

Funeral Service of : Donald L. Cutler Jr. - October 16, 2010

He was member in good standing of the Dover First Baptist Church since 1993.

We have gathered here today to pay our final respects and to give tribute to our dearly beloved Brother in Christ, **Donald L. Cutler** affectingly know to us as Don. Losing Brother Don has been most difficult. He was only 57 years old, the same age that I am now. We will miss him dearly. We will miss what we all came to know and love about Don. His empty sit in the back pew will take a long time to adjust to. It will be a constant reminder that we have lost a love one, a brother in Christ, a worker together in the ministry of this church and in the service our community.

I've officiated at many funerals. I cannot deny the harsh reality of death especially when it is someone so dear to us. It severs life's closest bonds, leaves broken hearts, at times brings loneliness, and opens the floodgates of tears. Using pleasant-sounding words and calling a funeral service does not change that. So I invite you to pray with me to the God of all comfort, the God who is touched with our infirmities, the God who gave his only begotten son that those who believe upon him should not perish. It is our God and his Holy Spirit we call upon at such a time as this to comfort us, comfort and love us. Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God our heavenly father, we call upon you in this most difficult hour to comfort and console the hearts of family, friends, and this congregation of the dearly departed. Please grant this bereaving family the serenity to accept the things that cannot be change. Grant them and us the courage and faith to change what we can and the hope to face tomorrow.

Please except my expression of sympathy and regrets to all the family and friends of the dearly departed **Don Cutler**. I do offer you the continued prayers of the congregation of the Dover First Baptist Church. Our scripture reading and hymns to follow are among Don's favorite...

SCRIPTURE – PSALMS 23

HYMN #299 - Amazing grace

J.H. Ketcham Hose Company Ceremony- Mr. Jim Ingeneri / Mrs. Katie Palmer House

HYMN # 492- Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Eulogy – Peggy Cutler Marett / Poem: "The Sky" by Don Cutler read by his sister Donna.

My thoughts:

I knew Don for 15 years, as his Pastor I came to know the soul of the man inside. I felt his pain deep in his spirit concerning the struggles and disappointments he faced in this life.

I was privileged to baptize him into the Christian faith on November 11, 1993 and we welcomed him into the fellowship of our church on December 26, 1993...He sometimes mentioned to me he wouldn't know what to do without the Lord.

Don grew in his faith and I saw him change and grow closer to the Lord. He began to use his faith as a means to cope with the cruelty of our world. He served here in this ministry become a church trustee until his health problems.

Yes, he was a big guy with a big heart. He didn't have much of this world's goods but he share and gave to his church as he could. We always received a Christmas package from Fugi and we knew it was from Don. I was hopeful for his healing when he began the long and arduous two years spiral of his health that ended on October 3rd. He barely complained but he was a man in daily pain. Don persevered but it became overwhelming and it affected his demeanor. I should do as well in such a similar situation. What he endured was difficult and hard. It was hard do see his suffering but he suffers no more. **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18**

There are no words to express sorrow when someone we love departs this life. As a minister I believe it is my responsibility to help you with your grief and with closure. God help me to do so.

Jesus said, blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted.

...I find comfort in these words and I hope you do too.

Transition:

This is a time for turning to God and to find comfort in his Son and comfort in each other. Your presence here demonstrates your love and your lost.

It is difficult for us to say good-bye, as it should be. Grieve is a natural response to a natural event. Everyday 216,000 people die and leave this world and leave behind heavyhearted individuals. We all die all living things die. Ecclesiastes 3:1...

Death as unwanted - is still part of life's reality. It is just important to know how to face death as it is to face life.

Don was ready to face death because he was saved. Don would not want you to be concerned now because he is in a far better place -Jesus said in John 14:1-6....

Don does not want you to be ignorance about his future and he has a future. Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul. **1 Thess. 4:13 -18**

He is in God's care and keeping. Don taught us to be unselfish. He thought of others in his sacrifice and time as a rescue squad and fire police worker and we give him tribute and honor today. However, he has gained infinitely more in death than he ever did in life. Don is at home with family and friends gone on before him and we will join in the great reunion someday.

The Psalmist say," Lord teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. God gave him but 57 years; his passing causes us to face are own immorality and remind us the time to make preparation for death is in life. Eph. 2:8-9

[II Corinthians 1:3,43] ... he is ...**The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; [4] Who comforteth us in all our tribulation...**

Conclusion:

Today as we grieve, we can look forward to the day when death will be destroyed so rest your broken hearts in the comfort of God's love.

God promises comfort from your sorrow, Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted.

I believe **Brother Don** would not want you to drown in your sorrow but to channel your love for him to others in his memory. Love is the only lasting thing. So I challenge you to find your way from grieve to a love you can express in Don's memory thereby he will live on in each of you.

God promises comfort from your sorrow, Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted.