

Dr. Paul H. Dixon
Christ Is Above All
September 30, 2020

Unedited Transcript

00:00:18:26 - 00:00:43:05

Paul H. Dixon

Well, thank you, President White, it's always an honor to speak in the Cedar Ville Chapel. I started preaching in the Cedar Hill chapel when it was the Phillips Chapel and that small building across the road and Dr. Jeremiah would have me come in and hold evangelistic campaigns and Bible conferences here.

00:00:43:27 - 00:00:59:06

Paul H. Dixon

And then the opportunity to be with the students during the years as president and now as chancellor. And so I do not take this for granted. I'm honored that Dr. White would ask me to do this during alumni week.

00:00:59:24 - 00:01:20:01

Paul H. Dixon

I want you to pray for him and for the trustees. This is such a crucial time for the institution and how we thank God for the trustees that he's given us over the decade. Yesterday, I listened to Dr. Pam Johnson as she shared her testimony.

00:01:20:23 - 00:01:36:10

Paul H. Dixon

I knew some of it. I didn't know all of it, and I found it to be such a blessing. And I'm so grateful for the way God works in all of our lives, and we're going to be talking about some of that today.

00:01:37:01 - 00:02:08:03

Paul H. Dixon

The text for the hour is found in the gospel of John. Chapter three, verse 31, and it is a verse that for years I didn't know it was there. And part of the reason is the third chapter of John has so many great verses, probably more focus has been on John 3:16 than any other verse in the

00:02:08:03 - 00:02:29:25

Paul H. Dixon

Bible. But you just look at Jesus and his interaction with Nicodemus. Look at John. 3:36. What makes it so clear he believes in the son as everlasting life, who did not believe the son shall not see life, but the wrath of God by the Earth on him?

00:02:29:25 - 00:02:55:16

Paul H. Dixon

So when you're going to study God's Love God's wrath, you go to John 3:36 and I love John 3:30, where John said, speaking of Jesus, he must increase, but I must decrease. And it says. The next verse he who comes from above is above all.

00:02:57:17 - 00:03:25:20

Paul H. Dixon

He who is of the Earth is earthly. And speaks of the Earth. And he who comes from heaven. Is above all. That's the text, and that's the message. Christ. Is above all. The famous Southern Baptist preacher, RG Lee said Jesus is heaven's bread.

00:03:27:00 - 00:03:55:06

Paul H. Dixon

For Earth's hunger. Heaven's clothing. For Earth's nakedness, heaven's gain for Earth's loss, heavens hope for Earth to spare, heaven's justification for Earth condemnation, heavens peace for Earth, strive heaven, salvation for Earth, damnation, no wonder John 331 here that comes from above.

00:03:55:28 - 00:04:38:23

Paul H. Dixon

Jesus is above all. Samuel Rutherford said I'd rather. Go to hell. If Jesus was there. Then to go to heaven. If Jesus wasn't there. I would love to go any place, Rutherford said, where we would find Jesus. But you say to me today, how can you be so dogmatic crisis about Buddha Christ is above all, who claim

00:04:38:23 - 00:05:00:04

Paul H. Dixon

to be God? I want to show you from the gospel of John. Now, students, those of you listening who are not here today. At some time during the day, go to your Bible, look at the gospel of John and find out why it was written.

00:05:01:26 - 00:05:31:04

Paul H. Dixon

Because as you open your Bible to the gospel of John, Chapter 20. And verse 31, these things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ and that believing you might have lived through his name. I've had the privilege of having a measure of ministry to professional athletes over the course of 25 years, I spoke

00:05:31:04 - 00:05:55:09

Paul H. Dixon

to all the National League Baseball teams. I always loved baseball and now that they're in the playoffs and though it's quite unusual, I like to watch it. I can't begin to tell you how many baseball players who are agnostics came to Christ because they read the gospel of John.

