

Dr. Paul H. Dixon  
Seizing a World of Opportunity from the Cross  
April 21, 1992

Unedited Transcript

00:00:04:05 - 00:00:51:19

Unknown

On a hill far away stood an old, rugged cross, meant more suffering and shame for shame and love. That old grows where the deer stand first for one of the signals was. So you see all rugged cross. To my trophies, I lost, I need.

00:00:54:22 - 00:01:39:26

Unknown

I will claim some other. Crores and exchanged it some day for. To the old rugged cross, I went. Never be true. Is shame that reproach lightly built. Then he'll call me some day to my home, far away where his glory, but.

00:01:41:03 - 00:02:40:13

Unknown

I say. So whatever it feels wrong, it's cross. To my trophies, I trust I made. I work on drug crawls and exchange tapes all day for. Oh, oh. And. Thank you, ladies, for preparing our hearts for the message this morning.

00:02:42:01 - 00:03:14:11

Unknown

I'd like to take your Bibles, please, and turn to the book of Matthew. And the 27th chapter. While you're turning. Tomorrow, the Central State Choir will be with us. We try to have them every year. I believe that some announcement will be made relative to some of you will want to probably entertain them for lunch.

00:03:14:11 - 00:03:35:28

Unknown

We always enjoyed doing that, taking them out to the dining hall and spending some time with them. They look forward to it every year. On Thursday. We're doing something a little bit different once or twice during the year, we kind of get away from what we traditionally do in chapel.

00:03:37:06 - 00:04:04:28

Unknown

It's more of a convocation. And I suppose in a sense, that's true tomorrow and also on Thursday. I was unable to attend the faculty concert of Professor Coleman and Professor Clevenger. And I heard so many great reports of that that we have in residence, our own Ferrante and Teicher, that they are going to give a portion of

00:04:04:28 - 00:04:37:19

Unknown

that concert on Thursday morning. And so I know that we will all find that most enjoyable. And look forward to it. I trust that you had an enjoyable Easter break. one of the things that excites me about this time

of year is I know after we returned and only being gone three days was just to see the

00:04:37:19 - 00:05:01:08

Unknown

budding of the trees. And the leaping out and the flowers coming on and the greening of the grass. And then. To get up the next morning on Monday morning and to see the changes. And then last night to see what had happened, what had transpired in nature just during the day.

00:05:03:12 - 00:05:32:04

Unknown

Don't miss that experience of watching during these days, the changes and the beauty of it all. But it also reminds me of what we just celebrated. We celebrated. The most momentous events in all of history. A crucified son of God.

00:05:33:24 - 00:05:55:09

Unknown

Who is buried at home and who rose from the dead? And though our Easter weekend is over. I would like to speak this morning on a topic that I hope somehow is in our hearts and in our minds more than just one week in the year.

00:05:57:13 - 00:06:24:00

Unknown

I suppose the title you could give to this message is seizing a world of opportunity. From the cross. Would you stand with me, please, as we read together, as you follow and I read Matthew 27. Beginning at verse 33 and when they were coming to a place called Golgotha, that is to say a place of a skull

00:06:24:15 - 00:06:44:06

Unknown

, they gave him vinegar to drink, mingled with gall. And when he tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him. Part of this garments casting lots that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the prophet. They parted my garments among them and upon my vest, or did they cast lots?

00:06:45:12 - 00:07:00:24

Unknown

And sitting down, they watched him there and set up over his head, his accusation written This is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Then where there are two thieves crucified with them, one on the right hand and another on the left.

00:07:02:14 - 00:07:21:24

Unknown

And they did pass by reviled him wagging their heads. And saying now that destroys the temple and build a state in three days, save those cells. If that would be the son of God come down from the cross, likewise, also the chief priests mocking him with the scribes and elders said he saved others himself.

00:07:21:24 - 00:07:34:19

Unknown

He cannot say that he be the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted in God. Let him deliver him now if he will have him. Where he said.

00:07:35:19 - 00:07:53:27

Unknown

I am the son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him cast the same in his teeth. And now from the sixth hour, there was darkness over all the land and to the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with the loud voice, saying Eli.

00:07:55:01 - 00:08:28:06

Unknown

Eli? Lamar Sabbath than I. That is to say, my God. My God. Why is thou forsaken me? Maybe seated. The cross is the key that unlocks heaven's door. I believe that we would agree as a college family that there is no way to grasp the love of God unless you go to Calvary.

