

**TRANSCRIPTION OF THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
FOR**

HARRY L. REEDER, III

February 16, 1948 ~ May 24, 2023

In honor of our pastor, Dr. Harry Reeder, would you please stand as the family and our elders process in?

(singing).

Please be seated.

Pastor Jim Alexander

Good afternoon. I am Pastor Jim Alexander. I'm the Pastoral Care pastor here at Briarwood Presbyterian Church. And on behalf of Cindy Reeder and the entire Reeder family, thank you for joining us this afternoon for this service of celebration of the life and ministry of our beloved pastor, Dr. Harry Reeder. At a moment like this, it's really good for us to be able to have friends and family be able to come together. We come together to offer words of encouragement and comfort to the family. We also come together in order to be encouraged and comforted ourselves. And we will be encouraged as we listen to God's word, as we sing his praises and as we share fond memories of the relationship we each have enjoyed for so long with our dear pastor.

Together, we will rejoice in what God has done in and through the life of one of his faithful servants. A faithful steward who on the morning of May 18, 2023 was welcomed home hearing these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord." It's a fitting honor and tribute I believe, to such a servant of the King to have with us this afternoon, this group of men seated to my right and elsewhere throughout. These are pastors and leaders of other ministries. And we are so encouraged to have you here as a tribute to the relationship that you had. You many times have been encouraged and instructed by Pastor Reeder. And many times, you have also been a strong right arm to him. So, we are very grateful for your presence here with us today.

It's also long been a custom here at Briarwood that whenever one of our elders has gone home to be with the Lord, we have our entire session serve as the honorary pallbearers. It is our way to pay tribute to him. Thank you elders, teaching elders and ruling elders of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. Thank you for being here and honoring not only your pastor, but your pastor's family with your presence here today. There are other elders who are also serving right now as honorary pallbearers. They've joined us by live stream. We welcome the elders from Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, North Carolina, as well as the elders from Pinelands Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. Brothers, thank you for honoring us by joining us at a distance, but joining us nonetheless, as we honor a servant and worship our Lord.

Thank you Briarwood staff and your families. We feel this deeply. But thank you for being here, sitting near the family of the Reeder's in order to be a presence and an encouragement to them and thank you as well to all of you joining us around the world. We have missionary partners who have joined with us around the world. We have others from around the world who right now are watching this live stream. And as well as, thank you for each one of you who made it a priority to be here physically today as you are able. What an honor and a tribute this is to God's work through the life of his humble servant, our pastor Harry Reeder. More than just a pastor, Harry was a man who fiercely loved his family. Today, the family's hearts are heavy. They're filled with grief, understandably so. Rightly so.

We begin by offering words of comfort to you. Not our words, but words from God's word, the most comforting words of all. So, Cindy, Jennifer, Ike, Abby, Beth, and all of your families, listen to these words from Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah 53 told us, he described our Lord as one who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. And then Jesus himself, as if he was just going to prove a point, went out of his way in John chapter 11 when his dear friend Lazarus had died, he waited. And when he got to Bethany, the family was in full-blown grief. Now, Jesus, when he arrived knowing full well what he was about to do, he was about to say, "Lazarus come forth." But

before the rejoicing, he entered into their sorrow. We're told that when he saw Mary and Martha weeping and all those with them weeping, what did Jesus do? "Jesus wept."

Indeed, he bore their griefs and he carried their sorrows just as vividly and as tangibly as he is carrying you and yours right now. We come alongside you, weeping with you as you weep. We come alongside you because in pastor's own words, we know that the more deeply someone is loved, the more deeply the grief is felt at their parting. We are here with you and for you, not just today, but for every day that is needed from here on out, to love you well, to serve you humbly and to carry you, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We also rejoice with those who rejoice. And that may sound strange to some, but we do rejoice because we know where our pastor is. We know where he is and we know what he is doing. He is right now in front of the face of Almighty God and he is seeing Jesus face to face and he is worshiping him full on and he is not limited by anything that this world limited him with before.

He is learning and he is studying his story. Pastor is a great historian. Well, he is now learning history, HIS STORY, better than ever before because he's being taught by Jesus himself. So, we rejoice. And knowing that he's there, we wouldn't wish him back here with us, though our hearts are heavy and filled with sorrow. Yes, we can be encouraged as Christians. We know that, to be absent from the body is to be present with our Lord. And we rejoice knowing where he is and that he now is seeing with eyes of sight the one he worshiped and served so faithfully with just eyes of faith. Even now, this time together is a time of worship for us. This afternoon, I'm going to use one of Pastor Reeder's favorite passages. And I think many a pastor would say, "That's mine too." Because the words from Isaiah 6 just ring in our heart and our soul.

Listen to what Isaiah says. *"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne high and lifted up and the train of his*

robe filled the temple. Above him stood the Seraphim. Each had six wings. With two, he covered his face. With two, he covered his feet. And with two, he flew. And one called to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory." Whenever our lives have been shaken and it seems as though our world has been turned upside down, our God is seated upon his throne ruling still. And while Isaiah beheld God upon his throne as a man who is there in need of mercy and grace, our pastor is there before him, not in need of mercy and grace, but our pastor is there right now shouting the victory cry. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." And God's people said, "Amen."

Let's go to our Lord in prayer.

"Almighty God, we do come before you boldly now. We come before your throne of grace knowing that you have bid us to come, expecting to be met with grace upon grace to meet our very need. Lord Jesus, we bow before you as the one who assured us that you are with us always, even to the end of the age. Well, that's so comforting, Lord, to think of in the big picture. It's also very comforting today because we need to know your presence now. Holy Spirit, would you please make us aware of the loving presence of Jesus Christ, filling this room, filling our hearts, filling this time together, so that only the glory of God might be seen. For then, we will have worshiped well. Help us now as we praise you in Jesus name, amen.

We're going to stand as John Haines comes and we're going to sing one of pastor's favorite songs. So favorite that there was a time I remember not long ago in a worship service, when he had us sing it and then he said, "Now, sing it again." Let's stand and let's sing Behold our God.

(singing).

And all of God's people said.

Amen.

Amen. You may be seated.

Jon Payne

I thought an appropriate passage of scripture to read this afternoon on this difficult yet glorious occasion is from Revelation 7: 9-17. Please hear the Word of our living God.

"After this, I looked and behold a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hand. And crying out with a loud voice, salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the lamb. And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. And they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God saying Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Then one of the elders addressed me saying, who are these clothed in white robes and from where have they come? I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, these are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore. The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and he will guide them to springs of living water and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand forever. At this time, we will have the family remembrance.

