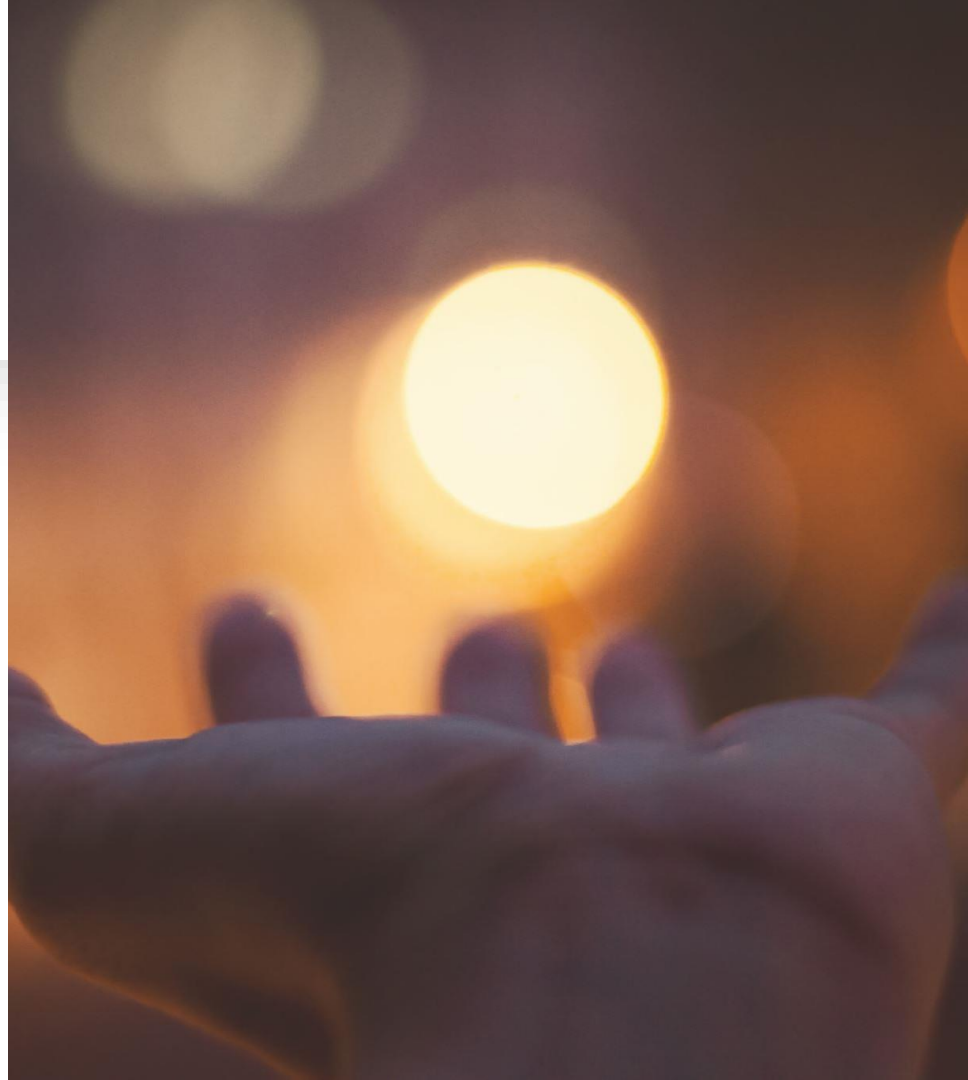


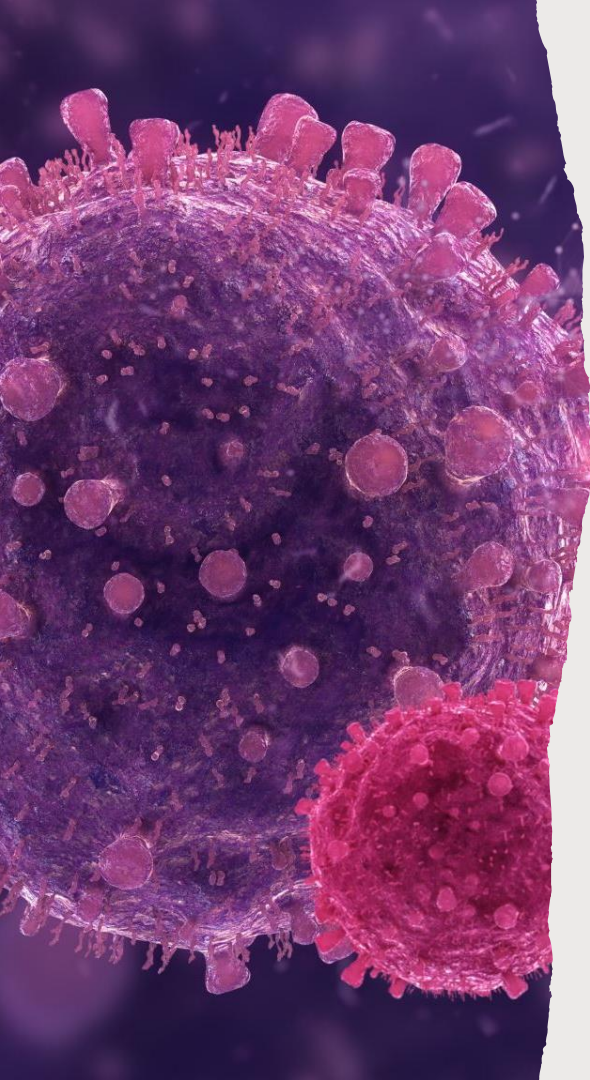
KINANGOP EVANGELISTIC TEAM SEMINAR ON DEATH AND FUNERAL

Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Kibuthu

Introduction

- Every time a relative, a friend or a person we know dies, **we cannot avoid thinking about our own death** and considering our view of death as Christians.
- Questions also arise as to what happens after death, and the period between **when one dies and when Christ returns** to give us new resurrection bodies.





Definition

Merriam Webster defined death as a permanent cessation of all vital functions: the end of life.

Wikipedia defines death as the irreversible cessation of all biological functions that sustain an organism.

In African traditional religions, death is viewed as a transition to the spirit world or the world of ancestors, a world that is a reality in the worldview of an African.

ORIGIN OF DEATH FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE





Genesis 2:15-17

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Traditionally, from a Christian perspective, sin's origin is ascribed to Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.



The effects of sin are punishment and provision



After the account in Genesis 3, the first physical death of Abel son of Adam, through murder by his brother Cain is recorded in Genesis 4:8.

Paul was convinced that death was linked to the events narrated in Genesis 2-3.



In Romans 5:12–19 Paul establishes a parallelism between Adam and Christ, stating that whereas sin and death entered the world through Adam, grace and eternal life have come in greater abundance through Christ.



There is a continuity in the teaching on death in the OT and in the NT. In each case death is seen to be the ultimate consequence of sin.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE DIE?

The background of the slide is a solid gradient of dark red at the top, transitioning into a bright orange towards the bottom. In the lower portion of the image, there are several overlapping, wavy, translucent bands of color. These bands include shades of green, yellow, and red, creating a dynamic, layered effect that suggests movement or a spectrum of light.

Different views depending on religious beliefs

Atheism: Some Atheists don't believe in any sort of life after death/Extinction, but others believe in the existence of spirits, afterlife, or reincarnation.

Buddhism: Buddhists believe in reincarnation, the cycle of death and rebirth until one reaches Nirvana (Paradise)

Hinduism: Hindus believe in reincarnation and that the atman, or soul, receives a new body and life depending on Karma, or good and bad actions taken in their previous life.

Different views depending on religious beliefs

Judaism: Jews focus more on life on Earth, but most believe there is an afterlife, but it can come in many forms.

