

Question: Is cremation ok for Christians?

I believe the answer is yes.

Read Genesis 22: 7 - 13 - Abraham was going to cremate Isaac

Heb 11:19 - states the reason why Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac it states "Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead"

So if Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead even if he was cremated so should we.

When your body dies it decays Ecc 3:20 - "...all come from dust, and to dust all return." cremation just speeds up the process.

Now when Jesus died John 19:40 tells us that he was buried in accordance with Jewish burial customs. It was the tradition of the Jews to be buried and not cremated. There is no mandate that I could find in the scriptures saying that you have to be buried. So the decision to be buried or cremated is a personal one much like I Cor 8:8 when talking about food sacrificed to idols "we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do". I say God is no worse able to raise us from the dead if we are cremated, and no better if we are buried.

What happens when you die?

For believers when we die our spirit separates from the body and goes to be with the Lord in heaven.

Read Luke 23: 39 - 43 - Jesus said today not next week and not when I return he said today.

Speaking of Jesus's return

1 Th 4: 16-17 - "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

What rises?

The answer is explained in length in I Cor 15.

20: Jesus was raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep

What is different from Jesus being raised from the dead compared to when Lazarus was raised from the dead? Why isn't Lazarus called the first fruits?

35: Paul answers the question "How are the dead raised?" and "With what kind of body will they come?" You can't answer the first question without answering the second question.

39-40: "All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another."

Jesus when he was raised from the dead was given His heavenly body so that is why He is called the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Lazarus his earthly body was raised so he later died a second time.

42-43: "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable, it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it raised a spiritual body."

It is our heavenly bodies with our spirits in them that will rise to meet the Lord in the air.