Jennifer Reeder Toomer Hay

My name is Jennifer Reeder Toomer Hay and I'm the oldest and most loved child of Harry Lloyd Reeder, III. Dad had a way with that. He would just say, "That's right. You're my favorite oldest daughter." Let me first say, as the first one here, that as a family we are absolutely astounded and overwhelmed at the outpouring of

love and grace and encouragement that we've received. This is really amazing. Please know that we appreciate it beyond words that we can even say. 2025 is going to be a real bear when we have to start cooking again. You have loved us so well and we are so forever grateful. Many years ago, before some deacon somewhere got smart and installed clocks in the sight line of the pastor, my father would take off his watch before he would preach when he started.

You always knew he was about to land the plane because he picked up his watch and would put it back on his wrist. So that was about three minutes left. One particular Sunday, daddy was finishing in Christ Covenant and put his watch back on. And I'm not sure if the Holy Ghost got ahold of him or what, but he began to ramp back up and was thundering away and he put his watch back on. I'm pretty sure it was a Kromer boy who said in a very not inside voice, "Oh no, daddy. He's starting all over again." This is yours. Our father was known by many names. He began his life as Ikey and then grew into Ike. At age 32, we moved to Miami, Florida and he dropped the family nickname Ike and took on his given name, Harry. He's Dr. Reeder, Reverend Reeder, Pastor Reeder, Pastor Teacher Reeder, PTR, Papaw, Grandpa, HLR Three and Harry. I could list more.

But there is one name he has that there are only three humans on the face of this earth get to call him by and that is Dad. I'm often asked the question, "What in the world is it like to be Harry Reeder's daughter?" My answer is always the same. "I don't know what it's like to not be Harry Reeder's daughter." If you'd allow me a minute, we'd like to share about him as dad. Daddy lived his entire life defined by one priority. That priority was his love for Christ. You have to understand this. He did not live a life with a list of priorities. He led a life with one single priority. It's an important distinction that shapes the understanding of his preaching, his ministry, his relationships and his life. Wrapped up inside that one priority were the three loves of his life.

Also, I have alliterated them. He loved Cindy. He loved his children. He loved his church. Because of his single focus priority, those

three loves were richer and deeper than they ever would've been had they been a numerical list of priorities. His love for Christ was the sole focus and purpose of his life. He entered the world each morning asking one question, what action deed, word, statement will I take next that honors the Lord first? Upon his conversion to Christ, he went all in, which is how he does everything. All in. The love of Christ consumed his life. Christ was his life. His thoughts and behavior were informed by his growing understanding of what it meant to live all for Jesus. Make no mistake, he had his shortcomings. But his life was a journey glorying in the fact that he was made free from the power of reigning sin and daily fighting the battle to defeat remaining sin.

His priority of Christ allowed him to have one of the great loves of all time, Cindy. His love for Cindy was deep and full. Many of you have heard his testimony, but this part bears repeating. After struggling through his call to ministry in the early years of his marriage, he found himself in the middle of the tobacco fields behind their apartment in Greenville, North Carolina, wrestling with God's call in his life. He came back to the apartment and woke up mother and he said, "Cindy, I know this is not what you signed up for, but I am ready to accept this calling and become a pastor." Mother said, "Okay." Dad said, "Are you sure? Is that it?" And in her awakened sleep, she responded, "Well, when I was 13 years old, I gave my life to be a missionary or a pastor's wife. I've just been waiting for you to catch up."

They were the example of one plus one equals one but it's more than that. They were not even a unit. They were one. They were one because they did not need each other to fulfill their needs because their priority was Christ. They found fulfillment in him, not each other. The Lord made Harry for Cindy and Cindy for Harry. One of the great joys of our lives as children was when we all flew the nest because once we were gone, mother was freed up to travel with dad and support him as he ministered and minister alongside of him. Part of that care and love entailed tracking down all of his things. Dad's mind was always so focused that he had no room for thinking about things like his phone or his Bible or his pen and he would

leave them everywhere. One particular time, right after I just moved here and was living with them, dad had left a journal in a hotel.

Once he realized it, mom called the hotel and they agreed to send it. Mom and dad had left to go on another ministry trip and the box arrived at the house, so I opened it. Not only had they sent his journal, they also included four books, a bunch of pens, a toothbrush, his iPod, a pair of shoes and some shorts. Not shocking. We didn't like to let him travel alone. They moved as one. She never competed with the church for his affection because she was in and with him in ministry. She loved him in his flaws because daddy was not her life. Christ was her life. Daddy loved her and her flaws, although they're like super limited, very few, very few flaws because Cindy was not his life. Christ was her life.

What an incredible example they've given us all. His second-greatest love was his love for children. This includes all of his family, but I couldn't find a C word that defined immediate family. He loved them with a depth that I cannot even accurately describe. But I will say this, he loved us three the most. Growing up a Reeder, we didn't realize that we did things different.

Growing up a Reeder, we didn't realize that we did things differently. Everything in life was a teaching opportunity. We would go see a movie and he would make us tell us what world life view was presented in that movie. What truth was there that we could see? What flawed thinking did we see. As young children, we never competed with the ministry for his time, because our family just believed we did this together. He would grab one of us and take with us with him to hospital visits, preaching engagements, or Bible studies. We wanted to be the one he picked. His work was a part of our lives together as a family. In junior high and high school, daddy became mine and Abby's running coach. As an aside, we recently completed family therapy from those days.

He was not our official coach mind you, we did our workout with our team and our coach from Charlotte Christian, then we did our

second workout with Dad, that's the truth. It is not possible to add up the hours we spent with him. It was not until later when I became an adult and had my own children that I really understood the scheduling gymnastics he must have had to do to be there every single day. Dad would travel to preach somewhere when we became adults and when he would come home, we would each drift up to the house individually or sometimes together to lay eyes on him and see him. To each of us, the same thing would happen. We'd walk in and say, daddy, how's the trip? And he would say, "Lord blessed, how's real estate?" How's Rose Gate? How's the seminary? Tell me about the kids. We could not drag out of him anything about himself. As our parents, they committed to raising believers first and then leaders and strategic and critical thinkers next.

Every single piece of me I can trace to him. Everything I've learned about leadership is because of all those teachable moments that were somewhat annoying in the moment that he took full advantage of. Finally, he loved the church, he loved this church. Friends, I don't think that you truly know how much he loved you. The Lord gave him a very unique combination of gifts in ministry. He was a preacher, he loved the means of grace, the Lord's Day, preparing for and delivering the sermon he would pour over the message all week. He has told us many times, he's never had a good sleep on a Saturday night in his 50 years of ministry. He felt so deeply, the weight, the responsibility, and the inadequacy of the man charged with delivering the word. At the exact same time he was a pastor, he knew you, he knew you by name and he knew your story.

