

The Significance of an Epitaph

Are you at a loss for what to write on a headstone? The following information may help when considering the significance of epitaphs for family and friends, but also offers many examples from which to choose.

When a partner, family member or friend has had a burial or cremation in a cemetery, the final stage of closure involves the placement of a memorial, marker and inclusion of an inscription and epitaph. It is at that point we are given one final occasion to communicate to the world the significance of that special person.

Memorials and epitaphs are a reflection of someone's existence highlighting their personality traits or accomplishments in life. In some cases inscriptions and epitaphs may also tell the story of the circumstances that brought them to their death. Even though inscriptions, memorials and epitaphs might have varied over time one thing remains a constant. These words are a meaningful way to give respect to the deceased.

Writing an Epitaph

Inscriptions and epitaphs take on many forms and are derived from many sources. One of the most popular are taken from bible scriptures. Bereaved family members often find comfort in a biblical verse as part of an epitaph as it may exhibit some virtuous quality that was a characteristic of the decedent's life.

Some choose to write an epitaph detailing the accomplishments of the decedent's life. Maybe the person was a great doctor who selflessly gave their time tending to the sick, or one who was known for their philanthropy or community service. Whatever the subject, an inscription and epitaph allows us to post our reflections of the personalities and achievements of the departed, marking their time with a community.

Examples of Headstone Epitaphs

To help give you some inspiration, we have assembled a collection of epitaphs. You can either copy them directly or use them as a basis to create your own.

<p>Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal</p> <p>To the world you may have just been somebody, but to all of us you were the world</p> <p>May the journey on your next adventure be as joy-filled as your time with us. See you soon!</p> <p>Shed not for her the bitter tear Nor give the heart to vain regret Tis but mere ashes that lie here The gem that filled it sparkles yet</p> <p>Beneath this stone That marks this resting place Our precious darling sleeps alone In the Lord's long embrace</p> <p>Life is not measured By the number of breaths we take, But by the moments That take our breath away</p> <p>No pain, no grief, no anxious fear can reach our loved one sleeping here</p>	<p>Behold my friends as you pass by As you are now, so once was I As I am now, soon you shall be Give thyself to God and follow me</p> <p>Don't mourn my loss, whatever you do My leaving brings you closer to the loved ones I have left behind and all the joys the future holds</p> <p>The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth, One's nearer God's heart in a garden, Than anywhere else on earth</p> <p>I pray you can see me now and be proud of what I have become because of your example, but most of all I thank you because you loved me so much</p> <p>Your presence is a gift to the world, You're unique and one of a kind. Your life can be what you want it to be Take it one day at a time</p> <p>I can only hope we shall see each other again In that place where there is only love and no shadows fall, You have touched my very being...I shall remember you</p>
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Words of Comfort

Gone, but not forgotten	Everlasting life through Christ
In Loving Memory of	Asleep in Jesus
Entered into rest	Ours for a little while, with Jesus forever
To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die	Home with God, which is far better
Until we meet again	But gone to our Father's house above
I shall but love thee better after death	Step softly, a dream lies buried here
Not lost to memory! Not lost to love!	Your love will light my way, your memory will ever be with me
Forever in our hearts	God could not have made earthly ties so strong to break them in eternity
Hasten, oh blessed hour of reunion	What we keep in memory is ours unchanged forever
Loving memories last forever	Death is only a shadow across the path to heaven
Sweetly sleeping	At the going down of the sun, and in the morning we will remember them
Rest in thine, sweet memory ours	He longest lives who most to others gives, himself forgetting
Beloved of the Lord	May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace
The song is ended, but the melody lingers on	He gave thee, He took thee, and He will restore thee
At rest with God/ Rest in Peace	
Asleep in Christ Jesus	
Too well loved to ever be forgotten	

