

Eulogy for Dale Patrick Crowley

October 27, 1928 to August 26, 2016



“We are gathered here because of one man. A man known personally to many of us, known only by reputation to even more. A man loved by many, scorned by others. A man known for great controversy, and for great compassion. That man, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth.”

Thus began Rev. Paul Scalia’s eulogy of his father, Justice Antonin Scalia, this past February.

Many years earlier Justice Scalia himself had bemoaned the modern tendency to focus on the virtues of the deceased in funeral services rather than on the mercies of Jesus Christ: “Even when the deceased was an admirable person, indeed especially when the deceased was an admirable person, praise for his virtues can cause us to forget that we are ... giving thanks for God’s inexplicable mercy to a sinner.”

His point is that Jesus Christ is the real hero of every Christian’s story, including the remarkable 87-year story of our beloved father and grandfather, Dale Patrick Crowley.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that our father and grandfather, whom we honor today, grew up in a Christian home with a Christian father, Dale Crowley, Sr. even though Dale Sr.’s own father was the town drunk. Thank God that Dale Crowley’s father, Dale Sr. broke that destructive cycle of drunkenness and together with Marguerite Crowley raised two sons, Dale Crowley and Bob Crowley, to be Christians and then preachers of the gospel.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that Dale Crowley himself trusted in the death and resurrection of Christ to pay his sin, rescue him from hell, and bring him back to God.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that Dale Crowley and his very young bride, Mary, had the courage to leave America for the devastation that was post-war Japan to make God famous there.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that their ministry there resulted in scores of believers and a strong church that 60 years later still proclaims Christ in Arakawaoki, Japan, and has sent out missionaries to other parts of the world.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that Dale Crowley developed in Japan a lifelong love affair with language, a love affair that culminated in the early 1960s with a masters degree in linguistics from Georgetown University, the position of linguist for language training at the Peace Corp Training Center in Hilo Hawaii, and later professor of Japanese at University of Hawaii at Hilo.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that they raised five children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, David, Sharon, Grace, JD, and Celeste Leiala.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that, in order to provide for the educational needs of Celeste, God led Daddy and Mother to start the first Christian School on the Big Island of Hawaii, The Henry Opukahaia School. Hundreds and hundreds were impacted by that school.

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that he and Mother later returned to the Washington, D.C. area to work with Dale Sr. in Christian radio, eventually starting his own daily program of preaching and hard-hitting, contrarian commentary, the popular King’s Business Radio Program, where in his own modest words, he was “On the wrong side of everything, but right about it all.”

It is because of the mercy and grace of Christ that he faithfully wrote and published numerous books and pamphlets that called Christians back to faithfulness concerning creationism, Christian education, conservative theology, missions, and participation in politics. His writing ministry began in the 1950’s with a powerful booklet called *Our Struggle with Darkness in the Land of the Rising Sun*, which A. W. Tozer chose to be a 4-part series in his magazine, *The Alliance Weekly*.

So much more could be said about his David-and-Goliath courage, his love of science and math, his lifelong love of music and the trumpet, his deep fascination and study of nature, and his attempts to pass that courage and those loves to his children, though we are but pigmies compared him.

But I assure you, having now seen the risen Christ on his glorious throne for these 3 days, were he to come back and hear our words of eulogy at his graveside, he would say, “What are you doing? I have seen him with my own eyes, even his hands and his feet. Enough of this prattling on and on about Dale Crowley. Talk of *Christ*. Talk of *his* virtues, *his* beauty, *his* love, *his* perfections. He must increase; I must decrease.” That’s what he would say. And he would be right. “For from *him*, and to *him*, and through *him* be all things. To *him* alone be glory both now and forever more.” Amen.

JD Crowley, August 29, 2016