

Elder Bobby Willis



Funerals are for the Family

Funeral services are for the family, to give them peace and comfort concerning their loved one. They should never be a soap box for the preacher, an attempt to save souls (which only God can do by His grace), nor is it for pomp and circumstance (show). A funeral service should be God honoring, positive encouragement concerning the deceased, and comforting to those who are hurting. The word “funeral” is not even in the bible though it has been a practice (in some form) of most societies dating back to early civilization. I was recently asked if I ever got tired of doing funerals. My answer was “Yes” and “No”! It as “Yes”, only because each time I witnessed and felt the pain of the family in losing someone they love greatly (myself included in christian love). The other answer is “NO”, as it is a time to comfort a hurting family with the Word of God which any minister worth a grain of salt should be willing to do. And, it never gets easy, no matter how many a minister performs. Weeping with someone who has lost a loved one exhibits compassion which is a trait we all should have. Paul said in Romans 12:15, “...**weep with them that weep.**” Jesus Himself wept when He came to the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:35). May God grant compassion and proper God honoring words to all those who stand to proclaim the victory in Christ Jesus. That blessed victory is proclaimed in Isaiah 40:2, as the Lord instructed us to “**Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.**” Now, that is peace and comfort to anyone who has lost a loved one. Link this with John 14:1-4 and the family can draw strength when seasoned with the Spirit of God. “**Let not your heart be troubled**” (Jn. 14:1) doesn’t do much for me if it is one of our politicians saying it. However, when the Lord Himself says it, I am comforted. Then He added the following to make me feel even better, “**I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also**” (Jn. 14:3). The children of God have so much to

rejoice about. **“Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus”** (Rev. 22:20). *Think about it!*