

## ***Learning to Number Our Days - April 29, 2018***

### ***Who's the Funeral For?***

\*Burying was among the Jews the only mode of disposing of corpses (Gen 23:19; 25:9; Gen 23:19 9, etc.).

\*The first traces of burning the dead (or cremation) are found in 1 Sam 31:12. The burning of the body was affixed by the law of Moses as a penalty to certain crimes (Lev 20:14; 21:9.)

\*To leave the dead unburied was regarded with horror (1 Kings 13:22; Lev 20:14; 16:4; Lev 20:14, etc.).

\*In the earliest times, of which we have record, kinsmen carried their dead to the grave (Gen 25:9 35:29; Judg 16:31), but in later times this was done by others (Amos 6:16).

\*Immediately after death the body was washed, and then wrapped in a large cloth (Acts 9:37; Matt 27:59; Mark 15:46).

\*In the case of persons of distinction, aromatics/perfumes were laid on the folds of the cloth (John 19:39; comp. John 12:7).

\*As a rule the burial (q.v.) took place on the very day of the death (Acts 5:6 10), and the body was removed to the grave in an open coffin or on a bier (or platform, stand, pedestal) (Luke 7:14). After the burial a funeral meal was usually given (2 Sam 3:35; Jer 16:5 7; Hos 9:4).

### ***Westminster Confession of Faith - Chapter 32 Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead***

*"The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies."*

*At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the selfsame bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.*

**An opportunity for the living to honor the life of the deceased -**

**For family and friends as a part of the grieving process -**

**For believers as a statement of how we view life and death - for unbelievers it is an ever-present "liturgical reminder" of our own mortality.**