The Funeral Service of

**Louis E. Donnally**

**Eggleston Funeral Home**
1111 Woodville Road
Millbury, OH 43447

Friday, September 14, 2018

When we’re gathered around in a funeral home…

people often ask the question…why?

What’s the point of it all?

What’s the purpose of life anyway?

Well God’s Word tells us that He didn’t put us on this earth just to fulfill a to-do list.

He made us…and wants us to be with Him in Heaven…

so in reality, this life is preparation for eternity.

We are gathered here today commit the **body**…of Louis Donnally to its kindred dust;

…earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust…

…but we are committing his **spirit** to God.

**SCRIPTURE**

The Scripture says…

*We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. 1 Chron. 29:15*

And that’s certainly true in the case of Louis E. Donnally, lovingly known as “Louie”…

he was 89 years old

But the Scriptures don’t tell us that to leave us depressed and with out hope, for they also say…

*Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matt.5:4*

And they promise that…

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Ps. 34:18*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

*1 Peter 1:3*

When a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ… there is a hope that is born within their heart…for life after this life…it gives us hope…even after the grave.

So let’s turn to God in prayer and ask Him to help us through this time.

Would you pray with me?

**PRAYER**

Father we come to you this morning with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Louie…

and the thought of never again seeing him on this earth.

So we ask that you would lift us into the presence of Jesus who brings comfort and encouragement at times like these.

Help us today as they remember his life…

and give strength to those who were close to him…

the strength they will need to go on in the coming weeks and months ahead…

Those who’s lives were intertwined with his will think back, and recall his life, and all he meant to them…

and as they realize the profound effect he had on them…

they will miss him deeply.

So we ask for mercy and grace to help them through this time.

We ask these things in Christ’s name. AMEN

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

We’ve gathered here this morning because someone you knew and loved went to be with the Lord just a few days ago…

so we’re here today to begin the process of healing…

but we’re also here to **honor and celebrate Louie’s life.**

So on behalf of CedarCreek Church, I am Ed Bellner

And I’d like to offer our condolences to…

 To all of his **family members** and **friends**…

 who knew and loved him…

 please accept our deepest sympathy at your loss.

**Reading Of Obituary**
Louis E. Donnally, 89, of Millbury, OH passed away Friday, September 7, 2018 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio in Perrysburg. Louis was born on October 13, 1928 to Louis E. Sr. and Dorothy (Beckman) Donnally. He was a US Army Veteran and served in the Korean War. Louis was a truck driver for many years, before retiring. He was a hard worker, loved cutting wood and tinkering with small engines. Louis loved to burn wood and enjoyed campfires in the backyard. He was a quiet, gentle and kind person with a hearty belly laugh, who loved spending time with his family and friends.

Louis is survived by his children, Charles E. (Peggy) Donnally, Dawn A. (John) Klickman and Diane K. Jarrett; grandchildren, Erin, Joshua, Andrea and Brent; 8 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Clara Breese and Robert Donnally. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, Emma J. Donnally; grandchild, Kiley and brother, Sam Donnally.

**REMARKS**

This past Wednesday I sat down with Dawn & John…

They brought to life the stories of all he was and what he meant to them and to so many others…

And I have to tell you it was a pleasure hearing the joy in which they shared…

* Working back from the most recent interactions and the way he had learned to enjoy the simple, yet meaningful relationships.
* They share that at 87 he was still running a chain saw and liked to stack the wood.
* I heard about the enjoyment of time, tinkering on small engines, and a fire outside with the occasional off color joke thrown in.
* Dawn spoke of the times camping as a kid with the family in the pop up camper that always found it’s way to East Harbor along with many other various locations

The way I understand it, the kids would ride in the back of the truck and when they had to go to the bathroom, they would knock on the window, which did not result in a stop!

I did not personally know Louie,

But what sticks out to me the most is his kind and gentle demeanor. Almost every story, every memory, found it’s conclusion talking about how he loved others and was kind.

I would like to encourage you to take time this next week to recall a memory, and let it bring a smile to your face, in the midst of the pain of loss.