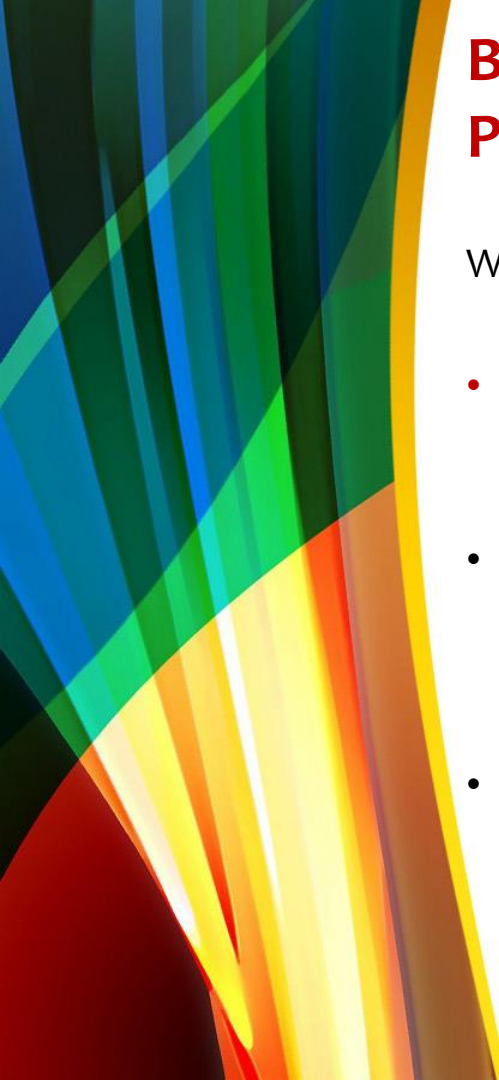
Islam: Muslims believe that death is the end of physical life on Earth, but the soul goes to the Angel of Death to wait for Judgment Day.

Spiritualism: Spiritualists believe in the afterlife, or spirit world, a realm where spirits continue to evolve.

Christianity: Most believe in existence of the **afterlife, either in Heaven or Hell**. Catholic Christians believe in **Purgatory**, a place where the dead destined for Heaven must first go if they need purification for their sins.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...

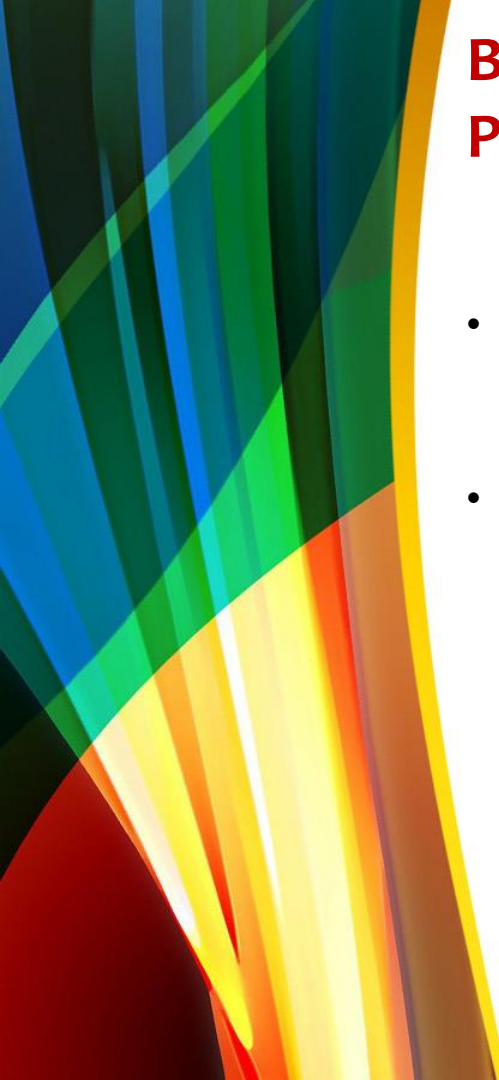
The background of the slide is a solid orange color. At the bottom, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, translucent bands in shades of green, yellow, and orange, creating a sense of movement and depth.



Believer's Souls Go Immediately into God's Presence.

When Paul writes about death he says:

- *“I would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). To be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord.*
- He also says that *“I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body (Phil. 1:23).*
- Looking to the second coming of Christ he says *“We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him (1 Thess. 4:14).*



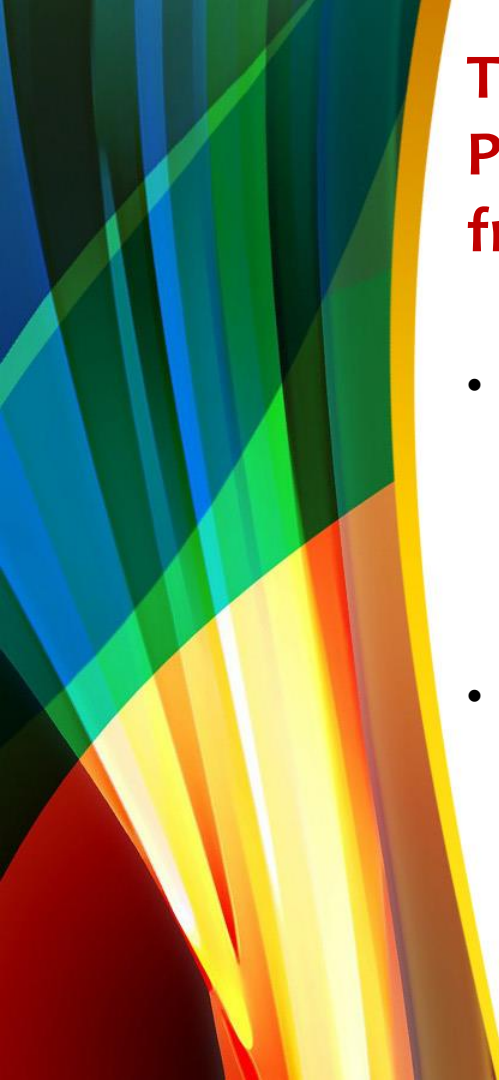
Believer's Souls Go Immediately into God's Presence cont'

- Jesus said to the thief who was dying on the cross next to him, *“Today you will be with me in Paradise”* (Luke 23:43).
- The author of Hebrews says that when Christians come together to worship they *"come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Heb. 12:23).*

Please note...

- Death Is Not a Punishment for Christians.
- Death is the final outcome of living in a Fallen World
- God Uses the Experience of Death to Complete Our Sanctification
- Our Experience of Death Completes Our Union With Christ.





The Souls of Unbelievers Go Immediately to a Place of Punishment and Eternal Separation from the presence of God.

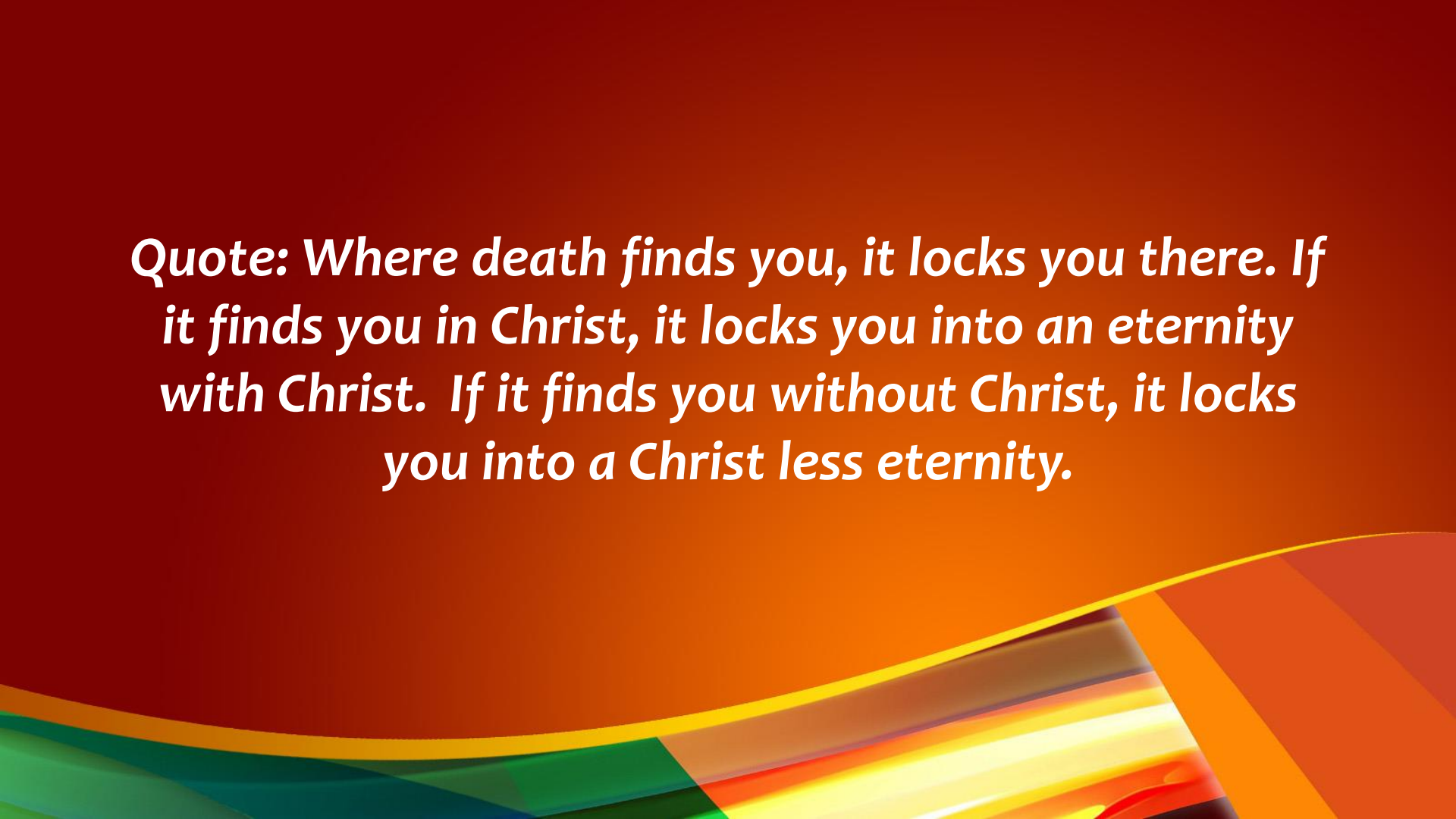
- According to scripture people *will not have a second chance* to trust in Christ after death. The story about the rich man and Lazarus gives no hope that after death people can cross from the place of eternal punishment to the presence of God.
- Unlike believers where their bodies will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ, *unbelievers bodies will not be raised* until the day of final judgment (after the millennial rule of Christ on earth).

