perfectly when they are home here in the states in order to keep raising money. However, after they have been on the fields for a long time, and they are about to go bonkers because all of their friends and family members within their camps are back here in America, you might just see an Independent Baptist hanging out with a Presbyterian in Africa just to have a friend! Imagine that! Of course, I am sure that no one will take photos for fear the churches back here will see them on Facebook or somewhere else, and the missionaries lose their support!

### **We Choose Our Friends by Compatible Sins!**

As I come to the end of this particular article, I just want to add that we must be careful in choosing the camps or cliques we want to hang out with. The reason that we may be choosing a particular camp or clique to spend time with may be because these mentors and instructors want us to commit the same sins of arrogance and Phariseism that they are committing so that this sinful philosophy may be passed on to others. In other words, these controlling people want us to join them in their sins instead of breaking free from this legalism and spending time where we choose. As I have preached for years, "We usually choose our friends by compatible sins." What I mean by this is that we choose our friends based upon their tolerance of the sins that we commit so that we can feel comfortable around them. But there is one thing we always forget, if people demand us to abide by their rules in order to be accepted, then we will never be free to obey Jesus and carry out His individual will for our lives!



## **Our GIMI Mission Moment!**

In each copy of “**A Passion For Souls**”, we do our best to feature a particular field of mission service where the work of God is going on and hundreds of souls are really coming to Jesus. In our first editions we have covered Gateway Mission’s work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and GIMI’s work in Kenya. In this edition, we want to feature GIMI’s ministry in the country of Uganda, East Africa. Uganda was a British protectorate under England before it received its independence in 1962. The country has struggled for many years, even through the reign of Iddi Amin from 1971 through 1979. More than a million people were murdered during the eight years of Amin’s reign as he tried so hard to stamp out Christianity and implement Mohammedism. But thank God, he failed miserably in making Uganda a Muslim country, and today Uganda is still a predominately Christian country culturally. This doesn’t mean that everyone is saved, but it means that the overall majority of the country of 35 million people embrace Christianity culturally. I am going to include quite a few photos of GIMI’s work in Uganda, and I hope you will get a burden for the national staff there, and especially spend much time in prayer praying for these dear workers.



**Uganda School Children Who  
Are Being Taught About Jesus**



**Uganda Lady Prisoners With A Very Small Meal  
In Need Of Additional Food**



**Rev. William Ssentumbwe Preaching To School Children In  
A Refugee Camp In Southwestern Uganda**





**Young Teenagers In A Refugee Chapel Service In Uganda**



**Refugee Children Praying To Receive Christ In A Worship Service in Southwestern Uganda**

## **Sermons That Will Preach!**

### **“What We Can Learn From Paul’s Ministry” Scripture: Romans 15:8-33**

#### **I. NOTICE THE PRIORITY OF PAUL’S MINISTRY. vs. 8-13**

- A. His priority was to encourage others to praise the Lord for His goodness. vs. 8-12
- B. His priority was to encourage others to petition the Lord for His gifts. v. 13

#### **II. NOTICE THE PERSUASION OF PAUL’S MINISTRY. vs. 14-18**

- A. Paul was persuaded of his friend’s potential. v. 14
- B. Paul was persuaded of his Father’s purpose. vs. 15-18

#### **III. NOTICE THE POWER OF PAUL’S MINISTRY. v. 19-21**

- A. Through this power Paul had performed mighty miracles. v. 19a
- B. Through this power Paul had preached a mighty message. v. 19b-21

#### **IV. NOTICE THE PROMISE OF PAUL’S MINISTRY. vs. 22-29**

- A. His was a promise to fulfill his dream. vs. 22-24
- B. His was a promise to fulfill his duty. vs. 25-29

#### **V. NOTICE THE PLEA IN PAUL’S MINISTRY. vs. 30-33**

- A. Paul pleads for prayers of sincerity. v. 30
- B. Paul pleads for prayers for safety. v. 31a
- C. Paul pleads for prayers for his service. v. 31b
- D. Paul pleads for prayers for his success. vs. 32-33

## **“Living A Life Of Integrity”**

### **Scripture: Psalm 26:1-12**

#### **I. THIS LIFE IS A LIFE OPEN FOR INSPECTION. vs. 1-2**

- A. David asked for God to inspect his sincerity. v. 1a
- B. David asked for God to inspect his surety. v. 1b
- C. David asked for God to inspect his smell. v. 2a
- D. David asked for God to inspect his sensitivity. v. 2b
- E. David asked for God to inspect his soundness. v. 2c

