

Obituary for John Ray Best, '68

Pastor John Ray Best, of Charleston, IL, passed away on June 20, 2023, at Hilltop Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center surrounded by his family. John was born on January 9, 1946, in Mattoon, IL, and graduated from Charleston High School. John excelled in high school where he was a member of the National Honor Society, class Salutatorian, and captain of the football team. He matriculated at Dartmouth in the fall of 1964 but did not graduate with the Class of 1968. He instead graduated from Eastern Illinois University and later pursued the Pastor's Course of Study at Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music. In addition to serving as Pastor for the Charleston Bible Church for more than 18 years, he served several other congregations as Pastor for a total of 44 years. John married Marian Dee Perkins in June of 1969, who survives him. They have 3 living children, Jim, Nate, and Joanna (White) and 8 grandchildren. John was eulogized as a faithful servant of God and a man devoted to his family. A Memorial Service honoring his life was held at the Charleston Bible Church on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

Prepared by:
David L. Gang, '68
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