

GORDON KERR PAINTER

1958—2006

Gordon had a somewhat humble beginning in Northeast Alabama. However, he grew up to obtain a fine academic education. He was a partner in a reputable and successful engineering concern.

Gordon married Kaye Simpson, a member of a family of faithful Christians. Theirs was a loving and devoted marriage. To this union was born a son, Charles, who was and is pride and joy to both.

Gordon was a Christian, and a member of the Perry Hill Road church of Christ. He was a deacon doing the work of serving the Lord and His church. He was an excellent song leader, preacher and Bible class teacher. When he was asked to do anything, his simple answer was; all right. Gordon did many things without fanfare or acclaim. That is; others may not have known. One example: when he could make the time, he and Charles often mowed lawns for those unable to do for themselves.

He will be missed by us all. We grieve with Kay, Charles and all the family, but we rejoice also in the assurance brother Gordon will hear “well done, you good and faithful servant”.

WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE — “SOMEDAY”!

This should be no surprise. In our experience, all living things are subject to death. *“...it is appointed for men to die once...”* (Heb. 9:27). Paul writes of those who will be alive when the Lord returns, *“...we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord...”* (1Thess. 4:15). However, he also wrote, *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* (1 Cor. 15:51 - 53). I take that change to be death: a separation of soul and mortal body which all of us will sooner or later “someday” experience. Therefore, we know we will die.

It is that “someday” which is the unknown. So many put off becoming a part of God’s dear family until too late. Every example of a seemingly premature death should forcefully bring home this lesson. All of us are not going to live into old age, and be given a personal warning in time to get on speaking terms with God. I think we know that. It is still the “someday” that is the indeterminate factor. But, it need not be. Paul tells

us, *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* (2 Cor. 6:2). Surely, we know what that means. Now is the only time we have. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never arrive. We have now to prepare for death and the inevitable meeting with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:10).

One's obedience to the Lord now should never be purely because of an emotional appeal, or just to please someone else, but because we want to please the Lord and go to heaven when we die. The Lord's word appeals to the rational, intellectual, and emotional heart of his creation. Hear and obey it "NOW".

CAB