Also note...

- The Bible Does Not Teach the Doctrine of Purgatory.
- We Shouldn't Pray for the Dead.

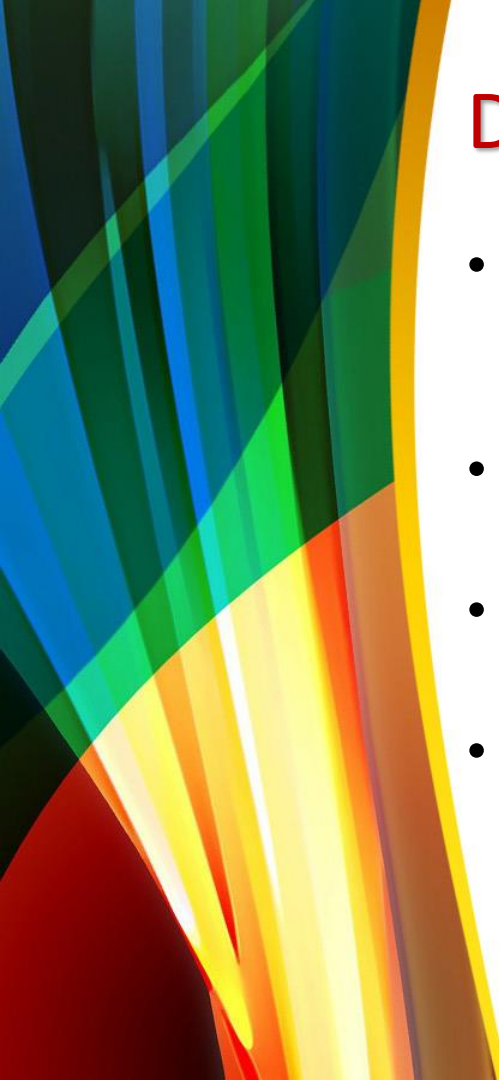


Quote: Where death finds you, it locks you there. If it finds you in Christ, it locks you into an eternity with Christ. If it finds you without Christ, it locks you into a Christ less eternity.