I have personally witnessed he and mother praying over you daily. Oftentimes a church has a great preacher, but shepherding and pastoring is done by the team. Other times, a church has a great pastor and the preaching is solid but not necessarily exceptional. His gift of one-to-one counseling, small group discipleship, Bible studies, personal relationships. It never shrunk as a congregation grew. Briarwood, I'm not saying this from a place of admonition, I'm saying this to encourage you. That just doesn't happen often. For a church of this size, his ability to be available personally and not just his ability but his desire to do so, allowed us to experience a

pastoral unicorn. I have found myself saying to so many of you, he loved you so much and it hit me Sunday night after worship. How did he have the capacity to truly love so many and know them so intimately?

His last years in the pulpit have been what I would call his greatest preaching. He got older and his preaching kept getting better. He has stood here and pleaded and begged you from the stage to know the gospel. Not a sermon was preached Sunday morning that did not articulate the gospel and to call to know it and embrace it. He yearned to grow the next generation of godly leaders and families and individuals. He loved this church, but he never called it his church, because he knew it was God's church, and as he would quote, the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

Thank you. As my father would say, he'd look up like this and he'd close his Bible and he'd say, "I've only got 30 seconds left, but let me give you a life takeaway and it won't fit on a bumper sticker." There is only one question you need to answer in this life. What will you do with the gospel and what is the gospel? The gospel is simply this. When there was no way, He made a way we needed Him but did not want Him. He did not need us, but He wanted us. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for His glory alone. I will stand here today and I will beg with you and I will plead with you. What will you do with Jesus? What will you do with the gospel?

I've heard dad say at every funeral I've ever gone to with him. One day, you will be the guest of honor here. Make the most important decision you can ever make and trust him for your salvation. Daddy came to Jesus through the unexpected death of Emma Jean Elliot on Christmas morning in 1969. What a joy it will be to learn who comes to Jesus through his unexpected death. In life and now in his death, he points us to Christ.

Ike Reeder

As my younger sister and I were just thinking, Jennifer wanted to go first to get all the good jokes in before we had a chance. We might be a little duller, I don't know, but I think you'll find the different experiences as his children, some similarities that run through it. Like my sisters, and obviously again for all the family, we want to thank all of you for being here today. Your presence is a comforting balm to our family. As we merely need to look out at this great gathering of people just for the simplest glimpse of the impact, that our father had on so many lives. Dad used to always tell us that pride was a sin, even pride in our own children he would say. That's why I'm not proud of you, he would then say. He would say, I'm thankful for you and I'm thankful for the work God's doing in your life.

But I think that today we can have even a measure of biblically sound pride in our father. Proud that he lived a life devoted to his Savior as evidenced by his impact on so many people. There are countless churches that have been strengthened by his clear biblical teaching on church health. There are, I imagine hundreds of thousands of people that have been given clarity and direction from his biblical preaching, and I know just here alone, that there are thousands who have seen authentic spiritual change in their lives through the Holy Spirit sparked on by his biblical counseling and pastoral compassion. And we as a family, have benefited from these same things for as Jennifer has already said, in one way, he was not only a husband to Cindy, a father and a friend to each one of us, but he was also our pastor.

While we had a more direct line of access to him, the trick that most people never understood about dad and as Jennifer's already explained, was that they had almost the same access. I'm unable to recount the number of stories that have been pouring into our family via email, text, and social media of the time that dad took with every person that came to it. Even more than that, how much time he took to seek them out when he knew they needed help. There is no place that dad would not go if asked to preach the gospel and to help with whatever wisdom and counsel he could

bring. I was speaking to my good friend Derrick Bright just this spring. As his church in rural Aliceville, Alabama was seeking guidance as they grow and move forward, he asked me if there was any way possible that dad would come to their church on a Saturday to meet with their session, just to have lunch and help them think through next steps with what the gifts that the Lord was giving them.

And I told Derrick what I would tell every single person that would ask me in those situations. Send him an email, copy Marie, and if he can get free, he'll be there. Isn't that amazing that I could say that about my father, pastoring a 4,000 member church? Send him an email, copy Marie. If he can get there, he'll be there. Well, about two weeks later, I got a text from Derrick, got Harry scheduled for Saturday in November. I can't believe it. You don't have to come. No, I'm just kidding. But that was our father. He was never looking for the next big break or his next big opportunity. He was simply seeking to serve God, humbly and with a pastor's heart.

There's so many ways that we are grieving today as a family, and I know that all of you, and I'm so grateful, so many have expressed desire that you want to hug on our necks and tell us you love us and we appreciate it and we know there's the likelihood of us being able to do it with everyone today is almost impossible, but we know in the weeks and months to come that we will have those opportunities. But this is not the day that's just for the Reeder family. This day is for you all as well. Because in some capacity or another, we know Harry was a spiritual father for each of you as well, and it's your time to grieve the loss of a dad in many ways the same way we do. So I just want to leave you with three quick thoughts about dad. None are alliterated and I'm not as special as Jennifer.

The first is with one of his favorite illustrations and then just two quick passages of scripture. First, it's no secret that my father loved military history. We would spend weeks every summer of my childhood and even more of my adulthood traipsing around

battlegrounds and monuments and State Capitals and more than that, cemeteries all the time, for vacation. But men in battle fascinated my father. Because I think of his fascination with performance under pressure, for the same reason he loved sports. But war to my father was sports ramped up to a perilous level, the level of life and death. What would one do when faced with death, the possibility of death? Was a question I think he asked himself often. I remember one time standing at Gettysburg with dad and Sandy and Sandy's boys.

We were just on a family trip and we were at McPherson's Ridge and he was telling us the story of the Boy Colonel, Colonel Burgwyn, and in some of the most deadly fighting of the entire day, Colonel Burgwyn picked up the regimental colors after seeing four men in less than five minutes who had held the colors shot and dropped immediately in front of him. And within a minute of picking up those colors, the colonel twisted his body backwards to shout to his men to tell him to continue their charge, and the colonel was immediately shot in the abdomen. And after running forward for several more yards, he collapsed from his wound. And as the men carried him back to the lines, dad tells us this story as we're standing there, because he was afraid that the bullets had possibly pierced his side or his back, since he had turned to yell at his men, he kept telling the people that were carrying him tell my father that I died facing the enemy. I remember standing on that ridge that day and thinking 10 or 12 years ago, that's what my dad wants people to know about him. And if you've ever heard dad speak at Ligonier Conferences or at the GRN in the last couple of years, you've heard him use his other favorite illustration from the movie Lone Survivor. As the Seal Team is surrounded and being attacked, they would yell back and forth to one another. "Are you still in the fight?" And they would say, I'm still in the fight. Dad never wanted anyone to question whether or not he was still in the fight, or whether he was facing his adversary. But what many will forget is that dad's adversary was not other churches. It was not one side of our denomination or another. It was not even the major cultural battles that we have been facing, dad's adversary was Satan and his schemes.

