

Paul H. Dixon
New, Necessary, and Now
circa 1971

Unedited Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

... your red Bible and turn to the book of Hebrews, Hebrews 9. We're speaking this afternoon on the subject, new, now, and necessary. New, now, and necessary. Our generation of young people need to learn if they are to propagate the great fundamental Bible doctrines we hold dear. And we must be faithful in seeing to it that, we who have been handed these marvelous truths by faithful men in turn pass them on to the generation that follows us.

Paul H. Dixon:

In Hebrews 9:15: we read, for this cause he Jesus Christ, is the mediator of the New Testament. That by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the First Testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. But where a Testament or a will is, there must also a necessity be the death of the testator. For a Testament is a forced after men are dead. Otherwise, it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Paul H. Dixon:

Where upon, neither the First Testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law. He took the blood of calves, and goats with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book. And all the people saying, "This is the blood of the Testament, which God has enjoined unto you." Moreover, he sprinkled with blood, both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the Ministry.

Paul H. Dixon:

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood. And without shedding of blood there's no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heaven should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hand, which are the figures of the true. But into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God, for us.

Paul H. Dixon:

One thing will change about the title of this message. Instead of talking to you about new, now, and necessary, we'll talk to you about new, necessary, and now. Well, that's the order the words appear in this particular passage of scripture, as far as the truth, we want to present to you. New, necessary, and now. We hear a great deal today about new things; new songs, new styles, new automobiles, new hairdos. New, it's a much used word. But it's one of those words that has meanings which can be very opposed to each other.

Paul H. Dixon:

Most people when they think of newness and talk of newness, are talking and thinking about the newness of novelty. But what we are talking about here is the newness of quality. And there's a vast difference between novelty and quality. What the world calls new has to do with the newness of novelty, and it wears off. The new hit parade songs of today will not even be remembered a year from now. Your new clothes will be outgrown in another year or two, if some of you keep eating like you have

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been this week. New cars soon rust away and join the junk keeps of the country. We talk about newness, but we are talking about novelty.

Paul H. Dixon:

You know hair today and gone tomorrow. Some of you girls are falling in love with guys because of their curly hair. And you have no idea that 20 years from now you'll find out they have a curly, wavy head. My dad always told me, "Never propose to a girl until you've gone to her home and seen her mother. That's what she'll look like 20 years from now." And many an hour glass turns into a blimp in 20 years. That's the newness of novelty you see.

Paul H. Dixon:

But God's word is talking about qualitative newness, qualitative newness. The Bible will talk about eternal life. But when the word of God talks about new life and eternal life, it's not talking about simply a duration of life. It's talking about a definition of life. Qualitatively not quantitatively. Eternal life refers to a quality of life which I now possess in Christ. And newness of life refers not to some novel passing fad, but to something that is eternally, everlastingly new.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, when Jesus Christ came, he came to provide us with a New Testament, a New Covenant, a new life. And that New Testament was new in the first century. It was new in the 10th century. It is new in the 19th century. It is new in the 20th century. It will forever be new. We're talking about something that has to do with a quality of life. Jesus Christ said, "This is the New Testament in my blood." And everybody here today is a young person. Young people we are preaching a gospel. We are proclaiming a book. We are teaching doctrine that is qualitatively, everlastingly new. It will always be up to date. It will always be ahead of tomorrow morning's newspaper. It's new.

Paul H. Dixon:

The Apostle John talks of a new Commandment. Paul writes of a new creature or a new creation in Christ. In Ephesians, we are told of a new man. The writer of Hebrews speaks of a new and living way. In the book of the Revelation in chapter two, we read of a new name. In chapter three, the new Jerusalem. In chapter five, a new song. In chapter 21, a new heaven and a new earth. And in revelation 21:5: the grand consummation of the ages is seen when we read these wonderful words from God, "Behold, I make all things new."

Paul H. Dixon:

Young people, we have a New Testament. This newness speaks of promise. Look at Hebrews 9:15: for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the First Testament. They which are called, might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. This New Testament speaks of promise. It speaks of guarantee. It speaks of that everlasting, swearing of the Almighty God by himself. That what he has promised he will perform in your behalf and in my behalf. And God tells us that in Jesus Christ there is an abundance of life, and it is a quality of life that never grows old.

