

Message at the Memorial Service for Lloyd J. Gregory, Jr.  
At the Hallmark Senior Living Center  
Dec. 6, 2016

Recorded message:

Purpose: to remember our beloved father....

I. TIME OF THANKFUL REMEMBRANCE

James 1:17 - <sup>17</sup> **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.**

Some of dad's legacy:

A. Hard work

Newspaper delivery, soda fountain, Texas capital, 3 jobs

B. Outdoors

Colorado cabin, farm, hunting, gun safety

C. Love for his family

-the day I came in and they were waiting, sitting in chairs and both arms shot up into the air and big smiles on their faces as they welcomed the traveler.

D. Daddy's gratitude for those who helped him – even to the end – his “thank you” to the health care workers.

*We are thankful for his loving health care workers: Eliza Martinez, Edith Elias, and Birsayit Valero.*

For Dr. Elizabeth Boehme

For all staff here at the Hallmark

II. TIME OF MOURNING

Death is our great enemy. Has taken our beloved father, ....

My father's emaciated body reminded me that sin is the great culprit. Adam's original sin and our own sin bring death upon us. Death gets us all. Death reigns in this life. Death is our great enemy. Death separates us from those we love. Make no mistake, death is our deadly enemy and we hate it.

But when death comes to a loved one there is comfort to be found.

Jesus said in Matt. 5:4 **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**

At the burial cave of his friend Lazarus the scripture says in John 11:35 that “Jesus wept.” He experienced himself the great separation, the break in relationship, that is the result of death.

But at that time he told Lazarus' two sisters, Mary and Martha:

**“I am the resurrection and the life. <sup>[d]</sup> Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”** John 11:25-27

In time of great loss and mourning and suffering, there is comfort in the words of Psalm 46, one of Martin Luther's favorite Psalms:

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present<sup>[b]</sup> help in trouble.**

**<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea... (v1-2)**

And verses 10-11:

**Be still, and know that I am God.**

**I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"**

**<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress**

### III. TIME OF SERIOUS REFLECTION

-One of us has gone on, one of our fellow humans – Daddy has left time and entered eternity – his has come before his Maker

-our time will come also – for each of us.

At that time that awaits us all, only one thing will matter:

Not our accomplishments, not our bank account or investments, not even the weight of our sins, but what will matter is our relationship with Jesus Christ.

What have we done with Jesus Christ? How have we treated him?

Have we politely tipped our hat to him and gone on with the agenda of our lives?

Have we ignored him?

Have we rejected him?

Have we sneered at him, dismissing the possibility that he was really the Son of God, that he really rose from the dead?

Do we just consider him to be one of the many roads that lead to heaven?

Jesus said this about himself: John 14:6:

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

The apostle Peter said of him before the most religious men in ancient Israel at that time:

**there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men<sup>[a]</sup>  
by which we must be saved."**

How should we relate to Jesus Christ? What should be our relationship to him?

We should be like the Roman Centurion who stood at the foot of the cross and said, "Surely this man is the Son of God."

We should be like the apostle Thomas who when he saw the resurrected Lord standing before him, fell down and declared, "My Lord and my God!"

We should be like the Apostle Paul who followed him in loving and grateful service as his own Commander-in-Chief.

We should love him and embrace him as Mary did in the garden when the resurrected Jesus stood before her.

And then we must worship him, give him worth, give him glory, give him service, as the 24 elders do that the apostle John saw in his vision of the glorified Christ in Revelation 5:

**And they sang a new song, saying,**

**“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”**

**<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice,**

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!”**

**<sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,**

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

**<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell and worshiped. Rev. 5:11-14**

Wouldn't you like to be in that great crowd of worshippers that John describes?

To do that, to be there, we have to join in now and acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord, God, and the only Savior. He is the one who bore his people's sins on Calvary's cross and rose from the dead by the power of God. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Hear the words of the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 10:9-13

**...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction**

**between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

Today, for those of us who knew and loved Lloyd Gregory, this is a special and unique time of our lives. God has appointed this hour for each of us.

We are here to give thanks for Lloyd’s life and the way he blessed our lives.

We are here to mourn his passing and comfort one another, but most of all to find comfort in the Scriptures and in the living God who gave them to us.

And I hope this will be a time of serious reflection:

Where do I stand with Jesus Christ?

It is not too late to run to him. His arms are open wide the way mom’s and dad’s arms were open and welcoming me that late night when I drove in from Dallas.

Bow before Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and he will receive you as his own son or daughter for time and eternity. Amen.

Benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face to you and give you peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-by Jeff Gregory, eldest son of Lloyd Gregory