Why? Because he loved the truth of God so much that he hated, he hated seeing people led astray by false promises of security and peace that would not last. I have never seen a man so dedicated to the principal resist Satan and he will flee from you and flee temptation. One of the practices that he took from this axiom was my dad's routines. Our father was a man of routine. Many of our family tradition of growing up that we would spend time at the track at the soccer and the football field on Saturday afternoons, and then we would go to South 21 drive-in off Independence Boulevard for burgers and fries.

Well, on Wednesday evening last week after the GRN Conference, I had the privilege of talking Dad down to Montgomery on the phone the night before he passed away. We talked about some book club ideas we had and some other things that were going on, what he was going to teach for BTS this fall and just different concepts, topics that we had. And as we neared the end of the conversation, I said, dad, I've got a confession. When we were in Charlotte for the GRN conference, after you and I had sat and talked in the car for about an hour after the conference was over, I went to the meeting I had and then before I drove home, I stopped at South 21 in Matthews to get a double cheeseburger and fries. I just couldn't help myself. To which dad replied, well son, on my way to the airport, I stopped at South 21 on Independence and got a burger, onion rings and a milkshake. I just couldn't help myself either. We just couldn't break out of our old routines. That's a humorous one.

But his spiritual routines, his daily time in the Word, his date nights with mom to Longhorn, his commitment to pray every year through the names of every member of this congregation. His sermon planned new trips. These were all so he could stay in the fight. To die facing the enemy. And more than any other man, I have personally known, he did. You don't think you're going to get out of this without me quoting Lord of the Rings. And most of you know my father's tendency to misquote Lord of the Rings. Years ago, while doing one of my rereads of the novels, there was a section that I always thought that I would read at my father's funeral. When Théoden, the King of Rohan dies in the battle of Pelennor

Fields. Afterwards in Rohan, he has laid to rest and his men sing, Théoden King's death song. Out of doubt, out of dark, to the days rising, he rode singing in the sun, soared unachieving hope he rekindled, and in hope ended, over death, over dread, over doom, he was lifted out of loss and out of life and unto long glory.

I've gone on too long, so let me just mention these two verses. II Timothy 4:7-8. *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Hence fourth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing."* Dad, you fought the good fight. You finished your race; you kept the faith and a crown of righteousness has been laid up for you in heaven and you will receive it from the hands of your precious Lord. But most of all, as I echo my sister to all of you here and all those that are listening or watching online, I would focus on the last part of the verse. Our father was able to do these things not because he was a great man, but because he served a great Savior. The end of that verse is the key, *"but also to all who have loved his appearing."* Dad loved Jesus. He knew Jesus and he was known by Jesus. And he loved his appearing. He loved it every day, every Lord's day in worship through the ordinary means of grace, through the sacraments. He loved his Savior and that's why he fought so hard, because he hated anything that took away from the glorious appearing of God. If you love the appearing of Christ, you too can fight the good fight and by the power of the Holy Spirit, finish the race. And lastly, Acts 20:24 *"But I do not account my life of any value, nor is precious to myself. If only I may finish my course and ministry I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the Grace of God."*

Dad's calling was received by the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the Grace of God, and no matter where you are today, again echoing my sister, I want you to think about this testimony. It is impossible to speak about Harry Lloyd Reeder III and not to speak about the gospel of Jesus Christ. He devoted his life to it above all else, and as dad has said countless times, and Jennifer told us, when there was no way, God made a way. And Dad's legacy is this,

if you are here today and you know Jesus, then live for him, live with every ounce every ounce of your being because that's what Jesus bought on the cross. He didn't buy half of you, He didn't buy part of you, He bought all of you for His father. So live for Him.

And if you don't know Him, don't leave here today without coming to terms with Him, because if you don't and you reject him, you will reject every single thing we are here to honor Harry Reeder for today.

Dad, we love you. We'll miss you. I'll miss, every time I preach or run an event or do something, not being able to ask you, "how was it?" I'll miss hearing you say, son, that was great. Here's a few suggestions. I'll miss leading worship services with you, I'll miss sitting up on the porch talking to you about plans for the future. I'll miss eating popcorn and watching Perry Mason with you and mom, but we'll see you again. Come Lord Jesus, come soon.

Abby Reeder Leib

Well, I could just say ditto and be done, which is what I'd like to do. But every year at Thanksgiving, our church has a service of thanks and for about 18 years, I have written out my speech of Thanksgiving to my dad, my pastor, and my best friend. But every year I chicken out. Well, I'm not going to this time.

My dad was larger than life. My dad had so many amazing qualities. These qualities would sometimes even polarize people about him. He was a driven man. He is intense, he is a man of conviction. He held high standards for himself, which bled to the other people that knew him. He had the energy and bandwidth to run circles around other people. His vocabulary was gigantic, which would probably not be the word he would use for that. And every now and then he would make up his own words. He had humility, submission, and a true desire to follow the guidelines of the Bible in all situations. His physical being alone would control the room and then the voice, wow, what a voice.

That voice could comfort me, scare me, console me, educate me, plead with me from the pulpit to love God, to love his church and to love sinners, and he could make me laugh. I was his favorite because our sense of humors were identical and I will miss all the jokes and teasing we did to them together. As I look around the room, I am amazed at the outpouring of love for my dad. I'm sure you all knew this would be a little lengthy service and you still came. He was such an intentional man and he never wanted us to waste an opportunity to show God, to share God and to teach God's statutes.

I would like to share with you what I think he would say to the family. I can hear him say, kids, take care of your mother. She's a strong woman. Don't boss her around, but love her well.

To the extended family. He would implore us to love well, stay connected and be there for each other no matter the circumstances.

To his grandchildren, he would say, keep going, you're doing great. Love the Lord with all your heart.

To the church staff, continue to love Christ Church, make it a beacon. Do your job well and strive to make this church that a safe haven for sinners but not for sin.

To the elders and deacons, lead like men, set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Do not let childish things divide and poison. Never take your eyes off the Word of God and its truth. Lead with character, competency, and conviction.

