

HOME GOING OF BROTHER CHARLES BEDGOOD JUNE 25, 2026: PEMBROKE, GEORGIA

I want to welcome each of you here today. My name is Brother Mike Sutherland. I am the next to the oldest brother of Brother Charles Larry Bedgood. Once again, I have been honored with the blessing of preaching the funeral of one of my saved siblings. Charles had four brothers and one sister. Their names ordered by age were Alvin, Mike, Dianne, Douglas, and Bobby. Alvin passed away on January 31, 2019. I preached his funeral several days later. Charles passed away on June 20, 2026. He will be much missed. In one of the most beautiful passages of Scripture in the Bible *Psalms 23:1-6* states this:

A Psalm of David. ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. *Psalms 23*

We can take great comfort in *Psalms 23*. Charles did not walk through the valley of the shadow of death alone because the LORD Jesus Christ was with him. For the Christian, the valley of death is but a fleeting shadow that passes in the twinkling of an eye and ends on the mountain tops of everlasting glory that produce fountains of living water. Folks, today we are gathered together to commemorate, and yes even celebrate, the homegoing of Brother Charles Bedgood. I refer to him not just as a brother in the flesh, but also as an eternal Brother in the LORD Jesus Christ. Many times Charles referred to himself as my double brother. That is a very endearing term and I thank God for the sentiment of it. *Proverbs 18:24* says that there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. The LORD Jesus Christ is that friend that laid down his life for you and I. He sticketh closer than a brother. Not only was Charles my double brother, he was my friend. We went through a lot of trials as young boys and God saw us through all of them.

Back about 17 or 18 months ago, Charles asked me to preach his funeral if he passed before I did. It was his express wish that I preach salvation to his lost loved ones. That is what I am going to do today. I cannot count the times Charles has told me weeping that he did not want to see any of his children and grand children die and go to hell. It was his heart's desire that all of them would come to salvation. Salvation is the heartbeat of God.

Many years before Charles got saved, I went to pick him up to stay with us for a little while in Saint Marys, Georgia. On the return trip back to my house, I asked him if he were to die did he know for sure that he would go to heaven. Without hesitation he said "NO I AM GOING TO HELL". What a needful shock that was to me! From an emotional and spiritual stand point, it was like having the charred walls of hell surround me and the gates of hell slammed behind me! What a thunderous awakening! What great truth! I never forgot it. The truth is that all those who do not receive the LORD Jesus Christ as their Saviour are going to hell. Charles told me after he got saved that there was a time in his life before he got saved when he had religion. I asked what the difference was between that religion and the salvation he had now. He told me that he had not repented. What that meant was that his religion had not changed him. He was still dead in his trespasses and sin and on his way to hell. Folks, religion and good works will deceive you right into hell fire. Most folks in our American churches have prayed faithless sinners prayers and are still on

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their way to hell because they have not repented. If you have not repented, then you have not put your faith in the LORD Jesus Christ. It is through faith that God the Holy Ghost works repentance. Repentance will not leave you wallowing in your sin. I thank God that when Charles passed from this earth he stepped into the presence of the LORD Jesus Christ because for the Christian to be absent from this body is to be present with the LORD. For all of you who have partaken of the cup of salvation, God said in *Psalm 116:15*: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Again, *Psalm 23:4-5* states: “⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over”. Our greatest enemy this side of eternity is death. For those of us who are saved, the LORD has prepared a table for us in the presence of our greatest enemy and he has set that table with the living bread and all who partake of that living bread will live forever. That living bread is the LORD Jesus Christ himself. The LORD Jesus Christ said in *John 6:35* “I am the bread of life”. *John 6:47-51* has this to say:

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. ⁴⁸ I am that bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. *John 6:47-51*

What does the Bible teach about salvation? The Bible says this in *John 1:11-12*:

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: *John 1:11-12*

The Bible says this in *John 3:1-8*:

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. *John 3:1-8*

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The Bible goes on to say this in *John 3:14-18*:

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:14-18*

In *John 3:36* the Bible states this: “³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”. *Romans 3:10* says: “¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”. *Romans 3:23* says: “²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”. *Romans 5:12* says: “¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”. *Romans 6:23* says: “²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD”. According to *Romans 5:8*, the LORD Jesus Christ paid your wages of death by dying for you. It states this: “⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”. So, how is it that we come to salvation. The Bible tells us how in *Romans 10:8-17*:

⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:8-17*

Folks, today can be your day of salvation. The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 6:2* : “² (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.) You can be saved today and know it. At this particular point, I want to share the heart of Charles with you. His heart concerning your salvation is best expressed by the apostle Paul from *Romans 9:1-3* and *Roman 10:1* where the Holy Ghost stated this:

¹ I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy

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Ghost,² That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.³ For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:
Romans 9:1-3

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
Romans 10:1

I am telling you that if you are sitting here today that the LORD Jesus Christ died to take away your sin. John the Baptist marvelled when he saw the perfect, sinless LORD Jesus Christ approaching the river Jordan and proclaimed: "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world". As that perfect, sinless Lamb of God, he shed his blood on the cross of Calvary that you and I might have everlasting life. *Acts 20:28* says that the blood that was shed at Calvary is God's blood. The LORD Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. You cannot be saved without the blood of the LORD Jesus Christ. It is either the blood of the LORD Jesus Christ or an eternity in hell.

It has been well said that hell is a place at the end of a Christ rejecting life. It is a horrible place where the fire is never quenched and the screams are never silenced.

God loves sinners. I am a sinner. Charles was a sinner. Each of you here today is a sinner. That means that you either have been, or are, lost and on your way to hell. *Luke 19:10* says that the LORD Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. If you are lost here today, the LORD Jesus Christ is seeking to save you. God is not willing that anyone should go to hell. God said this in *2 Peter 3:9*:

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. *2 Peter 3:9*

God never takes pleasure in the death of the wicked. God said in *Ezekiel 33:11* "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

If you go to hell, it will be because you chose to go there while trampling the blood of Jesus under your feet. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God for he is a consuming fire. *Second Thessalonians 1:7-8* states that the LORD Jesus Christ will be revealed from heaven at his Second Coming "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ". I would to God that no one here today would reject the LORD Jesus Christ and charge into hell. Folks, hell is a real place. Our King James Bible mentions it 54 different times. All those who die without the LORD Jesus Christ go to hell. That should make us pause to reason with God. We have no guarantee of our next breath. *James 4:14* says: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away". We all eventually come to this day of death. The Bible says in *Hebrews 9:27*: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:". Many of you sitting here today are my kinfolk. I ask you, are you ready to face death? Charles has kept his appointment with death. Your appointment with death will come much sooner than you think. Death is not an annihilation because you have a never dying soul. Most lost folks have a misconception about death. They look upon death as the end of all ends, but nothing could

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be further from the truth. There is a death that is worse than physical death itself. The Bible calls it the second death. The book of Revelation mentions the second death four times. The second death is spending eternity in an everlasting lake of fire. Following the death of our physical bodies we will either spend eternity in heaven or eternity in hell. The choice is ours.

The greatest comfort any of you could receive today is the assurance that you too could spend an eternity with the LORD Jesus Christ. I humbly beseech you today. Please, do not die in your sin and go to hell! The LORD Jesus Christ said in *John 14:6*: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me". The Bible says in *Acts 4:12*: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Only the LORD Jesus Christ can save you. If the rich man in hell in *Luke 16:27-28* could speak to any of you now he would say:

I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

It is my duty as a Christian to testify unto you of that horrible place called hell. Hell is a place of endless fire and torment. Hell is an eternally burning place at the end of a Christ rejecting life. If you have not believed upon the LORD Jesus Christ you are under the condemnation and wrath of God. Again, *John 3:18* and *John 3:36* say:

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. *John 3:18, 36*

We all eventually come to this day of death. Again, the Bible says in *Hebrews 9:27*: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:". This is a day of great sorrow and grief for those who lose a loved one, but it can be a day when we rejoice for the heavenly home going of another child of God. I'll guarantee you that God looks upon it as a homecoming. I ask each of you here today: If you were to die today, will the LORD Jesus Christ be there to walk you through the valley of the shadow of death? I ask each of you here today, if you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would not go to hell? If you claim to be saved today, is your salvation real? Will the salvation you claim to have keep you out of hell? There is a two-fold resurrection: one unto eternal life for the saved and one unto eternal death for the lost. For the believer's resurrection, the Bible has this to say in *1 Corinthians 15:51-57* concerning death:

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our

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Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

