



What About Cremation?

Episode #144

Introduction

I. Today's Question

What About Cremation?

Cremation has become popular in our culture as a means of burial for our loved ones. Does the Bible forbid or allow cremation?

II. Confusion

- a. Cremation is a common form of burial in our society.
- b. In some nations, cremation is the primary means of burial.
- c. Through the ages, some Christians have strongly objected to cremation.
- d. They felt cremation did not recognize the future resurrection of the body.
- e. They felt that cremation was associated with pagan religious beliefs.

f. The confusion creates an atmosphere of guilt and shame concerning cremation.

III. What Does The Bible Say

a. There is no specific teaching concerning cremation in the Bible.

b. There are occurrences of people and bones being burned in the Old Testament.

c. The Old Testament Law does not command a body to not be burned.

d. The Law does not assign any curse or judgment on someone who is cremated.

IV. An Issue of Freedom

a. It must be remembered that the destiny of men is not determined by someone else's actions or choices.

b. Cremation is a matter of individual choice and freedom.

Scripture 1 Corinthians 8

¹ Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. ² And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. ⁴ Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*. ⁷ However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. ⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you

thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

c. The Lord will one day raise up one's remains in the resurrection.

Conclusion