**EULOGIES**

The most quoted verse of the entire Bible…

talks about the death of God’s Son when it says…

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

(John 3:16)

The Bible then goes on to explain in the following verses… that **Jesus was rejected**…and **killed**!

But miraculously…**He rose from the dead!**

And his life gives us **hope…**

because the Bible says that anyone who trusts in Him… **can live**…even **after** they die!

But even with that tremendous hope…

that hope of **life after death**…death is still not easy to talk about.

I read that **C. S. Lewis…**

when speaking of the death of his precious wife Joy…

said that he noticed people trying to decide whether or not

to mention his loss when they approached him.

He said that if they mentioned her death…he hated it…

but if they walked on by and didn’t mention her death…

he hated that also.

And that’s the situation we’re in today…

it’s uncomfortable talking about death.

The Bible says…

*“The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
       slow to anger, abounding in love…*

*he does not treat us as our sins deserve
       or repay us according to our iniquities.*

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
     so great is his love for those who fear him;*

*as far as the east is from the west,
       so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

 *As a father has compassion on his children,
       so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;*

 *for he knows how we are formed,
       he remembers that we are dust.” Psalm 103:8-14*

**God understands** the emptiness that we feel…

and He does what only He can do…

He comforts us by bringing **healing to our souls**…

and putting **hope** **in our hearts**.

**MESSAGE**

So I’d like to speak this afternoon about **that hope…**

which is really **a place** that we know as **HEAVEN**.

I don’t want to make light of this…

but I believe that when Heaven is mentioned…

many of us don’t know what to think…

because we’re afraid that **Heaven may just be a fairytale**.

**Some people believe in Heaven** alright…

but they’re afraid it’ll be **dull** **and boring**.

They see Heaven as **a never-ending sing-along** in the sky…

where we’ll sing one great hymn after another…

forever, and ever, and ever.

Then there are those who picture Heaven as **Hollywood** portrays it**…**

a place where **angels are floating on clouds** and strumming their harps.

Sort of **a sterile** **ghost-like existence…**

where they’ll be forced to listen to elevator music.

Well if that’s your view of Heaven…

I don’t blame you for not looking forward to it.

Those views don’t bring **hope** **and comfort…**

they bring **confusion**…and maybe even **fear and dread**.

And they may even cause us to say to ourselves…

*That’s it? That’s the good news?*

But that’s not the picture we get from God’s Word.

Listen to what it says in Revelation…

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth…*

*And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband.*

*It was filled with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious gem, crystal clear like jasper. Its walls were broad and high….*

*and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.*

*And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.*

*Nothing evil will be allowed to enter…”*

(Rev. 21 selected verses)

The Bible tells us that…

Heaven is beyond anything that we can fathom,

It’s more wonderful than we can imagine**!**

Heaven is a place of **incomparable beauty**…

with **riches and wealth** beyond anythingwe’ve ever seen.

It will be better than a summer evening setting around a camp fire, watching the flames dance while enjoying a beer and a good joke, one that creates a good belly laugh**…**

(a fire, of course, that was not lit until permission was granted)

Or a Saturday afternoon working on, tinkering on, a small engine in the basement…

that moment in time when everything seems perfect.

Heaven will be better than that.

Because we will have purpose, and know peace, beyond any we have previously experienced.

When we step into Heaven one day…

we will simply be **overwhelmed** by all we’ll see…

the **sites and colors…**the **sounds** we’ll hear… the people we will see.

What an incredible moment that will be!

and there’s more…listen to this…

*“For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken*

*down-when we die and leave these bodies—*

*we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.*

*We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long for the day when we will put on our heavenly bodies…*

*We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies*

*will be swallowed up by everlasting life.”* (2 Cor. 5:1-4)

Here the Bible is talking about our earthly bodies…

and it’s referring to them as **TENTS.**

Now I know I don’t have a perfect body… far from it, but a tent? Come-on

Yes, the Bible compares our bodies to tents…

A form of temporary housing…

and says that we can’t live in them forever.

It tells us straight out that they weren’t designed to be lived in **permanently**…

they’re just a **temporary** places of shelter!