#### **II. THIS LIFE IS A LIFE OPERATED WITH INTEGRITY. vs. 3-6**

- A. A person of integrity must have the proper vision. v. 3a
- B. A person of integrity must have the proper values. vs. 3b-6
  - 1. His standards must be right. v. 3b
  - 2. His sitting must be right. v. 4a
  - 3. His steps must be right. v. 4b
  - 4. His separation must be right. v. 5a
  - 5. His sanitation must be right. v. 5b
  - 6. His sacrifice must be right. v. 5c
  - 7. His system must be right. v. 6a
  - 8. His submission must be right. v. 6b

#### **III. THIS LIFE IS A LIFE OCCUPIED WITH INSPIRATION. vs. 7-8**

- A. Others are inspired by our voices of thanksgiving to God. v. 7a
- B. Others are inspired by our voices of testimony about God. v. 7b
- C. Others are inspired by our value of the tabernacle of God. v. 8a
- D. Others are inspired by our vitality about the treasure of God. v. 8b

#### **IV. THIS LIFE IS A LIFE OBJECTIFIED WITH INSULATION. vs. 9-12**

- A. The object of our lives should be to be insulated from evil associations. v. 9
- B. The object of our lives should be to be insulated from evil manipulation. v. 10
- C. The objective of our lives should be to be insulated from evil imitation. v. 11
- D. The objective of our lives should be to be insulated from evil habitation. v. 12

## **Some Lessons On Soul Winning**

Over the next several months, we are going to continue to include some very practical information on soul winning. This information will come from the old book I mentioned to you before compiled way back in 1969 by Pastor Buddy Murphrey, Corpus Christi, Texas. This is some of the greatest soul winning information you will ever find. We encourage you to really study these lessons and use them in your personal lives to bring people to Christ. John Wesley said to his preachers and church leaders, "You have nothing to do but win souls." And, don't forget that you can order Pastor Murphrey's book, "Drawing The Net" from his church in Texas. We have included the address at another place in this magazine.

In our last edition I began listing some Bible reasons why every Christian should be a soul winner. I will continue those in this lesson today.

### **Bible Reasons Why Every Christian Should Be a Soul Winner**

#### **I. The Field Is Calling Us.**

**A. John 4:35** *"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

**B. Matt. 9:37-38** *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into his harvest."*

Yes, the field is calling us to do soul winning because so many are lost. There are almost eight billion people on the earth today, and large numbers of them don't know the Savior. In fact, there are two billion people on earth that have never even heard one simple presentation of the Gospel message. According to statisticians, there are 216,000 births in the world every 24 hours, and there are over 200,000 deaths each day. So, the brevity of time for thousands of souls and the new birth of thousands more children demand that we do soul winning. We need to know that it is estimated that over 84,000 people die lost without Christ everyday in the world. This is over 30 million people who die without Jesus every twelve months!

#### **II. Jesus Has Chosen Us.**

**A. John 15:8** *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

**B. John 15:16** *"I have chosen you, that you should go and bring forth fruit."*



Jesus is counting on us to be productive. The fruit spoken of here is referring to other souls won. We understand that a fruitful pear tree is one producing a lot of pears. Likewise a fruitful Christian is one who is producing other Christians.

Do not confuse the "Fruit of the Spirit" with the "Fruit of a Christian". The former is explained in **Gal. 5:22** as being love, joy, peace, long-suffering, etc., which is the nature or attributes of Christ being manifest in us. The fruit of a Christian involves **Going**. There is the "Going out" which compares with the "Go" in **Psalm 126:6** *"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."* and the "Go" in **Luke 14:23** *"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*

Notice that Jesus is not only concerned about quality, but also about quantity. In **John 15:2**, He speaks of *"bringing forth more fruit"*, and in **John 15:5**, He encourages us to *"bring forth much fruit"*. Therefore, not to be winning souls is to be guilty of the sin of a lack of love for Jesus who has chosen us to bear fruit.

### III. Our Salvation Experience Is Compelling Us.

**\* II Corinthians 5:17** *"If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away and all things are become new."*

A light on a hill cannot be hidden, and neither can a soul be silent that has experienced the saving grace of God. One cannot sit on a pin quietly, nor can we be quiet once having had an encounter with the Son of God. **Andrew** had to find Peter and tell him. **Philip** had to go tell his brother Nathaniel. **The Samaritan Woman** had to tell the whole city. **Paul** could not keep quiet about it. Dear friend, if you really have met Jesus, you will have to tell someone about it. Therefore, not to be winning souls is to be guilty of the sin of denying the Lord that bought you.

