



Letter of Tribute:
Dale J. Visser
www.fromhisfullness.com

The following public letter of tribute was sent to the Visser family on the occasion of the funeral of brother in Christ, Dale Visser, July 19, 2019.



The loss of Dale is seismic for Seventh Reformed Church, his many friends, the business community of West Michigan, and the numerous Christian ministries he supported over the years. Naturally, though, Dale's passing is acutest for you. In praising God for his abundant grace in Dale's life, we desire to encourage you, even as we inspire each other to emulate Dale's example of living for Christ.

This Lord's Day marks the twentieth anniversary since I migrated to the United States. Over these two decades few have been more prominent in my thinking and feeling than Dale. I came to admire him and to love him, first as introduced to him by Dr. Samuel T. Logan Jr while a faculty member of Westminster Theological Seminary, then as a visiting preacher to Seventh, next as senior minister, and finally as founder of From His Fullness Ministries. From these various vantage points three main traits of Christian grace in Dale's life came to view.

First, I recall the beauty and simplicity of Dale's trust in Christ for his salvation. It was, as our Lord urged, truly childlike. Obviously a high-flying and high-powered businessman, he did not lose touch with his basic need for personal forgiveness of sin and of the grace of Christ to keep on keeping on. In that vein, he not only lived, but defended the biblical exposition of Christ, summarizing the ministry of the pulpit with the words, "The minister just wants to get Jesus into your heart." Such directness and support are what make preachers and build congregations.

Second, Dale, as a debtor to God's grace in Christ, prioritized faithfulness to God in the use of the Lord's Day. As a visiting preacher, I recall him driving me to Seventh during an episode of his Myasthenia Gravis in which he could not raise his chin off his chest. Many of us have since been touched by his commitment to the Lord amid the onset of blindness. His spirit was remarkable, and his recollection of his blessings unailing.

Attendance at morning and evening worship each Lord's Day was not, then, a matter of empty tradition. It was motivated by gratitude and

directed by our Lord's command not to neglect the assembling together of the Lord's people or the provoking of the Lord's people to love and to good works (Heb.10:24-25). In faithfully attending worship, you expressed together, dear Marcia, your stated intent, amid the current spiritual malaise of our day, to set an example to your family and to peers of wholehearted commitment to the Lord, dedicating the Lord's Day fully to the Lord.

Third, I recall Dale's passion for the spread of Christ's kingdom. His oft-repeated mantra came from the mouth of his Lord: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Lk. 12:48). Although he had worked hard in business, he never forgot that his success was of the Lord. Thus, faced with the needs of others, whether locally, nationally, or internationally, he, with both astounding generosity and wisdom, gave his support, prayerfully and without fanfare. Even this week, Brenda and I have seen how his generosity is being put to use in the heart of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the completion of a church building, sealed of late by the baptism of a new Buddhist convert to the Christian faith from the surrounding student population.

We don't know the half of what Dale did over the decades with his gift of giving and his desire to use it for God's glory. Eternity alone will tell the full story. If, on times, he struggled to bear with the counting of pennies and dollars, and the minutia of procedure, his commitment to Christ and his loyalty to those causes closest to his heart meant that the Holy Spirit would invariably curb his flesh in ways true to the reality of his Christianity.

No Christian, then, would withhold from Dale God's gracious rewarding of his seeking first the kingdom of heaven. I do, however, have one personal disappointment. Namely, that Dale has not lived to receive his copy of a forthcoming book dedicated to him and to you, Marcia. The title *Christianese or Christ?* asks the question of each of us, whether ours is a cultural "Christianity," which, from God's perspective, is no Christianity at all, or a biblical Christianity belonging solely to those embracing Christ as Savior and Lord. I have no doubt that Dale knew the difference, and that in leaving behind last Monday the ignominy of his blindness, he heard our Lord's affirmation, "... blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. 13:16). May this, dear family,



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be your great consolation in mourning Dale's loss and your inspiration in furthering his legacy and yours.

With my love, prayers, and profound gratitude, as also Brenda's.

Tim J. R. Trumper

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