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Dear friend, as I look around this congregation today, I see two of my old Sunday school teachers. Who taught me in Sunday school 25 years ago, at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo. Mr. Rapus is down here, Mr. Wilber Hale. They were teaching me this book 25 or 30 years ago. And this book was new then to me. And this book is new to me, today. And if God keeps me on this earth another 40 years, this book I have before me will still be the New Testament. It's ageless.

Paul H. Dixon:

Secondly, not only must we talk of something new, we must talk of something necessary. Look at verse 22, verse 22 of Hebrews 9: and almost all things are by the law purged with blood. And without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary, necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these. But the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices the needs.

Paul H. Dixon:

Young people as has been impressed upon you already by Evangelist Dixon. The word of God is the key to your spiritual success. The New Testament is that authority upon which you stand. And this New Covenant in Christ, mediated by the Son of God himself. This New Covenant is the basis for our assurance. Our assurance is on the bedrock of God's infallible, inherent authority and promise. But there's something else this generation of young people needs to learn. And that is that the God of heaven and earth is vitally and vigorously concerned about man's sinfulness. And this passage of scripture says it was necessary that purification be accomplished.

Paul H. Dixon:

We're living in a namby-pamby, wishy-washy, white liver, yellow back, thumb-sucking, toe-kissing generation that wants their sin in Christ, both. They want to be a Christian and they want to be worldlings, both. They want an easy believe this and it says, just bow your head and repeat this prayer, and then keep on living like you're living. And as I go around this country from church to church, from youth rally to youth rally, from conference to conference. I'm pleading with youth directors and pastors not to accommodate to the standards of this day. I'm pleading with them not to accommodate to the sin of this day. Not to compromise with it.

Paul H. Dixon:

But to lift our young people, to challenge our young people. To show them the marvelous truths of the Holy Scriptures. To show them the value of submission to the Holy Spirit, is the Holy Spirit. And it is necessary that sin be drastically dealt with. And it was therefore necessary that the Son of God himself suffered, and pour out his life blood. Because sin must be faced, sin must be judged. And the celebrities of this generation not withstanding, the religious leaders of this generation not withstanding, the new evangelicalism of this century not withstanding. God does. And God will deal with sin. It's necessary.

Paul H. Dixon:

Psychology makes excuses for sin. Education whitewashes sin. Rationalism makes room for sin. Sociology overlooks sin. Materialism denies the existence of sin. Infidelity scoffs at sin. Religion underestimates sin. But the Bible teaches that sin is the cause of man's ills, the cause of national turmoil, the cause of international wars, the cause of crime increase, the cause of poverty, and adultery, and murder, and greed, and truth breaking, and rioting, and lawlessness. Sin is the reason man can be

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brilliant but beastly, civilized but corrupt, dignified but degenerate, rich but revolting, wealthy but wasteful, healthy but hellish, smart but stupid, churchy but Christless. Sin is the reason. And this passage of scripture says in Clarion tones, "Sin must be dealt with, God demands purification."

Paul H. Dixon:

Turn with me to Matthew chapter 16 for a moment. In Matthew chapter 16:21: from that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples how that he must go on to Jerusalem and suffer many things that the elders, and chief priest scribes. And be killed and be raised again, the third day. Then Peter took him and began to rebuke him saying, "Be it far from thee Lord, this shall not be under thee." But he turned and said unto Peter, "Get behind me Satan. Now with an offense unto me for thy savors not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Paul H. Dixon:

And you listen to me teenager, if you do not understand, if you object to the fact that God requires sin to be dealt with. You are an offense under the Son of God. If you do not see the necessity for the cleansing of your life from sin, you are at offense. You don't savor the things that be of God. You are not thinking spiritually.