### IV. The Nature Of The Gospel Is Requiring Us.

**\* Romans 1:16** *"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."*

The word Gospel means "good news". It is the good news of salvation from sin through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The Gospel is the "Balm in Gilead"; it is the "remedy for the snake bite"; "the cure for sin's cancer"; it is man's only hope. Therefore, not to be giving out the Gospel is to be guilty of the sin of selfishness. **Just remember, "Good news is not good news if it gets there too late!"**

**Dr. Stan's Perspective!**  
**Should Christians Be Cremated?**  
**By: Dr. Stan Frye**

Today I want to deal with a subject that has become of great concern for me as a child of God and also for many other believers who are perplexed by the larger and larger number of believers whose families are having them cremated at the time of death. For the past several years, I have noticed a growing number of believers who are conducting memorial services for their loved ones instead of having a celebratory worship service with the bodily remains of the departed loved one present at the time of the service. As a pastor, I have done much to observe and inquire about why saved children of God are resorting to this undignified and basically pagan method of disposing of their family members' bodies. So, I have decided to deal with this subject and hopefully help many believers to make the right decision about this matter as they are faced with the death of another loved one. What you do with the information I am going to give you is left totally up to you, but I pray that you will follow the Biblical way to dispose of your family members instead of the pagan way which is being adopted by so many today.

I think first that I should tell you that there are many disagreements about when cremation started, but from my studies, I have come to believe that it probably started sometime between 3,000 and 2,000 B.C. with the Cycladic Culture among the many islands of Southern Greece. After this time, cremation was carried out by numbers of other nations, especially in the Greek and Roman culture. Then as time progressed up until about the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries A.D., the act of cremation was practiced by many other nations which predominantly were given to paganism. Some of these pagan religions that practiced cremation were the Hindus, the Buddhists, the Sikhs, and members of Zoastrianism. During the many centuries leading up to the end of this period, cremation was almost a universal custom of Aryan peoples, Indians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs, and Teutons. (Pagan Creation-Or Christian Burial by AJ Pollock, Page 1, web site). Also, in England, the Druids, Celts, and early British burned their dead until the Christian reformation took place, which led to Christian burial in the Biblical way. However, modern cremation as we know it today, with ashes in an urn or box, did not occur until 1873, when an exhibition of a crematorium and cremated ashes were displayed in Italy. "The first cremation in America took place in 1876 accompanied by readings from Charles Darwin and the Hindu scriptures. For many years, relatively few person (mostly liberals and freethinkers) chose cremation." ("Cremation Confusion" by Timothy George, Christianity Today. Page 1.)

"Only five percent of Americans were cremated in 1962; by 2000 it was 25.5 percent. In Japan, where burial is sometimes illegal, the cremation rate is 98 percent.

The rise in cremations reflects many factors: concern for the land use; the expense of traditional funerals; the loss of community and a sense of “place” in modern transient society; and New age-type spiritualities.” (“Cremation Confusion” by Timothy George, 5/21/2002. Christianity Today.)

I would attest the fact that most Christians who practice cremation today instead of burial has more to do with the cost of funerals than anything else. In other words, our selfish American society is now reflected in the way we dispose of our dear loved ones. Isn’t it amazing that we now make decisions about disposing of our family members’ bodies based more upon financial cost than we do whether the funeral is one of dignity with a body lying in repose. It would seem to me that we who call ourselves believers have now allowed money to take priority over dignity.

Let me now show you some scriptures where we find that the people of God almost always buried their love ones rather than have them burned like the pagans. In fact, it was considered a curse for a dead body not to be buried. Isaiah wrote of the king of Babylon, ***“But thou are cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou has destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.”*** Isaiah 14:19

“Jezebel was one of the most wicked women who ever lived. She stirred up her husband, Ahab, to perform incredible evil. Because of this, she was cursed of God. Part of the curse prophesied by God’s prophet Elijah was that she should not be buried, but her body would be eaten by dogs **(I Kings 21:23-25).**” (Should A Christian Be Cremated?” by William F. Dankebring, The Untold Story web site, page 2.) Jezebel died the way the prophet predicted and indeed was eaten by dogs, until nothing but a few of her bones were left.

The custom of the Israelites was never cremation! Burial was the proper means of disposing of dead bodies, according to the entire record of the inspired Scriptures. Human burial developed from the belief that the dead rise again. Like a seed, according to this belief, a body is planted in the earth to await rebirth.” (“The World Book Encyclopedia”.)

“Lack of proper burial was considered a curse in the Bible, when a prophet of God foolishly disobeyed the direct commandment of God, he was told by an old prophet in Bethel, ***Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou has disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers*** **(I Kings 13:21-22).**” (“Should A Christian Be Cremated?” The Untold Story web site, page 3.)