00:08:30:25 - 00:09:01:11

Unknown

The Old Testament sacrifices and types are completed in this one event. That day on Golgotha Hill. Much of Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled in this day and in this event. The fountain of salvation is unsealed. We could truly break out into song at this very moment.

00:09:01:14 - 00:09:31:05

Unknown

Hallelujah. For the cross. I would encourage you to. Get into your library, some books about the cross. There was a German theologian by the name of crew marker. Well, I think probably wrote the best book on the cross it's ever been written and it's been translated into English, and it's simply entitled The Suffering Savior.

00:09:34:21 - 00:09:56:14

Unknown

If you do not have Martin Lloyd Jones's book on the cross. I would highly recommend it. And then, John, our start. Wrote a book entitled The Cross of Christ. And, of course, one of the popular authors today, Max Lucado.

00:09:56:26 - 00:10:16:09

Unknown

No wonder they call him savior. He talks about as he opens his book. A man who was struggling with Christianity and all the preaching and all the teaching and not making heads or tails out of it, he said to Max.

00:10:17:27 - 00:10:45:13

Unknown

Simplify it for me. Boil it down for me. Tell me, what is it all about? And he said I really didn't have a good answer until years later. And if I had the opportunity, this is what I would share with him now in first

Corinthians Chapter 15, Paul said, I delivered to you as of first importance.

00:10:47:25 - 00:11:08:14

Unknown

What I also received that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scripture. Paul said it all boils down to this Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. He was buried. Any arose from the dead.

00:11:09:22 - 00:11:30:06

Unknown

According to Paul, the cross is what counts. My what a piece of wood. History has idolized it and despised it, gold plated it and burned it, worn and trashed it. History has done everything to it, but ignore it.

00:11:41:01 - 00:12:05:11

Unknown

Of all the passages, the deal with the suffering savior, the one, the grass, my heart the most is the latter part of what we just read. The sixth hour. On the Jewish clock, starting at Sun up the 6:00 in the morning, the six hours, 12:00 noon.

00:12:09:08 - 00:12:24:03

Unknown

When the Sun is that it zenith and its brightest and its hottest and they've been mocking the savior, they've been spitting upon them, they've been saying, if you're truly the son of God, as you claim to be, come on down from the cross and we will believe it.

00:12:24:10 - 00:12:45:22

Unknown

He could have called 10,000 angels. But he died alone. For you and me. And it's almost as if what is about to happen, God said, I will not allow man to watch. And he sticks up his hand and he blots out the sun.

00:12:48:18 - 00:13:10:08

Unknown

The scripture says from the sixth hour to the ninth hour, there's not a ray of sunlight. three hours of total darkness. And I'll guarantee you the cursing stop. And the mockery. And the reviling. And a holy hush covers that hillside.

00:13:12:20 - 00:13:42:17

Unknown

Warren, where's B says this is the darkness of sympathy. Creation has gone into mourning. When Jesus was born, he turned midnight into midday, and when Jesus died, he turned midday into midnight. It is the darkness of solemnity. You will recall that the ninth plague of Egypt.

00:13:46:00 - 00:14:14:29

Unknown

Was three days of darkness. Followed by the death, the 10th plague, the death of the firstborn. And now, before the death of God's only begotten

son, those three days of darkness picture these three hours of darkness. And it is the darkness of secrecy, because what we are going to talk about.

00:14:16:27 - 00:14:37:20

Unknown

No one was allowed to see. When the high priest in the Old Testament entered into the holy of Holies to present the sacrifice no one was allowed to watch. And as our great high priest becomes our eternal sacrifice, we can look back.

00:14:39:10 - 00:15:12:25

Unknown

But no one was allowed to see it. And it is out of that darkness that he cries. My God. My God. Why is thou forsaken me? There are several theories as to what was happening. We know that he was quoting Psalm, 20 to one, in fact, as he says things from the cross.

00:15:13:10 - 00:15:40:08

Unknown

He quotes from the Old Testament scriptures. But there is little doubt in most theologians mind that this was not an expression of feeling, this was an expression of being. Martin Luther sat in his study for four hours and stared at the wall.

00:15:42:26 - 00:16:02:13

Unknown

And the servants would come by and look and try to figure out what was going on. Family members. And at the end of the four hours, he just jumped up from his chair and exclaimed, God forsaken a God who can understand?