00:05:56:26 - 00:06:16:24

Paul H. Dixon

It was written that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ. And so I want to take a few verses early and John to show you why Christ is above all, you might want to market in your Bible or even just in some notes and go back.

00:06:16:24 - 00:06:41:12

Paul H. Dixon

But in chapter one, verse three, he is above all because he's the creator. All things were made through him. And without him, nothing was made that was made. Now, verse ten. He was in the world and the world was made through him and the world did not know him.

00:06:43:14 - 00:07:06:11

Paul H. Dixon

Very clear, starting in the first chapter, Jesus is the creator. Now, as you study the word of God, creation is attributed to the Trinity God, the father, God, the son and God, the Holy Spirit, and the special emphasis in Chapter one is on Jesus the creator now.

00:07:07:12 - 00:07:23:16

Paul H. Dixon

You don't have to be very smart to understand if he created it all, then he is above it all. Christ is, above all, because he's the creator. Number two, he is above all, because he had a birth like no one else.

00:07:23:17 - 00:07:50:10

Paul H. Dixon

Look at chapter one, verse 14. The word Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father full of grace and true. It's amazing. We beheld him who was made flesh and dwelt among us, one of the great truths that we celebrated Christmas.

00:07:50:15 - 00:08:13:16

Paul H. Dixon

But hopefully all year long, Jesus was virgin born. Now, no one else was born like Jesus, that says he's above all. I love some of the things, the stories that Paul Harvey would tell when he was alive on his radio program and then often they would end up in books.

00:08:14:11 - 00:08:39:17

Paul H. Dixon

And I love this story, he told about this agnostic father and husband. And his wife and kids knew the Lord, and it was Christmas Eve and they were going to the service at church. And he was left there to drink his hot chocolate in front of the fireplace, and all of a sudden he heard a crash into

00:08:39:17 - 00:09:00:16

Paul H. Dixon

the picture window. And then there was another crash. And he went over and found out there was a flock of birds caught in the winter snow storm. You know, I have to help those birds, hundreds of birds crashing into the window trying to get out of the storm.

00:09:01:10 - 00:09:19:27

Paul H. Dixon

And so we went out to his barn and he opened the barn doors and then he turned on the lights, hoping that the birds would go into the barn for the shelter, but they didn't do it. And then he decided maybe I can lead them into the barn.

00:09:20:13 - 00:09:42:05

Paul H. Dixon

So he ran out into the barn yard and started taking his arms and flapping them to lead them into the barn, but not a 11 end. And in desperation, this agnostic said, Oh, it looks like the only way I'm going to be able to communicate with those birds is if I become a book.

00:09:45:29 - 00:10:08:16

Paul H. Dixon

And he went inside. And he got dressed. And he walked into the church and sat next to his wife and his kids. Because for the first time in his life, he understood that the only way. That God could communicate with man was for God to become a man.

00:10:08:18 - 00:10:30:26

Paul H. Dixon

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus, so he's above all in this creation, above all in birth, and he's above all in his death. Look at verse 29. The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, behold.

00:10:32:07 - 00:10:51:14

Paul H. Dixon

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is walking down the road, and John the Baptist takes that bony finger points that it Jesus, and there comes the lamb of God. Who takes away the sin of the world?

00:10:52:00 - 00:11:10:00

Paul H. Dixon

He was pointing beyond Jesus, he was pointing to a cross. And that day that would come when Jesus would hang on that cross. And die for our sins now. Listen to this closely. Jesus was above all in his death.

00:11:11:28 - 00:11:45:11

Paul H. Dixon

A lot of people died on crosses. But he died like nobody else. He died a second death. Jesus died for our sins and in that death. Jesus went through hell. Not the most amazing. Passages in the Bible when you find in the Gospels.

00:11:46:17 - 00:12:10:25

Paul H. Dixon

In March 15. The Jesus is on that cross, and all of a sudden in the middle of the day, almighty God sticks up his hand and blots out the sun and darkness veils the land. There's no laughing. There's no cursing.