Our earthly bodiesare **frail**…

We can’t live in them forever…they just won’t hold up.

So the Bible says that God…

*“…by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control,(He) will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”* (Phil. 3:21)

Can you even imagine that?

Having a body like God’s?

One that’s perfect and without flaw?

One that’s **not susceptible** to **aging** or **sickness?**

Well that’s the promise that God has given us…

…That’s one perfect body!

In Heaven we won’t struggle with the limitations of our bodies.

We won’t have to worry about **cancer**, or **diabetes**, or **leukemia**, or any other kind of illness.

And not only that…

we’re not going to feel awkward or out of place…

we’re going to feel **relaxed and comfortable.**

We’ll feel like Heaven was built just for us…

like **we’re finally home**.

And the Bible goes on to tell us that…

we’ll have **pure**, **clean** **consciences** too!

Everything we do will be **right** and **appropriate**…

every thought we have will be **pure** and **uplifting…**

every decision we make will be **good**.

Imagine having **no** **regrets** or **worry** over how we’ve **treated someone** or how we’ve **handled a situation**.

In Heaven, there’ll be no more **mistakes** or **bad choices**.

In fact, the Bible says that…

*“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* (Rev.21: 4)

That means people won’t struggle with **stress** or **anxiety…**

or **anger** or **depression** or **anything** like that.

We’ll have no **physical** or **emotional** limitations of any kind.

[pause]

That’s what Heaven will be like.

That’s what the Bible tells us.

But those are just a few of the verses that help us to understand.

We don’t have time today to investigate all that God says…

but we can understand enough…

to cause us to long to see the wonders of God’s creation beyond this life.

Wonders that will cause us one day to drop to our knees…

in **worship and praise,** of all that God has provided for us.

And I can tell you this…anyone who places their faith and trust in Christ Jesus, can one day expect to be in Heaven enjoying all these promises…and more…

and it’s all because of Jesus.

Maybe you’ve thought of Heaven as a place where…

**angels** **float on** **clouds strumming their harps** all day…

or as a place where we **sing songs endlessly.**

I don’t know…

but the Bible gives us **the truth about heaven…**

and gives us **peace about our loved ones.**

The late **Billy Graham**, once said…

*“Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don’t believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before.”*

And that’s how Louie feels right now…

more alive than ever before.

Healthy and full of energy!

And that’s because death is not really **the end**…

but rather **the entrance** into a brand new life in Heaven.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

I want to say that being here today…

and **talking about Heaven** and **remembering Louie’s life…**

reminds us of the importance of the time that we have left…

and helps us to realize **how precious life is…**

The scripture reads…

“*As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a*

 *flower of the field;*

*The wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.*

*But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with*

 *those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children-with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.”* *(Ps.103:15-18)*

He doesn’t want us to be overwhelmed with this life…

but to have hope for the next.

I don’t know **how your life has gone…**

maybe you’ve been overwhelmed with **sorrows…**

and the **challenges** of life on this earth…

and deep inside you’ve been looking for something you can truly count on.

Listen to the tremendous encouragement He gives us in the Bible…

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

 *I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,*

 *I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,*

 *they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

 *you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze.*

 *For I am the Lord, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*;…” (Is.43:1-3)

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

We can choose to accept and place our trust in Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

He encourages us like a gentle and loving Father…

who has compassion on his children…

and He does this so that we will have eternal life and be comforted.

**PRAYER**

Father we thank you for the hope that we have.

We know that even when life doesn’t make sense, that you have not lost control…and that you want us to trust you.

We are promised throughout scripture that we are never left to fight our own battles…and that you are right there with us.

The Bible tells us to cast our cares on you and that you will sustains us and that you will never let the righteous fall.

So that is what we are doing today Lord…

We are casting all our care upon you.

But even so Lord, it is a painful time for those close to Louie…

so I ask your blessing on each of them today…

and pray that you would comfort them as only you can.

I ask you Lord to come close to the broken hearted…

and replace their despair with hope.

And we pray this in His name…

the one Lord and only Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN