The Funeral Service of

**Brent Burns**

March 9, 2018, 1:00pm

Rodenberger Funeral Home,  
1010 Westmoreland Ave, Napoleon, OH 43545  
  
Interment: Grelton Cemetery  
Grelton, OH

***Play Revelation Song (Video if we have it)*  
  
  
Pastor: Good Afternoon**

**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 Brent Burns…

he was only 36 years old…

But the Scriptures also help us. 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*

The Bible tells us that 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…

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 afternoon with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Brent Burns…

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 we 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 whose 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,

this service today will be especially difficult for them.

Se we ask these things in Christ’s name. AMEN

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

We’ve gathered here today because someone you knew and loved passed away early morning Monday…

Today, our goal is to try to begin the process of healing…

And also to **honor and remember Brent’s life.**

So on behalf of CedarCreek Church…

I’d like to begin by offering our condolences the family.

**Brent Thomas Burns**, 36, of Leipsic, Ohio passed away Monday morning, March 5, 2018.  
He was born on June 30, 1981 in Napoleon, Ohio to James Burns and Deborah Stennett.  
Brent worked most recently with Advanced Cutting Systems in Fort Wayne, Indiana and previously with the Campbell Soup Company, Napoleon, Ohio.   
  
He was a member of Cedar Creek Church, Whitehouse, Ohio where he was also an accomplished drummer with the church band. He will be remembered for having a good sense of humor, always wearing a smile and trying to make everyone feel better. He was hard working and loved to detail automobiles whenever he had the chance. He will be missed by his family and forever cherished as a loving son, father and brother.  
  
He is survived by his mother, Deborah Carson, Fort Wayne, Indiana;  
father, James (Tina) Burns, Holgate, Ohio;   
his children; Gavin Burns, Napoleon, Ohio;  
Maiah Burns, Napoleon;  
Parker Smith, Holgate;  
his children's mother, Jessica Morgan,  
Napoleon; two children he considered his own;  
Amelia "Millie" and  
Annabella;  
sisters, Brenda (Randy) Sweeney, Florida, Ohio;   
Angela (Kevin) Koenig, New Haven, Indiana;  
Dracaena Chesser,  
Calathea Burns, and  
Estella Burns;  
brothers, Ernie (Jeanne) Barber, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;  
James (Joleen) Burns, Holgate, Ohio;  
and maternal grandmother, Beulah (Alex) Schivelbein, Napoleon.   
He was preceded in death by his grandparents,  
Henry Stennett and Jerry and  
Betty Burns  
and an infant child.

**REMARKS**

Roughly 5 years ago, two pretty awesome Jr High kids started coming to my church, CedarCreek Whitehouse. Gavin and Mariah started telling me about their dad. They asked me to pray for him and I did.   
  
As sometimes happened, they invited their dad and we saw one of those cool instances where kids brought their father to church.  
  
I talked with Brent his first weekend at our church and I was excited to see him. I knew he had a difficult past and it took a lot for him, even just to walk through the door.  
  
Brent said yes to Jesus and I got to witness one of the coolest sights in my life… watching two kids baptize their dad. He was so happy that day. So thankful for his new life in Christ and also for being able to share that with his children.  
  
Brent attended our church for some time but over the last couple years I heard that he had moved to Indiana. Last Sunday I got one last chance to speak with Brent over the phone. I didn’t know it… but I think God was giving me one last chance to say goodbye.  
  
I’m going to miss him and the thought of not ever seeing him walk through the doors of a church makes me sad… but I also have great hope… Hope I’ll tell you about in just a little bit that Brent is more alive right now than ever before.  
  
Before that however, I’d like to give you all the chance to speak about Brent… those that knew him best.

**EULOGIES**

If anyone would like to come up to share a reading, moment, or a story, now would be the time to do so.

**SONG**

As we think about the stories and memories shared, the family would like to play **“What Hurts the Most” by Aaron Lewis. As you hear it, think back to the good times you spent with Brent. Let’s listen.**

**REMARKS**

Hearing the stories of someone’s life…

can at the same time, be both **fun to remember**…

and **painful to hear…**

so we need God’s help at times like these.

So my role as the pastor is to comfort and offer hope… and to remind people of the brevity and uncertainty of life… so they can live each day with purpose and thanksgiving…  
and prepare for eternity.

The Bible says that **God is** **close to the brokenhearted**...

and there are many broken hearts in this room today…

so we’re depending on God’s **grace** and **mercy…**

to help us through this time.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says:

**5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
      do not depend on your own understanding.  
 **6** Seek his will in all you do,  
      and he will show you which path to take.

It is tempting to lean on human wisdom to give ourselves strength… but don’t do it. God’s wisdom lasts forever.

The Bible tells us that there is one God in the entire universe. He created everything that we can see. He had no beginning, but he always was and always will be. God has no limits to his power and can do anything within His own nature.

In the book of Acts, the apostle Paul spoke to the great educated men of Athens and said this about God:

Acts 17:24-26

***24*** *“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples,* ***25*** *and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.* ***26*** *From one manhe created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.*

After God created people, he gave them a promise. If you obey my commands, I will bless you and you will never perish. Death in fact, was never part of God’s original design!

As I’m sure you can already guess however, people could not live up to this standard. No matter how hard they tried, people always fell short of God’s perfect standard.

Romans 3:23 says,

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Sometimes we get confused today about what this word “Sin” means. It was first used in reference to archery. If an archer missed the center target, the person scoring the arrows would yell “Sin!” Meaning, that the archer had missed the mark.