00:12:12:20 - 00:12:34:01

Paul H. Dixon

Tremendous silence. What happened during those three hours that God would not allow man to see his son went through hell? Oh, you say, how could anybody go through eternity in three hours? Nobody could. But Jesus. The son of God.

00:12:36:00 - 00:13:03:16

Paul H. Dixon

And it's during that time that he exclaim, My God, my God, why is thou forsaken me? Martin Luther sat in his study and stared at the wall for four hours. His wife came by, the kids came by what in the world is going on with Martin and all of a sudden he jumped up and exclaimed, God forsaken

00:13:03:16 - 00:13:30:02

Paul H. Dixon

of God, who can understand it? I can't. But he did it. Jesus was forsaken of God so that we wouldn't have to go to hell and be forsaken for all eternity. If we know him by faith, we will not experience hell that he did.

00:13:30:21 - 00:13:49:10

Paul H. Dixon

He's above all because he's the creator. He's above all because his virgin born, he's above all because of his death on the cross. And then the capstone is in Chapter two. He's above all, in his resurrection. This is an amazing text.

00:13:50:26 - 00:14:13:01

Paul H. Dixon

In Chapter two, verse 18, so the Jews answered and said to him, What sign do you show to us since you do these things? Pause. The Jews were always looking for a sign. Jesus said, I will give you a sign.

00:14:13:01 - 00:14:26:14

Paul H. Dixon

He answered them destroy this temple in in three days, I'll raise it up, and the Jews looked at each other and said it is taken 46 years to build this temple and you're going to raise it up in three days.

00:14:26:18 - 00:14:46:27

Paul H. Dixon

He won. Speaking of the temple. He was speaking of the temple of his body, not that physical temple. And therefore, when he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this to them, and they believed the scripture and the word, which Jesus had said, Now get the picture.

00:14:47:08 - 00:15:05:15

Paul H. Dixon

Give us a sign. Jesus is standing in front of a temple that it took 46 years to build 1010 thousand workmen. He said, Destroy this temple and I'll raise it up in three days when talking about bricks and mortar.

00:15:05:20 - 00:15:24:29

Paul H. Dixon

Talking about his body. The prophecy of his resurrection, he was placed in that tomb, he came forth from the dead and the capstone all we're

talking about him being the creator, his virgin birth, his death on the cross for our sins is that he came out of the tomb.

00:15:26:20 - 00:15:46:12

Paul H. Dixon

Victoria's. There's no question. He is above all. Now I'd like to give you a quiz. I want to give you a test. And for those of you here in the chapel, it's pretty tough for you to answer with your masks.

00:15:47:14 - 00:16:03:15

Paul H. Dixon

But John Wood told me I could do anything I wanted to because I was the chancellor, I'm just so grateful for that, John. So I want you to slip your mass down to take the test because this is an oral exam.

00:16:05:11 - 00:16:26:19

Paul H. Dixon

How many of you believe that Jesus Christ is, above all, you believe his, the creator? Would you say Amen, man? Number two. How many of you believe that Christ is, above all, because you honestly believe that he is the virgin born son of God, would you say amen?

00:16:29:07 - 00:16:46:14

Paul H. Dixon

How many of you believe that Jesus died on the cross and without the shedding of his blood, there is no remission of sin. He's above all in his death. Would you say Amen? Amen. How many of you literally believe literally bodily arose from the dead?

00:16:46:19 - 00:17:02:28

Paul H. Dixon

And is it the right hand of the father now? Would you say amen? So I believe from what I've heard that we are unanimous theologically that we all believe that Christ is above all. And I want to ask you one more question, and I don't want.

00:17:04:05 - 00:17:31:26

Paul H. Dixon

Any amen. I just want you to think. Is he really? You say you're questioning. Our doctrinal belief, our theology is faculty as staff, as students at Centerville, that's for the word of God and and the testimony of Jesus Christ, no, I do not question that.