“Not to be buried properly is a sign of the displeasure of Almighty God or an act of foolish ignorance and disobedience. When God curses a nation, and removes His blessing from them, He declares ***“For thus saith the Lord, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the Lord, even loving kindness and mercies. Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them....”*** Jeremiah 16:5-6. (Ibid.)

### **“What Does The Bible Teach?”**

The first five books of the Old Testament are known as the “Penteteuch”, or “The Law”. In the book of Genesis we read that Abraham, “the father of the faithful” (Gal. 3:9), who set us an example of faithful obedience to God, went to the children of Heth, after the death of his wife, Sarah, and said, ***“I am a stranger and sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight”*** (Gen. 23:1-4). (Ibid.)

Abraham bought a field that he might bury Sarah there, the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, and contained a cave (Gen. 23:8-17). ***When Abraham himself died, his sons, “Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah...there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife”*** (Gen. 25:9-10). (Ibid.)

Why does God give us all this detailed information in the very first book of the Bible as to the disposition of the dead? There must be a reason! Obviously, this instruction is written down for our admonition, as a guide for us today! (Ibid.)

The apostle Paul explained: ***“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*** (Romans 15:4). (Ibid.)

Jesus Himself said, ***“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”*** (Matthew 4:4). (Ibid.)

“God’s way for the disposition of the dead is **Burial!** The practice of cremation is pagan—idolatrous—heathenish—and wrong! The practice of cremation was inspired by none other than Satan, the devil, and his host of demons as a part of his diabolical counterfeit superstition involving the belief of reincarnation and the immortality of souls. According to the pagans, the “purifying fires” of cremation prepare the soul for its flight after death of the body. Leslie V. Grinsell, in his book Barrow, Pyramid and Tomb, tells the story of the Ibn Fadlan who in A.D. 922 was an Arab emissary to Russia from the Kalif of Baghdad. As he witnessed the cremation of Viking chief on the Volga, he was told, “We burn him....so that he enters paradise at once.” (Ibid. page 5.)

Surely by now we know that it was God’s intention from the beginning that the disposal of bodies after death was, and is, burial and not cremation. In the Old



Testament we read of Joshua being buried. Then we read that Eleazar and Aaron died and were buried. Gideon was buried, and of course, Moses was buried by God Himself on top of Mt. Pisgah. Samson died and was buried. Ruth made a promise to Naomi that wherever Naomi died and was buried that she too would be buried with her. Samuel also died and was buried. King David died and was buried. You can read all of these stories in the Bible and God will attest the fact that it was, and is, His plan for God's people to be buried in order to await the resurrection.

"God intended men and women to be buried when they die, as a symbol of awaiting the resurrection, when they will rise from their graves. The patriarch Job knew this. He exclaimed in living faith ***"If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call (at the time of the resurrection of the dead), and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands"*** (Job 14:14-15). ("Should A Christian Be Cremated?" from the Untold Story web site, by William F. Dankenbring, page 8.)

"Later, Job exclaimed, ***"...for I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another"*** (Job 19:25-27). (Ibid, page 8.)

I must tell you that I could go on and on and on declaring from the scriptures that God has intended for his people to be buried at death and not be cremated. In the Bible when it talks about death and fire, it always refers to fire's being the destructive element which comes with God's judgment upon wickedness and also as reward for eternal punishment. Listen to the words of the prophet Malachi as he wrote very explicit under the anointing of God. ***"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven: and all of the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch..."*** (Mal. 4:1). Peter talks about the great fire of Gehenna, which will consume the bodies of the unrepentant wicked at the end of the age. He wrote, ***"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*** (II Peter 3:10). And, the apostle John describes the final fate of the wicked in the book of Revelation. He says, ***"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*** (Rev. 21:8).

Hopefully by now, you have come to the conclusion that cremation was started with pagans and was never intended for saved believers. God gave us the greatest example of burial and resurrection when Jesus was buried and arose from the dead. Pay attention to what Jesus told His disciples about his forthcoming death and burial just before He died when the woman with the alabaster box of ointment came and anointed Him for His burial. He said to His disciples about this woman who anointed

his feet with aromatic perfumes after Judas accused her of wasting this precious ointment. ***"Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her."*** (Mark 14:6-9). In other words, Jesus set the example of how a body should be prepared and treated at the time of death for the child of God. The body of the dead believer should be treated with dignity because it has been housing the Holy Spirit of God. I personally believe that to burn through cremation the body of a saint who has gone on to heaven is to bring reproach upon the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For sure, this is not the unpardonable sin, but it is a serious sin which relegates this chosen vessel of a believer to nothing more than dust and dirt. Of course, we know that we all have been made from the dust of the earth, but when Jesus Christ brings new birth to the spirit of a man, surely the life and death of this reborn man should be with dignity and class.

