

Scripture Reading: 1 Th. 5:9-10

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with him.

How do we comfort the non-Christian in grief?

Knowing what to say to someone in grief is invariably a tricky endeavor. So naturally, we want to express sympathy without sounding cliché or saying something insensitive.

That challenge rises to another level when it comes to extending comfort to someone who is perhaps religious but not a professed Christian. It would be disingenuous for us to give any assurance that a person has been received into the arms of Christ. So what consolation can we extend that is honest and meaningful?

I have struggled with losing a dear friend whose life was courageous and meaningful. She served as the head nurse in a large urban Emergency Room. Death was part of her life every day. She never lost her compassion, but she did lose her Christian beliefs. This personal conflict extended to how she raised her family.

My dear friend has recently passed away. Her husband and children are devoid of any sense of Christian comfort. They have fallen into a black hole and have been uncommunicative.

Prayer: Dear God, I pray for my friend's family and other non-believers to find the comfort, love, and meaning of Jesus Christ.

~ Submitted by Judy Lefler for the Twentieth Reading of Lent

.