00:17:33:12 - 00:18:04:20

Paul H. Dixon

That's not the question I'm asking. Student, is he really above all in your lives? So I have to ask faculty staff, is he above all? Is I just jotted down a couple of things. And you can run with this and make the application however you want to, but is he above all the people in our lives?

00:18:08:21 - 00:18:31:08

Paul H. Dixon

I have a wonderful wife. Pat Todd on our faculty, the language and literature department for 25 years, we've been married 60 years. And I just can't say enough for Pat. She couldn't be here today. She'll be here the Lord willing Friday, but for Dr. White's State of the university address.

00:18:31:08 - 00:18:53:28

Paul H. Dixon

But. Pat can't be number one in my life. I know what the Bible teaches about where the lives should be, where the husband should be. Christ has to be above Pat. Now you can make the application if you're married.

00:18:54:03 - 00:19:17:10

Paul H. Dixon

For those of you and students, you're here, many of you are not married. In the course of your years at cedar level, you may end up getting married or shortly thereafter, or may be a long time. But during the course of your relationships with the opposite sex on this campus, you're going to get serious about someone, maybe

00:19:21:12 - 00:19:39:12

Paul H. Dixon

. And this is the first time you've ever felt like this, and you will reach the conclusion, I love him or I love her, wonderful. But Christ has to be above that guy. Christ has to be above that young lady.

00:19:41:05 - 00:20:12:25

Paul H. Dixon

There is such a danger in this environment and in the whole dating process. We get enamored with someone, we think about them. We get consumed with the relationship. Christ. Above all, the people in our lives. Before I became president and started preaching here before Dr. Jeremiah would have me come.

00:20:13:09 - 00:20:31:14

Paul H. Dixon

My primary ministry, though, I was out in churches as an evangelist, I always took a lot of time with young people. And I remember when I would come here and and the number of young men and young women who would come to me and want to talk about that relationship.

00:20:33:07 - 00:20:52:04

Paul H. Dixon

And I watched. As some of those relationships came unglued. And you never felt this way before, and you're so enamored with that other person, and all of a sudden, they don't love you. What do you do? Do you quit school?

00:20:54:09 - 00:21:22:18

Paul H. Dixon

You quit on God. Some do. Why? Because they had the relationship, the priority one Christ, above all the people. Same thing is applicable when it comes to our parents. Oh, you know what the Bible teaches about parents and so many of you have wonderful parents.

00:21:24:24 - 00:21:41:06

Paul H. Dixon

And sometimes God takes that father home before you graduate or God takes that mother home, and that's a very sad time. But one of the saddest I would walk down here after chapel talking to the students and the young lady would come up to me and start weeping.

00:21:41:06 - 00:22:08:20

Paul H. Dixon

And I'd say, What's wrong? She said My mom and dad are getting divorced tomorrow. And I can't tell you how many students. Had such a tough time staying in school, staying focused when mom and dad, they thought, would never end that relationship and they get a divorce.

00:22:11:28 - 00:22:30:04

Paul H. Dixon

You have to keep it in perspective, as heartbreaking as it is. Christ, above all. And our parents when it comes to people. one of the things I've thought about a lot through the years is Christ, above all and our pastors.

00:22:30:17 - 00:22:50:26

Paul H. Dixon

Oh, I love pastors. You have to understand I've never pastored a church, been an interim pastor at the Charleston Bible Center for a while, about ten months. But I've never been a full time pastor, I've been an itinerant preacher, I've traveled all over preaching the word of God, preaching the gospel, and I love pastors.

00:22:51:00 - 00:23:17:08

Paul H. Dixon

I was this on Sunday, I drove to Allegan in Michigan because one of our trustees had gone home to be with the Lord, and we had the visitation Sunday night and the service Monday. And so I'm there, and Alagbon and that young pastor, I was so impressed with him and I sat down with him over lunch before

00:23:17:08 - 00:23:40:16

Paul H. Dixon

we had the service Monday, and I said, Tell me how you're doing it. And he said not well. He said, you know what it is to be a pastor during COVID. You know what it is to try to keep your people happy during COVID, if you'll notice in this funeral service, we are wearing masks.

