

So he says, I would not have you ~~xxx~~ ignorant concerning those who have died, using the figure of speech, that ye sorrow not even as others who have no hope. This is Paul's exhortation in connection with death and gives the reason we should not sorrow like others do. Yet I personally have never heard at the funeral service, either at the main funeral service or at the burial service, I have never heard this particular passage used in connection with the service. But Paul says it specifically in connection with that. I would not you should sorrow as others do for the reasons that follow.

He does not say we are not to sorrow, when people leave us. In the days when people ~~xxx~~ crossed the ocean on boat I was on a ship which travelled from here to Europe and on the way it stopped in Ireland. There I remember seeing the immigrants coming aboard, and as they came aboard we saw the people weeping as they said good-by. They did not know if they would ever see their brothers, their friends, again. They were going away to a distant land. It was very impressive. In those days it took a week or more to travel across the ocean and it took a long time to make a visit home. That is our situation when someone leaves us. They are not dead in the sense that they cease to exist. They have merely ceased to use this wonderful machine that God lends us for a time. They have left us, which means that they are no longer in our company, and we should rejoice with them because they are better off, but we sorrow for ourselves for we lose their companionship, their company for a season if they are Christians we will have it again.