Before I was saved, I would hear those words at a funeral and I would say to myself: “those are the saddest words I have ever heard”. But, for the Christian, nothing could be further from the truth. Because of those words, I can tell you today that Charles has won the victory over the grave. Charles has no need of comfort because he is in the presence of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, the LORD Jesus Christ! Each of you here today must realize that you preach your own funeral sermon before you walk through death’s door. No amount of preaching at a lost man’s or a lost woman’s funeral can preach them into heaven or deliver them from hell. That is a decision that must be made by the deceased individual before God closes life’s door. Charles was not perfect and neither is any of us. Charles is in heaven today because he is a saved man because he put his faith in the LORD Jesus Christ and then God the Holy Ghost worked repentance in his heart. That repentance evidenced itself in a changed life. I can testify to you here today that Charles had, and yes even has a changed life. If you have not repented, then you are not saved. The evidence of Charles’s salvation was in his changed life. *2 Corinthians 5:17* says: “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”. Repentance is God’s proof to you that the Devil has not deceived you into accepting a counterfeit salvation. We Independent Baptists have done the Devil’s work in scrubbing up and painting over whited sepulchres that are still full of hell bound, spiritually dead men’s bones. We have churches full of men and women that have prayed faithless sinner’s prayers that have heads full of arrow straight Bible doctrine and hearts full of hell. If you have not repented, then it is God’s evidence to you and those around you with spiritual discernment that you have a faithless profession of salvation. Salvation and its required repentance is both a work and a gift of the Holy Ghost. I do not preach a salvation of doubt. I preach an eternal know so salvation that cannot be lost, taken away, or given back because that is what the Bible teaches. *1 John 5:13* says: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”. Many folks confuse Holy Ghost conviction with a doubt producing work of the Devil. The Devil will not make any lost person doubt their salvation. Unrepentant, open sin in the life of the believer will rob them of the assurance of their salvation because that conduct will grieve the Holy Ghost that witnesses to them that they are a child of God. There is a witness of the Spirit in the believer. That witness is the eternal indwelling of the Holy Ghost that is our assurance of salvation. Genuine saving faith produces repentance because that repentance is a work and gift of God the Holy Ghost. For the unbeliever’s resurrection, the Bible has this to say in *Revelation 20:11-15* concerning death :

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15*

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I am not going to preach that passage to you today, but it compels me to ask you today: “Is your name written in the Lamb’s book of life: because if its not you will burn forever in a lake of fire. *Revelation 1:8* says that the LORD Jesus Christ has the keys to hell and death. Has the LORD Jesus Christ unlocked the door of salvation for you? He is that door.

I know it was Charles’s desire that the gospel be preached here today. He and I had discussions about the times he had witnessed to some of you about the LORD Jesus Christ. Just a few short days ago, Charles passed from death unto everlasting life where the soul never dies. Folks, there will be no sad farewells in heaven and no tear dimmed eyes in that heavenly place where the soul never dies. Charles now resides in his heavenly home. Hallelujah, folks! Charles’s darkest night has been turned into the brightest day. The LORD Jesus Christ said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”. Thank God for the gift of salvation!

Again, the Bible says: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”. If you are Christian, you know the peace and comfort of God because through salvation comes the peace that passeth all understanding. If you are lost here today I want you to know that you can know the peace and comfort of God. *Isaiah 53:4-5* in talking about the LORD Jesus Christ says:

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:4-5*

Would you consider the LORD Jesus Christ today who has sent the Comforter to us saved folk in the person of God the Holy Ghost? Thank God for the comfort that is in the LORD Jesus Christ! Thank God for my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, the LORD Jesus Christ! I will close our Bible reading today with *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* and *Revelation 21:4*:

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. *Revelation 21:4*

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As the Bible says in *1 Thessalonians 4:18*: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words”. *2 Corinthians 1:3* says: “Blessed be God, even the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;”. There is coming a glad reunion day folks. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world! Charles’s favorite hymns in order of preference were: (1) How Great Thou Art, (2) Blessed Assurance, (3) Amazing Grace, (4) He Leadeth Me, and (5) Come Thou Fount.

I will close today’s service by quoting the words of that beautiful hymn “To Canaan’s Land I’m On My Way”:

Verse 1:

To Canaan’s land I’m on my way,
Where the soul of man never dies;
My darkest night will turn to day,
Where the soul of man never dies.

Refrain:

No sad farewells,
No tear dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace,
And the soul never dies.

Verse 2:

A rose is blooming there for me,
Where the soul never dies;
And I will spend eternity,
Where the soul never dies.

Refrain:

No sad farewells,
No tear dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace,
And the soul never dies

Verse 3:

A love light beams across the foam,
Where the soul never dies;
It shines to light the shores of home,
Where the soul never dies.

Refrain:

No sad farewells,
No tear dimmed eyes,

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Where all is peace,
And the soul never dies

Verse 4:

My life will end in deathless sleep,
Where the soul of man never dies;
And everlasting joys I'll reap,
Where the soul never dies.

Refrain:

No sad farewells,
No tear dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace,
And the soul never dies

Verse 5:

I'm on my way to that fair land,
Where the soul never dies;
Where there will be no parting hand,
Where the soul never dies.

Refrain:

No sad farewells,
No tear dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace,
And the soul never dies