Now let me be quick to say that if you have agreed with your family members to have a loved one or friend cremated, I assure you that this is not an unforgivable sin. You certainly cannot go back and change the way you had someone's body finalized. But hopefully, from what I have tried to share with you, you will know better in the future. Then too, I pray that in the future you will not allow even the financial cost of a funeral to deter you from having an appropriate burial for a loved one or friend who dies. God does indeed forgive our sins and mistakes, but we must learn from these sins and mistakes and not make the same ones again. Regardless of what a secular world says and practices, the born again child of God should be buried as was our Lord—in preparation for the great day when we will get new glorified bodies when Jesus comes again.

I also want to assure those of you who have already had some dear believing loved one cremated, that this will make no difference when Jesus comes to give that individual a new glorified body. I promise you that He knows where every dead believer's body is, and when He returns for the rapture of the church, these saved loved ones and friends will rise up in the air to meet Him in brand new glorified bodies. You can find this promise in **First Corinthians Chapter 15**. How they were disposed of here on this earth will not affect them at the resurrection. I also want to remind you that when a body dies here on earth, the soul of the departed one goes to either heaven or hell based upon what that person did with Jesus Christ when he or she had the opportunity to be saved. If the person rejected Christ, then that soul is lost forever. But, if that person gives his or her life to Christ, to be absent from the body, the soul is then present with the Lord. Paul tells us this in **Second Corinthians 5:8**.

Before concluding this article, I feel that I need to mention another reason why I believe that the burning of bodies is pagan behavior. This reason is because of the

burning of the bodies of little children and others during the worship of Molech. "The Bible contains the heartbreaking tale of child sacrifice practiced in the name of Molech, a god of the Ammonites. Molech worship was practiced by the Ammonites and Canaanites, who revered Molech as a protecting father figure. Images of Molech were made of bronze, and their outstretched arms were heated red hot. Living children were then placed into the idol's hands and died there or were rolled into a fire pit below. Some sources indicate a child might also be 'passed through the fire' prior to the actual sacrifice in order to purify or baptize the child. Molech worship occurred in the Hinnom Valley near Jerusalem. Because of this, the valley became associated with the idea of Tophet or hell. You can read about Tophet or the hell mentioned here in **Isaiah 30:33** and **Jeremiah 19:12-15.**" ("got Questions?org. 'What does the Bible say about child sacrifice?'" page 1.)

"God prohibited Israel from child sacrifice in general and Molech worship in particular. **Lev. 20:2-5** states, ***'Say to the Israelites: Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel who sacrifices any of his children to Molech is to be put to death. The members of the community are to stone him. I myself will set my face against him and will cut him off from his people; for by sacrificing his children to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. If the members of the community close their eyes when that man sacrifices one of his children to Molech and if they fail to put him to death, I myself will set my face against him and his family and will cut them off from their people together with all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech.'***" (Ibid, page 1.)

God was adamantly against the burning of children in the worship of other gods, and I believe this is a revelation of why burning the bodies of our saved loved ones associates this act with pagan worship as well. We must be very careful that we don't give any indication that we are associating the burning of bodies with the worship of other gods, and I fear that this truly might be what we are doing if we are not careful.

Finally, I would just mention that many of our Native American Indians burned the bodies of their dead loved ones for different reasons. Of course, each body that was burned had to do with the person's spirit and where it would go. Some tribes believed that the person's spirit would depart from the flames and fly up into the air to become the moon, which was good. Others believed that the spirits would fly upward from the flames and become coyotes, which was bad. The Se-nel Tribe in California was best known for this this type of cremation. ("The Wall Street Journal" web site, "Native Americans 'Cremation'". Page 1.)

Clearly, the burning of family members' bodies was a ritualistic type of worship and thus should be foreign to Christians who believe in death, burial, and resurrection. I could go on and on talking about different peoples who practiced cremation, but I believe I have covered enough to convince any objective minded believer that he or she should not have the bodies of saved family members or friends cremated.

Let me also tell you that I sincerely hope and pray this article might be used by many believers to give Biblical direction for the disposal of our dear loved ones with acts of dignity and class. The Lord truly knows that we have too few believers who have convictions about these valuable Christ-honoring traditions. If you want to discuss this with me, you may do so by giving me a call. If this article has helped you make a decision not to cremate one of your family members or friends, I would like know this. May God give you His peace about this matter!

*Dr. Stan Frye*

"A Passion For Souls Ministry"

**John 11:24-26**