

**Funeral Service for Marie Gunn at Spring Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama
September 22, 2003**

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Song: David Holland [grandson], Minister of Music,
White Avenue Baptist Church, Ontario, CA

Scripture & Prayer: Rev John Vandercook,
Global Maritime Ministries, New Orleans

Song: Bill, Elaine [granddaughter], Randy Drury [great grandson],
and Missy Brown [great granddaughter]

Song: Randy Drury

Eulogy: Dr. Terry Ellis, Pastor, Springhill Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

Message: Pastor Jim Gunn [son], Vineland Park Baptist, Hueytown, AL

Congregational Song: [Amazing Grace], Directed by Bill Drury

Benediction: Dr. Terry Ellis

Processional to Cemetery

Graveside: Pine Crest Cemetery, Mobile, Alabama

Song: Bill, Elaine, Randy, and Missy, David on guitar

Scripture: Dr. James Walters, First Baptist Mobile

Prayer: Dr. Terry Ellis

TIME

My mother, Marie Gunn, cared about time.

What is “time”? A good dictionary will give about a half page to a definition of “time”.

Time has a beginning and an end. We are creatures of time. We are all creatures made in the image and likeness of God. We finite, i.e., limited by time and space.

God is eternal and that means He is not bound by time or space. God is outside of and distinct from His creation; God created time.

Before there was anything of a material nature, before there was “evening and morning, the first day” there was God, pure Spirit, complete and sufficient in Himself.

The Apostle Paul addressed the philosophers on Mar’s Hill who were very religious but who did not know the only true God and this is a part of Paul’s sermon.

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the

offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

That Man is Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus came out of the grave the Christian has the assurance that we too will be resurrected with a glorified body.

The reason time should be important to each of us is because this life is the only time that we will we have to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

My mother, Marie Gunn, trusted in Jesus Christ and I believe she would want me to use this occasion to honor her life by telling you how important your life is to God. A human soul is so important to God that He sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin. The wonder of it all is that God saves sinners.

We live in a time when most people don't really believe they are good enough to go to heaven but that they are not bad enough to go to hell. The truth is that no one is good enough to go to heaven apart from the righteousness of God, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

And the truth is that every one of us deserves to be in hell.

I mean no disrespect by what I am about to say.

My mother was a **charter member** of Springhill Baptist Church and I am comforted in the knowledge that she trusted Jesus Christ.

But you must not trust in charter memberships or any other organizational affiliation.

When I was about 14 years old I made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and I was baptized and my name is on that bronze plaque on the front of this building. I was known as Jimmy Gunn back then.

I too am a charter member of Springhill Baptist Church, but I was still lost and dead in trespasses and sins. Jesus Christ meant nothing to me. I only said His name as a swear word.

When I was nearly 33 years old I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit convicted me of sin and guilt and God saved me. That was 35 years ago and I am still growing the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Salvation is offered to sinners.

Salvation is not a multiple choice examination where a person may select to follow Islam or the teachings of Buddha and be saved. Salvation is Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

That brings me back to the idea of **time**.

We are not promised a tomorrow.

The devil wants you to worry about the past, which is gone or have you overly concerned about the future over which you have no control.

All the time that you really have is right now.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Anyone who knew my mother well knows how the clock governed her days.

E.g., She determined that she was supposed to go to bed at 9 pm. Now she might sleep in her chair but she went to bed at nine.

So time was important to Marie Gunn.

From Tuesday until about 1:30 pm on Thursday my mother was at the point of death and the hospice nurses asked Martha, my sister, and me why she was holding on. Had we told her that we loved her and said goodbye? Was she waiting on someone or something? We couldn't think of anything that she was waiting on.

On Thursday morning Martha said that she had told mother that it was all right to go but then Martha said you know what we haven't told mother? We haven't told her it was **time** to go.

While Martha was out of the room I leaned over and kissed mother and said, "Mother, this is Jim, I love you. It's all right to go and it's **time** to go." In twenty minutes she was gone.

Now mother has something better than anything she ever had before. She is with Jesus and she has seen Him who is life.

We may miss our mother and sister and grandmother and aunt and friend, we may miss her but she doesn't miss us. She is where there are no tears

Revelation 21 is a description of heaven.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

I think mother would want me to ask you this question.

What have you done with the **time** that God has given you?