Paul H. Dixon:

We're living in a world that has accommodated too and compromised with sin. Until we've gotten to the place where even church members in regular Baptist Churches don't know decency when they see it. Don't recognize modesty when they see it, once in a while. That's simply not a part of our thinking. We've been talking about revival this week. And I'll tell you when we'll have a revival in our churches, it's when we get the keen sensitivity to sin, and indecency, and immodesty, and immortality that God's word teaches us we ought to have.

Congregation:

Amen.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let's go to that third word. A New Testament speaks a promise. The word of necessity or necessary speaks of purification. Let's take a look at Hebrews 9, again. That word now, that's a precious word to a teenager. And it's a precious word to a scriptural Christian teenager. Hebrews 9:24: for Christ is not entered into the holy place made with hands, which are the figures of the truth, but into heaven itself. Now, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Paul H. Dixon:

We must instruct our teenagers in the present work of Jesus Christ. Because if any scriptural truth needs to be recognized by a teenager, it's this one. The past truth, the past work of Christ is absolutely vital. The future work of Jesus Christ is absolutely important. But we must tell our young people what he is presently doing.

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I fear that we do not emphasize enough the intercessory work of Jesus Christ. We do not emphasize enough that the Lord Jesus Christ when he went back to heaven, did not sit down in a rocking chair. Jesus Christ is tremendously active, and has been since his ascension. And there is a tremendous connection between the Ministry of the Holy Spirit who indwells us, and the Ministry of the Son of God who intercede for us. We hear all kinds of crazy, weird, sad songs nowadays. And we hear questions in those songs. Questions like, who will answer? Who will answer? Where is He? What's He doing now? Where is He now?

Paul H. Dixon:

We need to tell our young people where Jesus Christ is now. You know where He is now? He's in the presence of God for us, now. Working on the basis of the New Testament. Working on the basis of His shed blood. Which is a basis of our purification. He is in the presence of God. Hebrews calls Him the captain of our salvation. He's the commander in chief. And He's in headquarters at the right hand of the Father. Working in a marvelous, magnificent, wonderful way with the Holy Spirit to empower us, to protect us, to strengthen us, to encourage us. To make sure that we who live in this now generation are victorious, and overcoming Christians.

Paul H. Dixon:

That's important. Where is He now? See yonder in the first century as recorded in the book of Acts. Stephen, Stephen standing, preaching faithfully the word of God. See the Jewish rulers reacting in anger and hatred. Watch Stephen's eyes. What's he saying? Could it be he's saying, "Where is He now? Where is He now, Stephen? Where is He of whom you're preaching? Where is He?" He's in the presence of God for you, now. "Now as the stones pummel your body, now as the rocks crush your bones. Where is He?" He's in the presence of God for us, now.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul and Silas are in a Philippian jail. Their bodies have been beaten raw. They're in chains. And at midnight Paul says, "Silas, I wonder where Jesus is now?" Silas says, "Paul, You know where He is. Your buddy who wrote the book in Hebrews, you remember?" Some of those 20th century Christians think you wrote it, but you know your buddy who wrote the book in Hebrews, he says, "He's in the presence of God for us, now. And Paul, you remember you've written to the Romans. He ever a liveth to make it a [inaudible 00:21:37] for us. Paul said, "Silas, that's right. He is now in the presence of God for us. Let's sing about it." And at midnight, Paul and Silas sang and prayed. And God shook the jail. Why? Because he is in the presence of God for us.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul, on his way to Rome. Terrible storm at sea. The ship dashed about like a toy. "Paul, where is He now? You're in danger of drowning. You're in danger of losing everything. Where is your Christ now, Paul?" In that triumph with apostle says, "And we can hear it roar down through the corners of the centuries. Now, in the presence of God that's where He is." Paul goes to a Roman chopping block. No doubt some would taunt him. No doubt some would laugh at him. "Paul, Paul, where is your Christ now? Where is He now?" He's in the presence of God, for us, now. And because he is, I have dying grace.