Every time we miss the mark today, we are in fact sinning. Every time that we utter a lie, steal from someone else, or do something much worse, we are betraying the trust of the one whom created us.

Friends, I hope this sinks in. James 2:10 says:

For whoever keeps the whole **law** and yet stumbles at just one point is **guilty** of **breaking** all of it.

And what do we earn because of our sin?

Romans 6:23 says:

**23** For the wages of sin is death…

Because we sin, we earn death. This is two parts. We earn physical death… meaning our time on this earth is numbered… but also we earn spiritual death.

You see, God does not force his way into our lives. If we choose to reject God, it breaks his heart but he will allow us to do so. For those that take this path, the Bible is very clear that they are eternally separated from Him.

But… glory be to God, there is hope! Real hope. The second part of Romans 6:23 says…

**23** For the wages of sin is death… but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This one God whom I’ve been speaking about exists in three equal but distinct persons. Father, Spirit, and Son.

About 2,000 years ago, God sent his one and only son to earth to save people from their sins. Jesus Christ was a real person. He was born from a human mother, breathed the same air we do today, walked on the same earth, and best of all… he lived the perfect life. The scriptures tell us that not one time did he sin.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do **not** have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—**yet** he did **not** **sin**.

Despite this perfect life, he was hated by some who saw him as a threat. They had him arrested, beaten, tortured, and killed on a cross.

While he was dying on that cross, he bore the sins of the world upon himself. He took the punishment that you and I deserved away. The sacrifice was complete.

Since Jesus was the unique son of God however, death could not hold him! Three days later, 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!

Many people think that God is something like Santa Clause… just waiting for them to make a mistake so He can give them nothing but coal. This could not be further from the truth.

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*

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

Because he felt it too. He knows what it is like to feel alone… crushed with sadness…afraid. Jesus took all of that upon himself because he cared about you and he cared about me.

So how can we have confidence that we will be raised from the dead, just like Jesus was?

Romans 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Some of us grew up believing that there is this big cosmic scale. That after we die our good deeds are weighed against our bad…and hopefully we have done more good than bad.

Friends, I’m here to tell you that this scale does not exist. If you have done one evil thing, you are no longer holy like God. You are a sinner. The only way to be cleansed from your sin is to ask Jesus to have a relationship with you.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast

Maybe thinking today, you realize that you have never done this. If that is the case, I am going to pray right now. If you would like to ask Jesus to come into your life, please repeat this following prayer silently to yourself. Say it and mean it and God will hear you.

God, I am a sinner.

I have fallen short of your perfect standard.

I do not deserve your forgiveness,

But I want Jesus’ blood to count for me.

Please come into my life,

And make me a new person.

Take all my sin away,

And free me from my shame.

I will spend the rest of my life,

Following in your ways.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

If you genuinely prayed that prayer today, you will spend eternity with God in heaven. Nothing in this world or the next can take that away from you.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

As I close,

I want to say that being here today…

and **talking about Jesus** and **remembering Brent’s life…**

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

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

and the importance of the relationships that we develop while we’re here.

And **Jesus invites each of us** to call upon Him and develop a relationship with Him…

so that we can become **a part of His family…**

and experience all the glories of heaven with Him someday.

We are called to have ‘Faith Like a Child’…

God 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.

God wants us to rely on Him…even when life seems like too much.

Would you pray with me, this final time?

**PRAYER**

God, we have gathered today to commemorate the life of **Brent Burns**

And it’s a painful time for those whose lives have been closely connected with his… so we ask for a special blessing for them.

Lord we know there’s only one Person who can bring happiness when all hope is lost…

there’s only one Person who can heal a broken heart…

and that Person is Jesus Christ…

so we call upon you to lift the broken hearted…

and bring comfort and relief from the pain they are now experiencing.

Father, I pray that each person here would open themselves up to receiving the grace and love that you have for them today.

Thank you Lord, for the incredible hope that we have in Christ.

Help us to rely on you completely and nothing else.

In your Son’s name, Amen.

Funeral Director:

At this time, the family would like to invite you to join us at Toledo Interment: Grelton Cemetery  
  
Final Instructions

**SONG**

(Play song as folks begin paying last respects- half volume please)

**Worship Song…**

**COMMITTAL**

When we’re gathered around a graveside…

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.

One day our hearts are going to stop beating…

and that will be the end of our bodies.

But it won’t be the end.

Our days may be brief as Brian’s were or we may live 80 or more yrs. on this earth…

but we’re going to spend trillions of years in eternity.

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)

We are gathered here today commit the **body**…

of Brent Burns to its kindred dust;

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

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

The Lord alone will judge the deceased, and he does this fairly.

God gives us tremendous encouragement 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)

He encourages us like a gentle and loving Father…

who has compassion on his children…

and He does this so that we will be comforted.

And we trust also in His Son 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)*

We can have great confidence that this applies to anyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. It does not matter what sins we succumb to after accepted Jesus, his blood counts.

This is our great promise from God. That our parting from this earth is not the end of our existence…

but rather a temporary interruption…

##### and that one day, all of God’s children will be reunited with Him.

##### *“They will be with the Lord forever. Therefore* (the Bible says) *encourage each other with these words”* (1 Thess. 4:17-18).

##### **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 Brent…

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…

Allow us to leave with thanksgiving in our hearts,

For the time we were able to spend with Brian on this earth.

And we pray this in Jesus’ name…

AMEN

(Closing instructions about the families invitation)