To the faithful pastors that loved him well. Understand your high calling, stay fixed on the primacy of scripture, the understanding of the Means of Grace. Break it all down so your congregations understand without watering down the truth of God's word. Do not let the culture dictate your message. The word of God is the compass by which and what you preach. You are the vessels for

others to hear, but it is never your church. It is the Lord's church that you serve, serve it faithfully. Preach with boldness and stand firm.

And finally, to the flock, there are many of you here that he would consider his flock. Love one another well, be the hands and feet of Jesus. Be patient with one another, forgive as Christ did. And hold each other accountable to God's word. Love what the Lord loves, crave for biblical worship and teaching. One of the words I learned from him was to be a *verbavore*. That's one of his made up ones, but it's literally to hunger and digest God's word all the way to your core and continued to make Briarwood not a large church, but a small town, which he loved to say.

My dad always said, "...well, I'm somewhere between zero to a hundred percent effective in my ministry." As we reflect and use dad's life as an example of service to Jesus let us keep our eyes fixed on the one that created dad, sustained dad, and has now taken dad home to glory. Harry Reeder, the General, has now heard his Captain. Dad, you have fought the good fight. You have finished the race, and you have kept the faith. I am excited to see you again in glory. But until then, may we all stay on mission, on message, and in ministry. Thank you.

Beth Reeder Thomas

He made this seem real easy. Everyone knows Harry as a pastor, a teacher, an author, a historian and a counselor. But only I knew him as a big brother way before he was a big shot, way before I was known as Harry Reeder's sister. I've never known a day without him on this earth until last week. He's always been here with me. Now he has reunited the rest of my family rejoicing with our Savior.

When I received the call last Thursday morning, the question of retirement was answered. My brother did not retire, he was promoted! We did not grow up with a lot of money, but it was very important to my parents to have a family vacation each year. It was always at the end of the summer after my father, who was an

umpire, had finished his baseball season. One year, we were to leave the day after the last game. Unfortunately, the cleaning crew did not show up, so it was left to my parents, my brother, and my sister, to clean the Gastonia Pirates baseball stadium. As I'm sure you can imagine, Harry, the General was good at supervising all of us.

As a big brother, Vicky, Amy and I always looked up to him and went to him for advice on school, friends, jobs, and boys. To be completely truthful, we didn't always like what he had to say. But I have to admit he was right most of the time. We were a very close family, even though there was a huge age gap between him and Vicky and me and Amy, my parents made sure to instill in us the value of family time. Harry even had Amy and I go live with he and Cindy after they were newly married in Greenville. Looking back on this, I'm sure Cindy really loved that.

Not many pastors can say they married all their sisters, remarried their parents, and had the privilege of burying them, all four of his grandparents and his only, Aunt Peggy. I don't know how he did it, but it was truly the Lord and his calling. He was a dedicated pastor to his congregation and has married many of you in here today. But only a brother would be late to his younger sister's wedding and since he is not here, I will tell you. Only a brother would be playing in a Christ Covenant softball game and refuse to leave because the game was too close, you remember this? I remember. I kept the scorecard.

When he realized he could finally stay no longer. He went up to bat one last time and with one strike left hit a home run, rounded the bases, ran through home plate, into his car and drove straight to the church. Only a brother would marry his sister in a sweaty softball uniform under his Geneva Robe right back there. Am I telling the truth? It's the truth.

It was clear to Harry, he was called to preach the gospel. He was a devoted servant, giving all he had to furthering the Kingdom. When he preached funerals, something he liked to do, was to take the

Bible of the deceased and select passages from their Bible that was highlighted. He used these highlighted passages to show how God was working in their lives. How God was changing their character, molding them to his will. I realize now that God used my brother as the highlighter for all those bibles. Thank you for being here and loving my brother well.

Bruce Stallings

Hear the word of the Lord from the 13th chapter of Hebrews. This is the last passage of scripture that Pastor Reeder taught from in the State Capitol the morning he was called home to be with his Lord. "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you, the word of God, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Well, I need to warn you that I have absolutely no idea where to start or where to end.

No idea where to start or where to end talking about Harry Reeder. And I don't want to find out. And by the way, I'm not going to find out right now, okay? I have thought through what to share with you about him. I have prayed through what he would want me to share with you about him. I have processed what I just need to share with you about him. And I don't know where that starts, and I don't know where that ends. So I'm just going to keep talking about Harry Reeder until Jesus takes me home.

Once again, not today, okay? We'll let that play out, but I'll follow the model of my pastor. And I know that probably makes you scared too. He came to me one Monday. Every Monday we critique and review the services, every worship service, every single Monday. Every single Monday, we review every single worship service that we have here at Briarwood or anywhere else in the world. And we go through every aspect of it and talk about it, pray about it, learn from it, etc. And so he says to me in that meeting, Bruce... I think one of the kids mentioned the pulpit clock. He says to me, "Bruce, I don't think the pulpit clock is working." Now, that's a dangerous statement to make to me. And so I pondered it for a moment.

Should have pondered it longer. And I said, "Pastor, I believe our entire church would agree that the pulpit clocks do not work." By God's grace, he did what you did. Except he could laugh like no other. And he just kept laughing about that while I prayed and texted my wife that we would be looking for another job, city to live in. So, I'm going to set aside a few of my comments and I just want to point out something to do what I think my pastor, my boss, my best friend, would do. And that is simply to tell you from this brief little passage here, the declaration is, *"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God."* And I think there's an implicit communication there that your leaders are supposed to be those who are speaking to you the word of God. Harry Reeder was our leader. I could say a lot of great things about him, but he was our leader because he spoke to us the word of God. No matter what the situation. And no matter how he might expect, we might respond, he spoke to us the word of God. We needed to hear truth over being made to feel better. He loved us so much, so much, that he would speak truth. He would speak to us the word of God. But not just, *"Consider your leaders who spoke the word of God."* But go a step farther. *"Consider the outcome of their faith."* Look at their life and consider the outcome of their faith. You just heard the testimony of a sister and three children consider the outcome of the faith, the life of Pastor Harry Reeder. You just saw evidence of that life poured out before you, founded in scripture. Completely dependent upon Christ, completely focusing upon the gospel, completely asking and wanting to do the will of the Lord. Okay? There's a little competitive nature among them. I understand that. Cindy's that way. 😊 And that's how they got it. And so surely y'all got that one. Okay? So that obviously didn't come from Cindy, to consider the outcome of their way of life.

Pastor Reeder taught us something about leadership. And he taught us that we needed to have mentors and that we needed to have heroes. But he made a statement. He said, "You can choose your mentors now and you need to because they mentor you. You meet with them and you learn from them. But don't choose your heroes until the final chapter is written because you don't know how it'll end."

And there are many people that you might look to and there would've been a point in their life where they would've been a hero, but you didn't know the final chapter. Well, a week ago I'd have told you that Harry Reeder was my boss. I would've told you that Harry Reeder was my pastor. I would've told you that Harry Reeder was my friend. And he was all of those. **But today, with confidence, he's, my hero.** Because I know the last chapter. And I know that he poured himself out for the sake of the gospel. The call for us to consider the outcome, their way of life, the call for us then is to imitate their faith.

I'll give you a life takeaway. Should have known that. Okay, somebody needs to, right? It's real simple. It's Jesus. That's it. It's Jesus. Somebody asked me how to sum up pastor Reeder's life. It's Jesus. Everything's about Jesus. All for Jesus. That was the whole focus of his life.

So don't just you remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you. Tell other people about your leaders. Let this be an Andrew opportunity. Andrew was bringing people to Jesus. And telling people about Jesus. Last night we had the opportunity as a session of Briarwood to gather together and hear different men give testimonies as a part of our time together. Just a treasured special time that we were able to spend together. And it was just testimony, after testimony, after testimony, after testimony of just Harry's personal touch in people's lives. And then there were those that said, "And I got to talk to someone else about my pastor Harry, and it led to the gospel." Let's tell people, don't just remember, but let's tell people about our pastor because that's going to result in us sharing the gospel with them and God being glorified through that.

Well, in one of his many sermons at Briarwood, he gave a very clear directive and I got paid to catch those, okay? And so this very clear directive is about a specific passage of scripture and he said, and I quote, "When I die, make sure this one is read." Okay, so I'm not sure what my boss, my pastor, my friend can do from heaven, but

I'm worried. So, I'm going to read this passage, okay? If anybody gets to do something, God would let him do it. I have no doubt.

You probably know the passage.

"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom he for knew. He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined, he also called. And those whom he called, he also justified. And those whom he justified, he also glorified." Let's stand together and sing one of Harry's favorite hymns, For All the Saints.

Dr. Sandy Willson

Please be seated.

What a wonderful privilege to sing the hallelujahs with the family and the friends of my friend Harry Reeder. And to realize that no matter what Jon Haines, the choir and this orchestra does, and no matter how loud we sing, it's no comparison to what our brother enjoys this very moment. Cindy, and Jennifer, and Ike, and Abby, we extend to you our deepest sympathy and condolences. And for those of us outside of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, we extend our deepest condolences to you. You've lost a wonderful pastor and friend.

Last week on Tuesday, I was in my study in the back of my house and we had a micro storm. And in about five minutes there was just a flood of water. And then the brief high winds came into our neighborhood in Memphis, and then I heard a loud crash. Fortunately, it didn't hit our house, but there was a very large oak tree that fell across our front yard.

And I said to Allison, "I always knew that oak tree was large. I had no idea how huge, how gigantic the oak tree was until it fell into our

yard." And then, two days later there was another storm, a personal storm. And another human oak tree had fallen. And I knew he was large. I knew he was gigantic. But we had no idea how large until he fell. Well, the oak tree has been cleaned out of my front yard. I know you'll be very glad to hear, but this one can't be cleaned up. We have all had our lives changed forever. The pain is deep because his kindness' and his ministry were so rich, he blessed us so greatly. We feel it deeply. What are we to do? The family has made it clear. Bruce has made it clear that Harry Reeder would make it clear, we are to go to God's Word. Or go to Him in prayer. We are to seek His face and that's exactly what we shall do. Would you stand with me as we read I Peter 5:1-11?

Those of you who have been at Briarwood for some time, you know that when Harry would preach at a funeral, he would ask for the family Bible and he would read from the family Bible. This is Harry Reeder's Bible. It's his turn. I'll be reading from his text. But before I read, I want to read a prayer that's in the back of his Bible. Or at least part of it. Would you pray with me, please?

"Oh my Lord, let not my ministry be approved only by men, or merely win the esteem and affections of people, but do the work of grace in their hearts. Call in thy elect, seal and edify the regenerate ones and command eternal blessings on their souls. Save me from self-opinion and self-seeking. Water the hearts of these who hear Thy word, that seeds sown in weakness may be raised in power. I beg pardon for my many sins, omissions, infirmities as a man, as a minister. Command thy blessing on my weak, unworthy labors. And on the message of salvation, given, stay with thy people and may your presence be their portion and mine. When I preach to others, let not my words be merely elegant and masterly, my reasoning polished and refined, my performance powerless and tasteless. But may I exalt thee and humble sinners. Oh, Lord of power and grace, all hearts are in thy hands. All events at thy disposal. Set the seal of thy Almighty will upon my ministry through Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 Peter 5:1-11, hear the word of God.

"So I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed. Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you. Not for shameful gain, but eagerly. Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you with humility toward one another. For God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you. Be sober-minded, be watchful, your adversary the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen." All flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Apostle Peter is writing probably in the early sixties to a church in Asia Minor that was facing persecution and suffering of all sorts. And of course out of great concern for them, Peter gives them some solutions for how they are to live their lives, how they're to face their lives in the midst of devastation, in the midst of persecution, in the midst of disappointments, in the midst of many sufferings. He reminds them of course, as we read in our text, that they're called to eternal glory. There's something ahead of them, but they're to make it along the way. And he gives them the means to do it. It is interesting, isn't it, ruling elders that one of the means that Peter gives his church is the ordination and ministry of elders in the church. And elders are pastors, they are shepherds. We have teaching elders and ruling elders, but all the elders are to shepherd the flock of God.

When Jesus looked at the crowds and had great compassion upon them, they appeared to Him in this way. As sheep without a shepherd. The problem in the world is that we have sheep who have no pastor, they have no shepherd. And God has provided for these people by giving us elders, ruling elders and teaching elders and pastors. This is part of God's plan of salvation for His church. This is part of God's plan for Briarwood Presbyterian Church. That you would have elders, teaching elders and ruling elders, who would shepherd you. And this evening, this afternoon, we want to take notice of what Peter says. Because we want to remember as we have been gloriously this afternoon, remembering the kind of shepherding which we have received from the hands, and the heart, and the mouth of Harry Reeder. And we also, those of you who are teaching elders, and there are a number of you here and ruling elders, will remember what duties have been set before us to walk in those steps.