00:16:06:29 - 00:16:45:11

Unknown

I can't. But it happened. For the only time and their eternal existence as a Trinity God, the father forsook God, the son. Tell me, do you know anything about being forsaken? Could it be that in the midst of our student body, we have some young people who years ago were forsaken by your parents?

00:16:48:09 - 00:17:15:08

Unknown

We've had some in our student body like that. I don't mean they were orphans, I don't mean that their parents died. I mean, their parents didn't want them. We have Christian homes in Indiana and other places. Where parents have taken children that they didn't want and gave them to Christians to raise.

00:17:19:26 - 00:17:43:20

Unknown

Oh, to live with the thought of being forsaken by your parents. I'll never forget being at one of our prayer meetings and one of the homes. From here in Grace Baptist Church and. Some people I've known for a good

while, but as we shared prayer requests, shared the requests that they had a son that they'd not heard

00:17:43:20 - 00:18:13:16

Unknown

from in years. Yeah. Parents who forsake children, but children who forsake parents. Last night I was watching CBS News, and maybe you saw it on their eye on America or whatever, they entitle that section. They talked about the elderly.

00:18:15:09 - 00:18:35:05

Unknown

Who are being dropped off in malls? Hospitals. You know, you read about people who take their babies and just leave them someplace and hope that someone will take care of them. That's what they're doing to the elderly. And they interviewed people.

00:18:37:02 - 00:18:54:08

Unknown

And the thing that really got me is the whole argument was the government has caused this. The government is failing. If we provided more money for homes, for people like this and so on, we wouldn't have this problem and I thought to myself, whatever happened to the sense of responsibility.

00:18:55:23 - 00:19:12:28

Unknown

Of child to parent. This is Dixon, and I had a wonderful time with the grandkids and with the son and the daughter in law, Scott and Sarah and the kids. one of my favorite things is is they like for me to tell them stories when they go to bed at night and I make them up.

00:19:13:07 - 00:19:32:03

Unknown

I just have the funnest time, you know, making up stories. And I have this. I had this story about, you know, Drew Boy the dinosaur and been Bob the dinosaur and Claire Bear the dinosaur. And in it, we just we just have a great time and then they always want you to read to them.

00:19:32:04 - 00:19:45:15

Unknown

I mean, you could literally from the time you arrive at the house until you put them in bed at night, just read to them. They love to have you read. Last night, Mrs. Dix and I were reading on a cassette tape to send to them because they like to have you read.

00:19:47:06 - 00:20:08:22

Unknown

But I'll tell you. They wear me out and I love them. But there comes a time when you're glad to be winging it, you know, and on your way back in. But Sarah can't get away. I mean, Sarah is with them from the time they get up, and she doesn't want to get up until the time they

00:20:08:22 - 00:20:27:07

Unknown

go to bed and they are just hanging all over. Read to me, do this, do that and all. I think about how she is pouring her life into those kids. And to think. That 50 years from now. They won't want to pour their life into her.

00:20:29:25 - 00:20:50:26

Unknown

They've interviewed them, and they said we've reversed roles, it's like now they are our children and we are the parents, that's absolutely right. There's a sense that that's what the scripture teaches and what our responsibility is. But no, in our country today, literally tens of thousands of the elderly are being forsaken.

00:20:53:21 - 00:21:24:22

Unknown

It's a terrible word. Now, Jesus knew something of being forsaken. He was first taken by his family. By his hometown. Buys Nation. By his friends. I, Peter and Judas and the Apostles on the list goes on and on, and never once did he ask why.

00:21:28:27 - 00:21:53:10

Unknown

But now he does. He had gone through all of the sufferings and the torture and the beatings and the hair pulled from his face. And he never asked why he was alam going to the slaughter. But now he is outstretched on Calvary in the midst of that darkness, and there is that piercing cry.

00:21:53:11 - 00:22:22:08

Unknown

My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me? His heart breaks. I've been blessed this year by pulling out of my library a volume that from time to time. I've gone to, but never systematically like I've chosen to this year.

00:22:23:18 - 00:22:42:18

Unknown

I would highly recommend it to you, it's Charles Hadden surgeons morning and evening, it's a devotional thought for the morning and a devotional thought for the evening. You must read Spurgeon. Just as much as you can just saturate yourself in Spurgeon.

