

FUNERAL SUMMARY OF THE LATE MR. GILBERT HOOGENDOORN

Family and friends gathered in memory of the late Mr. Gilbert Hoogendoorn, who passed away from this life and entered into eternity on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at the age of 91 years. Reverend H. Hofman officiated the funeral service and opened with the singing of Psalm 39 (Psalter 104 stanzas 3-6) followed by the reading of Psalm 90. Prayer was then offered, after which Rev. Hofman addressed all but especially Dan the only child of the late Gilbert and Hermina Hoogendoorn in the fact that he bore this burden alone. We were reminded that denominational ties are not crucial; it is only in the belonging to Christ that will account for any value for eternity. Mr. Hoogendoorn's time serving as an office bearer was acknowledged and the fruit of it will be seen in eternity, for the Lord's word does not return unto Him void.

Many times as our life draws to an end we begin to feel the loneliness of it and this is the word also found in Psalm 90 that was penned by the man of God, Moses. It is a prayer that acknowledges our life as troublesome, with sickness, misery and mourning. Yet there is comfort for those who are mourning. We were reminded that Paradise was created without mourning and misery, but God was our habitation. Now we are opposed to abiding in Him as our habitation and instead of choosing life we chose death.

Let us not smooth over death but consider verse 12 and see that there is a dwelling place for all rebels, who by God's grace, seek their habitation in Him again. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." In the first place there is an urgency in this wise counsel that none are to exclude themselves from and none are to delay. There is no guarantee for more time. Secondly we are instructed in numeration, not counting up, as we do our wealth or other earthly possessions, but how few our days are. Thirdly we are to make improvement upon this with prayer and supplication and not apply ourselves to the trivial items of this life. Fourthly in applying our hearts it includes our mind, spirit, affections, and will which must be done by prayer. Lastly our counting and reckoning, by God's grace, will teach us that our days are few and uncertain and if anyone lacks wisdom let him ask it of God who giveth liberally and upbraideth not. Christ has purchased all of these blessings for His people and all who come to Him will in no wise be cast out. The service ended with singing of Psalm 90.

At the graveside Rev. Hofman read a few words from Psalm 39 where the psalmist also asked for wisdom, "Make me to know my end." Impressions of death will soon be fleeting, but may God, by the power of His Spirit, apply these words to us before our life, which is as a vapor, disappears. In eternity the sweet overtures of the gospel will no longer be heard, yet there is a grave that remains open and still offers peace and pardon with the promise of everlasting life.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Serve the LORD with gladness: come
before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2*

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.