And those of you who have been under the pastoral care of one who has already been described so beautifully this afternoon will know what you're supposed to do with that pastoral care. If you'll look with me in the first four verses, you'll notice this first of all, we'll see what Harry has done. For Harry is one who has clearly fulfilled the mandate of the pastor. These four verses describe my friend. Oftentimes when family members speak of their deceased loved one, you have to give them a little credit for making overstatements. I didn't hear one overstatement this afternoon. It's all true of my friend and yours. And we want to see what it is that he did. And I'll ask you to look, first of all, in verses one, in the first part of verse two. And you'll see this that he did. He made the highest commitment to the duties of the pastoral office.

Why do I say that? Well, look what Peter says. He says, "I exhort you, I urge you, I'm begging you, to shepherd the flock of God." And he gives two primary motives. "I saw the Lord Jesus Christ die on the cross. I'm a witness of that. And as a witness of the crucifixion, I'm begging you to pastor this flock." And he says, "I'm the one who will see the glory to come." And Peter saw him in his resurrected form. And in view of that, I urge you. I don't know a man in my life

who has accepted the urgency of the pastoral office like Harry Lloyd Reeder III. And what it says to all of us who are pastors, who are elders, we must also receive this, the duty of this office with the highest commitment. There is nothing more important occupationally in the world. I know that you know that. And you're grateful for people who take it.

Harry took it. And he accepted all the duties that came with it. Those of you who are tuned in from Pinelands Presbyterian Church, you know your story there. This was no great place for a young pastor to go. It was a very difficult place. And under Harry's ministry, that church grew to become a vibrant local church. So Harry goes from there and goes to a trailer in Charlotte, now a great church. Then a trailer with 38 people in it. No garden spot, I have to say so myself. And that church turned into one of the leading churches in the Presbyterian church in America. And you say, "Well, finally he got to come to Briarwood. That should have been easy. 4,000 people already well-organized, everybody loving each other, everything going great. Boy, that'd be easy? Follow a pastor who'd been here 40 years and was the founding pastor of the church." Wrong. The most difficult calling of his life. Harry used to joke about it and say, "You know, the reason I was called to Briarwood, I was the only PCA pastor", this is his word, "who is stupid enough to follow Frank Barker."

Maybe. I have a different theory. He was the one who was imminently suited for it. He was the only one that his peers could think of who was properly suited for the task. And over these 25 years, were we not right? That God gave you a gift of someone who had strength of character, passion and vision. Who was totally committed to his Savior, and to the means that that Savior has given us that we might have everlasting life. Harry was committed at the highest level to the office of pastor. Secondly, you'll notice in verse two also that there is sacrifice here. "Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly." He did it willingly. He sacrificed willingly. It is true that every man is not married to a woman like Cindy. It is true

every man doesn't have children who were flourishing like these three children were all of his life.

It is true, it is not for every man to make the sacrifices Harry did. What you can see is that Harry not only sacrificed for you, he sacrificed for them. Harry set the model and trained them so that they too were prepared to offer their sacrifices as members of the family of a man who was sacrificing himself. That was Harry. He made the highest commitment to the office and he sacrificed himself for the ministry. Now, ultimately, we know why he did it. As the apostle Paul himself says in Colossians chapter one, "I rejoice in the sufferings that fill up in my flesh, what is remaining in the sufferings of Jesus Christ for the sake of the church." He rejoiced in it. And Paul also said in Philippians that, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death." It was the intimacy of Harry Reeder with his Savior that actually brought him an unusual pleasure and every sacrifice that he made, even if it killed him.

Thirdly, you'll notice when you look at verse three that he led an exemplary life. The demands here are quite daunting. Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. My brothers who are pastors here, you know there's no substitute for one's personal godly example. You can't make up for that with your learning. You can't make up for that with your personality. You can't make up for that with hard work. Because people eventually know who you really are. And anyone who knew who Harry really was, knew that he lived an exemplary life. That's been described by his family members this day. Has been described by the one who worked most closely with him on his staff. And who, we as his close friends, would attest to with all of our hearts. You can look at his marriage. You can look at these three children. It's no accident that they're all three preachers like Harry. It's no accident that they love the Savior just as Harry and Cindy do. You can see it in his family life. You can see it in his church life. You can see it, that this leader, one of the tasks of a leader is to absorb pain. And if you've worked closely with this senior pastor,

you know that just like with other senior pastors, there's much pain to absorb. And he took that role out of duty because he loved the Lord Jesus Christ. And wanted to be in union with him in every way, including facing the enemy and taking bullets if he needed to. He was a remarkable example of godliness and his ethical life, the man wasn't perfect, nobody is. The children will tell you that he wasn't perfect. One time the pastor said, "Does anyone here know anybody perfect? There was a man in the back row who had his hand up and the preacher said, "Would you tell me who that is?" He said, "My wife's first husband." Aside from that, aside from your wife's first husband, there is no one perfect.

Fourthly notice about our brother. He possessed an eternal mindset. Look what Peter says. "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." Believe me, Harry had his eye on the unfading crown of glory. He was ready. He was eager. Even with a family like this, he was eager to see the Lord. He knew that the glories would be beyond anything his imagination could drum up. He knew that the promises in the scriptures are always outstripped by God's performance. And that whatever we know about heaven and whatever we know about future glory will be infinitely greater than what we can understand in this life. And that eternal perspective fueled everything for him. Well, let's turn to the second major portion of the text. It's not only what Harry did for all of us, but what must we do?

And the apostle Peter is saying, "Here is the role of the elders. Here is the role of your pastors." What is your role? And you'll see what it is. There are two major things that the apostle Peter tells us. He says, first of all, in verses 5-7, "We must humble ourselves." He says, "First of all, I've given you these pastors and elders, and I say to those of you who are suffering, those of you who are facing the trials and difficulties of life, subject yourself, put yourself under their leadership. Subject your yourself, and submit yourself to those that God has through His church, put in these offices."

This is not just accidental. This is God's providence to give us care. We have people in our lives to whom we are to submit. And he says, "Submit to your pastors." And then notice what he says. "Submit to one another. Be humble to each other." Some of you here I know would be like myself thinking, "What can I do? I know I haven't done enough. I couldn't ever do enough. But is there anything I could do to respond to Harry's life and testimony?" And I want to say to you, in the name of the Lord, it is to humble yourselves before one another.

If there be any relationship in this church that's not right, let's get it right today. If there's any sin that you've committed against a brother or a sister, let's confess it and apologize. And if you've been sinned against, let's offer full forgiveness to our family members. Let's humble ourselves, not only before the elders, but before the fellow saints that sit with us in this room. And you'll notice that when the Apostle Peter speaks of humility, ultimately our humility is not before the elders and not before one another. It's before the Lord himself. That we humble ourselves before the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you too in due time.