00:22:43:08 - 00:23:09:06

Unknown

I don't know if there's ever been other than back in New Testament times. Any preacher, any thinker, quite like Charles Hadden Spurgeon. No man can enter into the full meaning of these words. My God, my God, why is thou forsaken me?

00:23:10:17 - 00:23:33:10

Unknown

Some of us think that we could utter that cry. There are seasons when the brightness of our fathers smile is eclipsed by clouds and darkness. But let us remember that God never does really forsake us. It is only a seeming forsaking with us, but in Christ's case, it was a real forsaking.

00:23:34:17 - 00:24:00:23

Unknown

We agree that a little withdrawal of our father's love. But the real turning away of God's face from his son, who shall calculate how deep the agony which it caused him. That's the separation. But why? Why would God, the father forsake God, the son?

00:24:02:06 - 00:24:21:21

Unknown

You and I both know as we study the word of God that when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were down there in the fiery furnace, God didn't forsake them. In fact, he could be seen walking around with them. He didn't forsake Daniel in his hour of sorrow and trial.

00:24:21:27 - 00:24:47:02

Unknown

In fact, he was there to shut the mouths of the lions. And the martyrs. Surely you will or have read Fox's Book of Martyrs, and as you see those people who were hung on crosses and burned it steaks and fed to the lions, somehow they always had a piece and either some verses or a song on their

00:24:47:02 - 00:25:16:09

Unknown

hearts and their lips because they sense that God was with them. Well, the great things is to be around a dying saint. It was not so out of it because of the medication and other things and really knows what's going on and as they are about to leave this life, the joy that is there because they are

00:25:16:10 - 00:25:53:19

Unknown

leaving Earth's pilgrimage and entering into eternity ushered in by the presence of God. Then why isn't God with this son? Because of you. It wasn't me. It's all about sin. You see, it was said that separated Adam and Eve from God, right?

00:25:56:11 - 00:26:16:21

Unknown

It was a sin and is sin that separates us eternally from God in hell. And it is our sin that separated God, the son from God, the father, as he was made sin for us, this one who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

00:26:21:09 - 00:26:40:21

Unknown

And as Jesus Christ becomes the sin of the world, almighty God pulls back the bow of his judgment filled with all the arrows of his wrath and sends them winging into the heart of his son. And Jesus Christ, in those three hours literally experienced the eternal torments of hell.

00:26:42:06 - 00:27:04:02

Unknown

You say, how could anyone go through eternity in three hours? No one could, but an eternal God. And that's why Jesus had to become our sacrifice. But the greatest agony of all was not the experience of the judgment itself, but that God wasn't there.

00:27:06:04 - 00:27:33:20

Unknown

My God, my God, why? Has thou forsaken me? John Calvin said if Christ had died only about holy death, it would have been any factual. Unless his soul shared in the punishment. He would have been the redeemer. Bodies alone.

00:27:42:27 - 00:28:08:05

Unknown

What's all this? Dude, are you to me? The separation because of our sin. Glory to God. That's salvation. On Friday night, we attended a combined Good Friday service there in Michigan, and Eric Maltz, our graduate, preached and he's preached from Jonah.

00:28:08:26 - 00:28:27:09

Unknown

Salvation is of the Lord. We are here today, those of us who profess faith in Jesus Christ, administrators, faculty, staff, student body, college family, any visitors who are here, who are born again and may I say to any who are not?

00:28:28:09 - 00:28:46:06

Unknown

That all how we pray that today will be your day of salvation, that today will be the day that you will repent of your sinful living and by faith, turn to this one who provided so greater sacrifice there on Calvary and that you too would go out of fear a new creature in him before because he does

00:28:46:07 - 00:28:58:09

Unknown

just stay on that cross. He was placed in the tomb. He rose from the dead. He's alive and he wants to live in you. But most of us say, yes, I've experienced that well, then don't ever get over it.

00:28:58:20 - 00:29:14:26

Unknown

They'll never take this for granted. Let it always be fresh in our hearts and our minds and our lives. May it motivate us a lot? No, it's not that you are bought with the price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

00:29:23:11 - 00:32:14:17

Unknown

I just want you to think and meditate. No comments. Starting with 499. The stock capella. I also draw. All four of those. This was. My son. And it's. This is all. You need to. You. Chris? Have a good day.