00:23:41:03 - 00:24:00:15

Paul H. Dixon

I will have people upset with me because some don't have masks on. He said Our policy is you come into church, you wear a mask. You sit down in the service. You can take your mask off to sing and the whole situation like that.

00:24:00:22 - 00:24:17:08

Paul H. Dixon

And he said some people are just angry that they have to wear a mask to come into church. So you have those who want mass, those who don't want mass, he said, it affects your offering, it affects everything that you do.

00:24:17:19 - 00:24:37:24

Paul H. Dixon

Had you stopped to think about that in your pastor? Pray for your pastor. Support your pastor. Pat and I have had such fondness for all the pastors that God has given us and given our family for Scott, for me, for Pat.

00:24:38:01 - 00:25:08:18

Paul H. Dixon

Over the years, part of what's happened in the strength of our family is because of all the godly pastors. But I want to tell you, pastors, blow it. Pastors make mistakes. And you need to understand that, and there are those who quit the church and quit on God because the pastor made a major mistake or the pastor

00:25:08:18 - 00:25:33:22

Paul H. Dixon

leaves. It's not just pastors, it's all spiritual leaders. I'll use this as an illustration. Cedar, Bill, I wish you could know, Dr Jeremiah. Oh, what a wonderful man of God. one of my best friends and Dr. Jeremiah lived here in Cedar Bill, and he would sit in chapel right about there.

00:25:34:19 - 00:25:48:27

Paul H. Dixon

And he had, I don't know, six, seven, eight young ladies who would always sit with him. He was like their grandfather. And I just love to look out and see Dr. Jeremiah there and the young ladies with him.

00:25:49:16 - 00:26:06:00

Paul H. Dixon

And one day I said to the young ladies, What is the best thing that you do for our chancellor? They said, keep him awake. It would go to sleep. He was up in his eighties, he went on to be with the Lord when he was 87.

00:26:06:08 - 00:26:24:05

Paul H. Dixon

But I want to tell you as much as Dr. Jeremiah to this girl. He had some weaknesses. He made some mistakes. And yet what happens is you can get so enamored with the leader and the next guy who came in, Oh, Dixon.

00:26:24:10 - 00:26:44:24

Paul H. Dixon

I mean, he was full of weaknesses. He blew it so many times. one of the classics was when we made the strategic move to bring computers to our campus. I did a good job of bringing the faculty along, the trustees, the staff.

00:26:46:12 - 00:27:05:20

Paul H. Dixon

But I just figured students would get it, there wouldn't be any issue, I blew it. Students were so upset, and I had to get up in front of the student body and apologize for my ineptness. Then Dr. Brown came along.

00:27:06:22 - 00:27:21:27

Paul H. Dixon

I appreciate it, Dr. Brown. I'll tell you one thing above everything else with Brown. He loved the students. one day where he ran the car and he said, you know what, I just love the students at Cetaphil. He had been at Bryan before he came to the city.

00:27:21:29 - 00:27:47:03

Paul H. Dixon

I love the students at Bryant and the students loved him. But he had problems. He was an imperfect leader. I appreciate Dr. White and all that he has brought to the institution. But Dr. White can tell you that there have been times when he has made a big mistake.

00:27:48:03 - 00:28:10:03

Paul H. Dixon

I think there was even that many weeks ago when he stood up there and just talked to you about that. All I'm saying is I don't care who the leader is. That leader, you cannot view that leader above Christ, it's Christ above the leader.

00:28:10:29 - 00:28:28:04

Paul H. Dixon

So Christ, above all the people in our lives. Let me just also mention that Christ needs to be above you and your vocation. I mean, we could spend some time on avocation. I don't know, where are you going to work?