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John on the isle of Patmos, all alone. Perhaps some demonic spirit whispered in his ear when he was depressed and discouraged. "So where is your Christ now, John? Where is He now?" I'm sure the Apostle John echoed Paul's sentiment. "He's in the presence of God, for us, now." Spanish inquisition: men stretched on racks. Tied to stakes to be burned. Dying, suffering, agonizing. Going through the awful terrifying oblivion of a persecution. "Where is Jesus now? How can they stand it? How can they sing? How can they praise him?" How? Because He's in the presence of God, for us, now.

Paul H. Dixon:

Roger Williams in New England, standing for the truth of God. Preaching the truth that we Baptist hold precious and dear. Driven from his home, driven from his people, driven. What gives him the fortitude? What gives him the energy to go on? Only the fact that man of God knew of a certainty that he wasn't alone. That in the presence of God himself stood our advocate, our intercessor Jesus Christ. Now in the presence of God, for us.

Paul H. Dixon:

Listen teenager, you go to high school this fall. You're going to try to witness for Jesus Christ. You're going to take snares and scoffs. People are going to talk about you. Young people you'd like to befriend are going to hurt you. They're going to make life difficult for you. And when the going gets rough as teenager, just remember, just remember that He's now in the presence of God, for you, for us.

Paul H. Dixon:

When the lust of the flesh, raging passions of the flesh inflame your blood. And the temptation storm the bastions of your soul. And it seems as though all of the moral armaments, and all of the tremendous principles of Godliness. Which you've learned through years of Sunday school, are about to be swept away in the raging torrent of the lust, and passion of the flesh. Remember at that moment, now He's in the presence of God, for you. Look to Him, Lean on Him, Wait upon Him.

Paul H. Dixon:

Young fella, when it seems as though every obstacle has been raised against you. You know God wants you to go to Bible school. But you just can't seem to find the job, and you can't seem to get the money. And you get discouraged and depressed. Remember at that moment, now He's in the presence of God, for you.

Paul H. Dixon:

I'm talking to some young men here today, who perhaps six months from now, and perhaps some of these chaplains also will be in the raging battlefields of Vietnam. The hot, steaming jungles, the grind, the death, the stench, and all that's with it. And in the midst of it all, Satan will attempt to tell you that it's useless to live for God. What's the answer to the question, where is He now? When it means the midst of a battlefield. I'll tell you what the answer is. He's in the presence of God, now.

Paul H. Dixon:

Missionaries in danger, Whether it be East Pakistan or somewhere else. Years of missionary laborers seem to be threatened. It looks as though all may be lost. To whom shall we turn? Where will we find refuge? What's the answer to our heart cry? Where is Christ now? He's in the presence of God, now.

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New, Necessary, and Now
circa 1971

Paul H. Dixon:

You see my dear friend, Christ has not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true. But into heaven itself now, to appear in the presence of God, for us. He is not only the great I Am. Which means he is the eternal one. The everlastingly present one, and the omnipresent one. That it also means that in every moment of your life, in every now situation of your life, he is in the presence of God for you.

Paul H. Dixon:

No wonder Paul wrote, I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God. Which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Why could he write that? Because in verse 34 he wrote, He is even at the right hand of God, making intercession for us. Teenagers, you have a New Testament. It will always be new. And it's necessary that in the light of this New Testament, Based upon his blood, You have a holy fear and sensitivity with reference to sin.

Paul H. Dixon:

Stand on the promises. By God's grace, submit to the purification. And never forget, never forget whether it be in the moment of triumph or defeat, in the moment of victory or sorrow. When life is its greatest or death is its most imminent, never forget it. He is now in the presence of God, for or us.

Paul H. Dixon:

Shall we pray. Our Father, we thank thee for thy precious word. We thank thee for the New Testament in thy blood. We thank thee that thou a God of holiness. As I've only said, it's necessary that sin be judged, with by like grace in the person of thy son thou has judged it. And through him we can be forgiven, and purified, and justified, and sanctified, and glorified. We thank thee for the comforting truth. That we as believers not only have the presence of the comforter with us, but we also have the assurance that the Son of God is in the presence of thy very, very throne, for us. May this truth under Gerdes in every now, until we see thee face-to-face. We ask in Christ name. Amen!