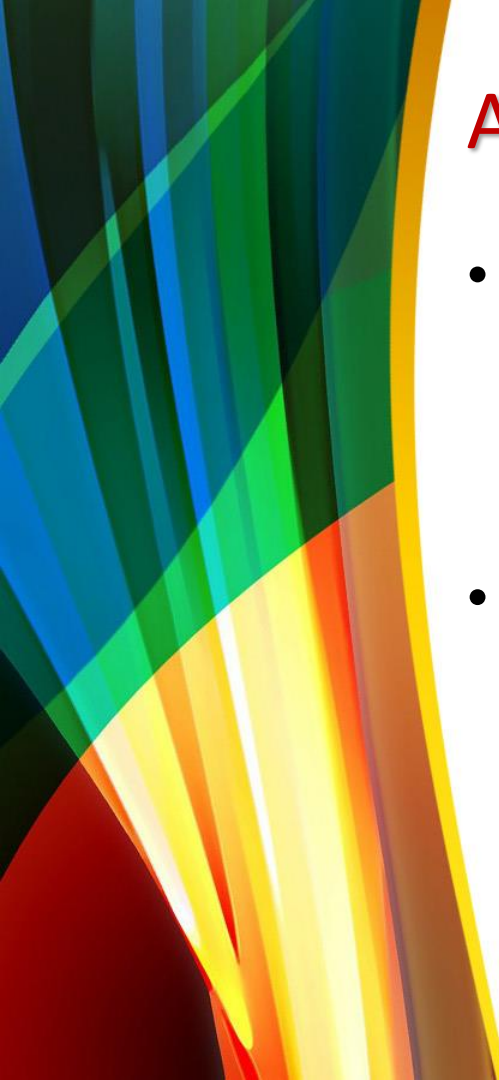
FUNERALS

The background of the slide is a solid gradient of dark red and orange. At the bottom, there is a decorative wavy pattern composed of various colored segments, including green, yellow, orange, and red, creating a sense of movement and depth.



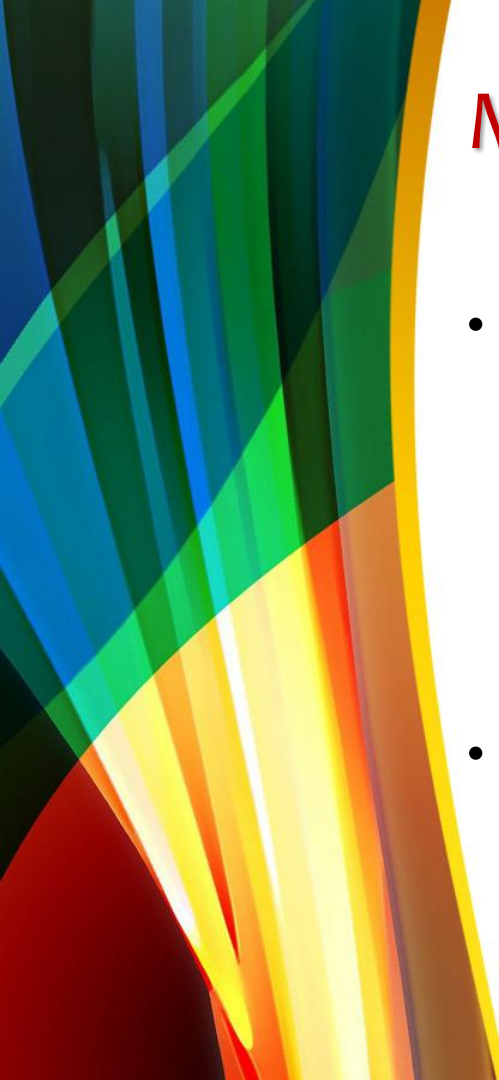
Definition

- A funeral is a religious ceremony for burying or cremating (Burning) someone who has died (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).
- Funeral practices vary depending on religious beliefs and the culture of the community.
- Funerals are considered an important **sociocultural event**, and many rituals surround it.
- It is however important to remember that *funerals are for comforting and encouraging the bereaved, the dead is no longer there but all you have is his body* (remains)



As a Christian, it is important to...

- Evaluate the burial rituals and practices, do away with those that are in conflict with biblical teaching (Sleeping with the dead, addressing the dead etc. etc.)
- Evaluate the traditional funeral rituals after death and before burial and do away with those that are unethical and those that make the funeral very expensive



More considerations

- Church memorial services: There are differing views, bringing the casket in or keeping it outside during funeral service, conducting service for non-Christians. *There is need to maintain the purpose of the service (comfort and encourage bereaved) and bearing in mind the state of the dead.*
- Expensive and elaborate burial services/ done to reflect the **status** of the deceased /family or for show off (raise funds to cover expenses which are not necessary (feed guests, dressing/T-shirts, badges etc. etc.).

Q & A

The background is a solid gradient of dark red at the top, transitioning into a bright orange towards the bottom. At the very bottom, there is a decorative, wavy pattern composed of various colors including green, blue, yellow, and red, resembling a stylized landscape or a modern graphic element.