00:28:28:05 - 00:28:41:26

Paul H. Dixon

I don't know what you're going to do with your life. All I know is as you look. Where God is going to lead you and how you're going to use your gifts and use your education, figure out how are you going to use it for Jesus?

00:28:45:11 - 00:29:02:13

Paul H. Dixon

It's alumni week, we have a lot of alumni around the world, and they've accomplished a great deal, some of them are known, some of them are not known. But I want you to know the most important thing that has happened in the lives of our alumni is they walked out of here and said, How can I serve

00:29:02:13 - 00:29:32:28

Paul H. Dixon

Jesus? How can I honor and glorify his name? So it's Christ above all. And our vacation. Biggest question students have always have is how do I know God's will for my life? And we had so many wonderful preachers come across this platform over the years, and one of my favorites was Tony Evans.

00:29:34:23 - 00:29:56:06

Paul H. Dixon

And one night in a service in a conference, Tony Evans said this. He said, You want to know God's will for your life. No God, and you'll know God's will in a good. No, God. And you'll know God's will put Jesus above all.

00:29:56:10 - 00:30:16:15

Paul H. Dixon

And he'll direct all of your steps. Priced above all, a very wealthy man and woman were blessed with a little boy. Hey, just live for him, they loved it. They poured their millions into taking care of him, but he became quite sick.

00:30:18:25 - 00:30:36:21

Paul H. Dixon

They went to the hospital. And they said he's not going to make it. And the doctor finally walked out of his room, looked at mom and dad and said he's gone. He died. And the mother was so heartbroken, she dropped to the floor.

00:30:37:21 - 00:30:54:13

Paul H. Dixon

And died with a heart attack. Now, the father's not only lost his son, but he's lost his wife. So he goes to his home, shuts himself up like a hermit, withers away and dies. And the lawyers couldn't find any will.

00:30:55:19 - 00:31:15:03

Paul H. Dixon

They didn't know what to do with the inheritance, the multimillions. All they could find was a slip of paper, said Auction everything I own. So they did. And the big day came and people came from all over the city for the auctioning of all the great furniture, what was in the house.

00:31:15:12 - 00:31:32:23

Paul H. Dixon

They went from room to room and all of a sudden the door opened. The front door and little old lady walked in. Gin fit. She didn't have the clothes. She didn't drive a car. She came over on a bus.

00:31:33:24 - 00:31:48:06

Paul H. Dixon

But she followed them room to room, and when they went into the little boy's nursery, tears welled up in her eyes. See, she was the little boy's nurse, and she'd come there just to get something to remember him by.

00:31:50:23 - 00:32:04:07

Paul H. Dixon

They bid on the beautiful, handmade baby bed, but she couldn't afford that. And it looked like everything was gone and they were leaving, and then all of a sudden the auctioneer said, Wait a minute, there's something alive. There's a picture of a little boy.

00:32:05:10 - 00:32:21:11

Paul H. Dixon

I don't know what you'd want, whether it's in a dime store frame. People chuckled and kept going. And by now, the tears are pouring down that nurses face. And she said, Sir, I don't have much, but I have \$3 and I'll give you \$3 for that little boy's picture.

00:32:21:17 - 00:32:35:28

Paul H. Dixon

He said it's yours. And when she walked over to take it from the wall touched it. Something fell from behind it. It was official looking. They called for the lawyer. She came. Sure enough, it was the man's will.

00:32:37:25 - 00:33:09:15

Paul H. Dixon

It said everything I own. Goes to the one. Who loved my son enough? Dubai is picture. Cetaphil family, everything God own has, and he has everything worth having goes to that one today, that one out there listening in the dormitory, everyone to that one who loves his son enough.

00:33:11:26 - 00:33:24:06

Paul H. Dixon

To make him above all in their lives. Hugh comes from a heaven is above all. God help us to make him so. Have a wonderful day.