Classic Epitaphs

<p>The soul that suffers is stronger than the soul that rejoices. <i>E. Shepard</i></p> <p>Tears are often the telescope by which men see far into heaven. <i>H.W. Beecher</i></p> <p>Strength is born in the deep silence of long-suffering hearts, not amid joy. <i>Hemans</i></p> <p>What seems to us but dim funeral tapers may be heaven's distant lamps. <i>Longfellow</i></p> <p>Death is the golden key that opens the palace of Eternity. <i>Milton</i></p> <p>There is a sweet job that comes to us through sorrow. <i>Spurgeon</i></p> <p>Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. <i>Moore</i></p> <p>Heaven, the treasury of everlasting joy. <i>Shakespeare</i></p> <p>Death is not a foe, but an inevitable adventure. <i>Sir Oliver Lodge</i></p> <p>Nature's loving proxy, the watchful mother. <i>Bulwer</i></p> <p>The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, One's nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth. <i>Dorothy Francis</i></p> <p>The end and the reward of toil is rest. <i>James Beattie</i></p>	<p>Every man's life is a plan of God. <i>Horace Bushnell</i></p> <p>The acts of this life are the destiny of the next. <i>(Eastern proverb)</i></p> <p>Sorrows are like tall angels with star-crowns in their hair. <i>Margery Eldredge Howell</i></p> <p>The heart of him who truly loves is a paradise on earth. <i>Lamennais</i></p> <p>Mutual love, the crown of all our bliss. <i>Milton</i></p> <p>To love is to place our happiness in the happiness of another. <i>Leibnitz</i></p> <p>Humble love, and not proud science, keeps the door of heaven. <i>Young</i></p> <p>The greatest attribute of Heaven is mercy. <i>Beaumont and Fletcher</i></p> <p>Mercy to him that shows it, is the rule. <i>Cowper</i></p> <p>Dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul. <i>Longfellow</i></p> <p>Till the master of all good workmen shall set us to work anew. <i>Rudyard Kipling</i></p> <p>In His will is our peace. <i>Dante</i></p>
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Safe in the hallowed quiet of the past.
Lowell

Music, when soft voices die, vibrates in the
memory.
Shelley

Each lonely scene shall thee restore.
William Collins

Things past belong to memory alone, things future
are the property of hope.
John Home

Yet in this heart's most sacred place, thou, alone,
shall dwell forever.
Moore

...There hath pass'd away a glory from the earth.
Wordsworth

joy, joy forever! - My task is done - the gates are
pass'd and heaven is won.
Moore

The cross leads generations on.
Shelley

...The heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in
Thee.
St. Augustine

God is and all is well.
Whittier

Death's but a path to be trod if man would ever
pass to God.
T. Parnell

Onward to thy glory! 'Tis always morning
somewhere in the world.
R.H. Horne

Life's a voyage that's homeward bound.
H. Melville

He hath awakened from the dream of life.
Shelley

Beyond is the infinite morning of a day without
tomorrow.
W.S. Abbott

Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak
whispers
the o'erfraught heart and bids it break...
Shakespeare

Where He leads me I can safely go.
Millay

God gives us love. Something to love He lends us.
Tennyson

Whither thou goest, I will go.
Ruth i:16

But in the night of death hope sees a star,
and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
Ingeresoll

There never was night that had no morn.
D.M.N. Craik

Faith builds a bridge across the gulf of death.
Young

Until the day break, and the shadows flee away.
Cant. ii:17

'Tis not the whole of life to live, nor all of death to
die.
J. Montgomery

Where there is sorrow there is holy ground.
Wilde

Now twilight lets her curtain down and pins it with a
star.
L.M. Child

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.
Moore

Where there is much light, the shadows are
deepest.
Goethe

His daily prayer, far better understood in acts than
words, was simple doing good.
Whittier

Headings

<p>In Affectionate Memory of In Everlasting Memory of Precious Memories of With love we remember To the Memory of In loving Memory Sacred to the Memory of</p>	<p>Treasured Memory of Cherished Memories of Remembered always In Remembrance of Remembering In fondest memory of</p>
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Dates

<p>Who passed away peacefully 19TH JUNE 2010, aged 87 5TH DEC 1948 ~ 19TH JUNE 2010.</p> <p>Born 5TH DECEMBER 1948. Died 19TH JUNE 2010.</p>	<p>At rest 19TH JUNE 2010. 1948 ~ 2010.</p>
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For a Mother, Wife, Daughter, Sister

Tender Mother, a faithful friend	She lives with us in memory and will forever more
Devoted Mother	I thank you for all my darling Mother
Our Darling Mother	A loving mother, true and kind a beautiful; memory left behind
A loving mother, wife and grandmother	A dear mother with a heart of gold
A devoted wife , mother and grandmother	Her life a beautiful memory her absence a silent grief
She walked in beauty	To know even one life breathed easier because she lived is to know she truly succeeded while here
She will always be with us in our hearts, in our memories and in our lives	She enhanced the lived of those she loved
A mothers love grows by giving	There was grace in her steps, love in every gesture
All that I am or will ever be I owe to my mother	Her works were kindness , her deeds were love
Her memory is enshrined in our hearts	We made a promise to death do us part , but when it came to it broke my heart
She would rather give than receive	A little flower lent not given , to bud on earth and bloom in heaven