Two in due time. That's the promise. That's the profound commandment to the people who are to persevere through difficult times. And he says to them, "Not only that you're to humble yourselves," but he says to them, "You're to resist the evil one." As Ike said a few moments ago, Harry was determined not to turn his back. You notice in Ephesians 6, all the equipment we have to face the devil is on the front side, and you stand firm against all of his schemes. And his schemes are to discourage you, to cause you to fear, to cause you to doubt God's hand upon you or upon this church or upon your mission.

His attempts are to create divisions within his church. We see it all across the country. In my 42 years of pastoral ministry, I've never seen anything like the past three years with churches that have been healthy and strong not resisting the evil one in his attempt to set us against one another. We're to fall into each other's arms. We

are to wipe away each other's tears, not wipe each other away. And the Apostle Peter says, "You've had this care. Now, church. You've got to humble yourselves and you resist the devil." You say, "Well, how do I do that?" Well, it's in the text. You stand firm by faith. Do you remember when the children of Israel were being delivered out of Egypt and they stood and saw the Red Sea in front of them and the bloodthirsty Egyptians with all their chariots behind them? And they started to complain and tell Moses it was better to go back into slavery than to face this kind of trauma. And you remember what the great Moses told them to do?

"Stand still and be quiet and see the salvation of God." And you'll remember centuries later, when the king, the great King Jehoshaphat was confronted with Ammonites and Moabites and Mennonites and termites and other kind of ites, and there are way too many of them and way too few of us. And the people started to tremble. And the little Harry Reeder, the prophet, Jahaziel, son of Zechariah comes up to Jehoshaphat and he says, "Here are your instructions. Stand firm. And you'll see the salvation of God." And Jehoshaphat the King went to all Israel and Judah.

And he says, "I got a word from the Lord for you." He said, "I want you to believe in God. I want you to believe the word of the prophets and you'll see something mighty happen today." And did they ever. Those Ammonites and Moabites decided to fight each other. They destroyed each other. And the Israelites stood there with gaping mouths watching their salvation and they hadn't done a thing but believe the Lord. That's what Harry did and that's what we're to do.

Harry grieved deeply over the loss of his siblings just as Beth grieves over the loss of her sibling. He grieved over the loss of his mom and daddy. And some of you know he deeply grieved over them. I don't think he ever fully got over it. Did you see him quit? Did he even retreat? With tears in his eyes and sorrow in his heart, he continued to stand firm and resist the evil one and advance the kingdom of God to the best of his ability. That's what Peter is saying

to the church. This is what we do when we have good pastoral care. This is the result of good pastoral care.

And this is what your friends from around the world are waiting to see in you in the days ahead. But we can't leave this text because the best is yet to be. And that is verses 10 and 11 where we find out not just what our pastor did and find out what we're supposed to do, but we find out what the Lord will do for us. And it's absolutely magnificent. If you'll look in verse 10, you'll see, first of all, he gets us home safely. Look at this. He says, "And after you have suffered a little while," oh, it seems so long to you that you have to live the rest of your life without Pastor Reeder. It seems like a huge burden to me as well. But it's a little while. It's brief. Let me tell you what's a long while. Eternal glory.

And he says, "After you've suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, more gracious than any being you've ever experienced in your life, the God of all grace who has called you, you have a calling not just to follow him now, but you have a calling to go into eternal glory in Christ, will himself," look at these words, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you no matter how scattered or chaotic you seem to be, no matter how little you may trust your own ability to persevere to the end, he will restore and establish and confirm you in the end.

"For I tell you mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable. And we shall all be changed. For the perishable body must put on the imperishable. And this mortal body must put on immortality. And when the perishable has put on the imperishable and when the mortal has put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that has been written, death is swallowed up in victory."

Theologically, the best is still yet to be. In verse 11, ladies and gentlemen, not only are you going to get home safely, and not only

has Harry Reeder made it home safely, you will have the privilege of seeing the unfettered, unrestrained, unadulterated reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you knew Harry Reeder, you knew that he hated everything that opposed Jesus Christ. And there's a lot to hate. The church has its problems. Harry didn't stop there. Wherever there's disobedience, wherever there is corruption, wherever there is anti-Christian thought or behavior, Harry was restless. You could feel his whole body tremble at times. He was like the great missionary Henry Martin, who when he went to India and saw all of the funeral pyres under every shady tree, he said, "It would be hell to me if Christ we're always thus dishonored." And that's the way it felt for Harry Reeder, not only in the church but in the world.

This towering oak of a pastor, this lion-hearted shepherd of the flock is gazing upon the vistas of the presence of God. And one day the vistas of the new heavens and the new earth and every tongue is confessing the lordship of Jesus Christ. And there is no rebellion in the land. And this restless pastoral heart is now fully satisfied. Every appetite for Christ, every longing for righteousness, every desire to see his name exalted is fully satisfied. And he, like those who sing the loud song upon the seventh trumpet at the end of the day, is singing this world, the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. And all the elders bow down with their faces to the ground and they worship God. And they say, "Thanks be to God Almighty who was and is for He has come and taken his power and begun to reign."

That's the ultimate conclusion of profoundly Christian pastoral care. Those of you who have been under his formal pastoral care, this is directly to you. But if you are a friend of Harry, all of us are under his pastoral care. And this is the result. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may his grace rest upon you until his glory is set before you. Let us pray.

Father, you have been gracious to us who are gathered in this room to grieve the loss of a dear one. You've been gracious to us because we loved Him enough to be here today and to grieve. So we have

benefited immensely from your care for us, and we are deeply thankful. We pray that you'll help us not to squander our privileges, but to take this message and this ministry on forward, to be the men and women, the boys and girls you've called us to be. At this time, oh Lord, we would lift up our sister Cindy. We thank you for her for this amazing partnership that she and Harry enjoyed and we enjoyed for lo these many decades. And we pray, God, that you would comfort her and continue to set before her, the reunion that is coming to us all soon and that the tears are but for a season, and a short one at that. We ask you Lord, for Harry's sister Beth, that you would encourage her today and wipe away her tears.

We thank you for Jennifer, for Ike, for Abby, for their spouses, for their children, for this blessed family set before us today, which reminds us of the power of the gospel in a family and in a church. And we commend, oh Lord, this church to you. It has been yours from the very beginning. It continues to be your church. And may every knee bow and every heart bless your name, may every person here know that they've received Jesus Christ as savior, if not before today, today, that they may enjoy the same joy that Harry Reeder enjoys now.

These are our prayers, oh Lord. We lift them humbly in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying, "*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*"

(singing)

Amen. Receive the benediction. *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace, both now and forevermore. Amen.*

Please remain standing.

(singing)