Father, Husband, Brother, Son

A tender Father, a faithful friend	To know him was to love him
His joy was serving other	He lives with us in memory and will forever more
His friendship was an inspiration , his love a blessing	Fond memories linger every day , remembrance keeps him near
No man is indispensable but some are irreplaceable	If there is another world , he lives in bliss, If not another he made the most of this
A loving father tender and kind, what a beautiful memory you have left behind	Thank you for your courage and inspiration
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him	His true wealth was in generous heart

Bible Verse and Religious Text

Believe on him to life everlasting	Gone from our home, but not from our hearts
The righteous shall go into external life	May god be with you and comfort you
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see god I thank my god upon every everlasting life I rejoice in thy salvation	A godly man who served the lord all his days He gives his beloved sleep
The lord is my shepherd , I shall not want	May she rest in peace with god
This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased	Generous of heart, constant of faith
Blessed in the man who maketh the lord his trust	Out of sorrow god speaks to us best
Sleep on now , and take your rest	May the peace of the lord be with you
Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted	Absent from the body, present with the lord
All things work together for good to them that love god	Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal
For such is the kingdom of heaven	All things change but god remains
For to this end Christ died	When someone you love is in heaven than heaven is in your home
	May heavens eternal joy be thine

Verse and Text

Gone , but not forgotten	Always in our thoughts
Eternally loved	In God's Keeping
Rest in peace	Goodnight, God bless
To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die	Peace, perfect peace
Entered into rest	She is not far away
I shall but love thee better after death	In God's care
Forever in our hearts	Always in our hearts
At rest with God	Love lives on
Too well loved to ever be forgotten	We miss you
Home with God, which is far better	Our little angel
Ours for a life time, with Jesus forever	An inspiration to all
Forever with the lord	We love you always
Reunited	With all my love
Greatly loved sadly missed	Life is not forever , love is
Sadly missed	How beautiful life was
Gone from us but not forgotten	A free sprit
Laid to rest	Trust in God
Safe in the arms of Jesus	A friend to many and sadly missed
Remembered with a smile	Wonderful was love for us
At rest	Love never ends
Until we meet again	Gone Fishing

<p>Loving memories last forever</p> <p>A gentle man</p> <p>I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course and kept my faith</p> <p>She lived in happiness , resting in peace</p> <p>Forever young, forever in our hearts</p> <p>May she be remembered as she remembered others</p> <p>What we keep in our memory is ours forever</p> <p>A life full of years of understanding</p> <p>Of tender heart and generous spirit</p> <p>Women of virtue , Kindness and modesty</p> <p>Your patient courage is a beloved memory</p> <p>She graced her family with acts of loving kindness</p> <p>Precious are the memories of (name)</p> <p>A little flower lent not given , to bud on earth and bloom in heaven</p> <p>Gone is the face we love so dear , silent the voice we loved to hear</p> <p>To all the world just one, but to us the world</p> <p>Those we love don't go away , they walk beside us everyday</p> <p>She lived , laughed , loved and left</p> <p>Always in my heart forever in my mind</p> <p>What we keep in memory is ours unchanged forever</p>	<p>Too good in life to be forgotten In death</p> <p>The hours pass us , but they bring us together</p> <p>Where there is great love there are always miracles</p> <p>He lived life to the fullest</p> <p>She filled every second of her life with laughter , love and happiness</p> <p>Sweet memories never fade</p> <p>Love makes memories eternal</p> <p>The soul that suffers is stronger than the soul that rejoices</p> <p>There is a sweet job comes through sorrow</p> <p>The acts of life are destiny of the next</p> <p>When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure</p> <p>Your memories fill my heart like countless stars fill the sky</p> <p>The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched they must be felt with the heart</p> <p>Angels are never too distant to hear</p> <p>When someone you love is in heaven than heaven is in your home</p> <p>No longer in my life to share but in my heart you will always be there</p> <p>Your love will light my way</p> <p>Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breaths away</p>
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