

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

Take your Bibles please, and turn to the first book Genesis and the 30th chapter. Genesis chapter 30. And I take my text tonight from the very first verse of this 30th chapter.

Paul H. Dixon:

I'm so thankful for the Bible. I was saved through the preaching of the Bible. I attended some churches before I became a Christian where the Bible was not preached. And I got baptized once and I joined a couple of them, but I never could figure out why things didn't happen to me. I still didn't have any interest in the things of God, never opened my Bible. I didn't even think about leading others to Christ. Didn't know what it was to really pray and get answers to prayer. Didn't know the reality of walking with God. Then I started going to a church, a Sunday school, where they taught the Bible. Walked into a Sunday night service where the Bible was preached, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And I got saved that night. Greatest thing that ever happened to me.

Paul H. Dixon:

And I'm so glad that God has called me to be a preacher, and I have the privilege of preaching the Bible tonight. And in the first verse of Genesis chapter 30, it says, "When Rachel saw that she bear Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister and said unto Jacob, "Give me children or else I die."" I call this a sob outside of a maternity ward. You can just picture this woman, Rachel. She was barren. She didn't have any children. Her heart's desire was to have a child. It's almost like someone in our day who loves little children, gets married, plans to have children, but for some reason can't. And perhaps goes to the hospital every day, visits friends, stands outside that maternity ward, looks at all those babies and cries. And cries out unto God, and goes home and cries to a husband and says, "Oh God, give me children or else I die."

Paul H. Dixon:

I can understand this. I'm sure many of you can tonight, because the fruit of marriage is children. When God made Adam and Eve, the first command that he gave to them is found in the first chapter of Genesis, we'll not look at it, but I'll quote it for you. It's the 28th verse. And God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." In other words, preachers, pals, he said, I want you to reproduce. I want you to have children. In the old Testament, if you had a lot of children, it was a sign of God's special favor. Psalm 127 verse three says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord. And the fruit of the womb is his reward." In the new Testament, Paul said to Timothy in 1st Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry and bear children."

Paul H. Dixon:

Like manner in the Old Testament, if you didn't have any children, it was an indication of the judgment of God. Leviticus 20:20 says, "Because of sin, they shall die childless." 2 Samuel 6:23, Michal was David's wife. And when David returned from battle and from victory, Michal made fun of him. She belittled him and God judged her. And it says, "Michal had no child until the day of her death." God shut up her womb. Now, I don't believe that this truth is applicable today, in this age of grace. I do not believe that as some of you dear people are not able to have children, that this is an indication that God is judging

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

you, that God somehow has a curse upon you. But I think it was definitely true in the Old Testament. And I believe that's why Rachel has that pathetic cry here when she says, "Give me children or else I die."

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, let's not forget that, but keep a finger in Genesis 30 and turn over to Romans chapter 7, to see a great spiritual truth that parallels this physical truth. Now remember, as we turn over to Romans 7, the fruit of marriage is children. God's plan is for people to get married and to have babies. Roman 7:4. Look what it says, "Where for my brethren, you also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead in order that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Oh, I see. Just as surely as the fruit of marriage is children and that's the plan of God. It's also the plan of God that the fruit of salvation should be children. Paul said, you have been divorced from the law. You have been married to Christ, even to this one who is arose from the dead in order that you might be a reproducing Christian.

Paul H. Dixon:

Dawson Trotman was the head of the Navigators, an organization that's been especially useful in reaching servicemen for Christ. The whole idea of the Navigators is Brother Keener wins me and he grounds me so that I can win somebody. I go out and win Brother Fleck, and Brother Keener goes out and win somebody else. And I ground Brother Fleck, and he grounds that person so that they can win somebody and there're four of us. And then we go out and win somebody and there're eight of us. And we train them and then there're 16 and 32 and 64 and 128 and 256. And you can see how this thing multiplies. Dawson Trotman wrote the booklet Born To Reproduce. And in that booklet, he sets forth the case that we are saved in order that we might win others to Jesus Christ. That is the plan of God.

Paul H. Dixon:

I believe that throughout the Bible, it's especially emphasized that somebody who is saved should be interested in making an effort in reaching somebody else for Christ. Now, some of you here tonight are not saved as yet. You don't really have any concern about the salvation of others because you haven't become a Christian yourself. You get saved tonight and God can use you tomorrow or even tonight yet, to win somebody else to Jesus. I've seen it happen. It's the greatest thing going. The best thing I know that happens after you get saved in the Christian life is winning somebody else to Jesus. If you haven't had a part in that, you don't know what life is all about.

Paul H. Dixon:

I mean, it's just thrilling to see someone transform from darkness into God's marvelous light, to see a home that's wrecked and see God put the pieces together. And God established that home upon his word and upon Christ, and see a husband and wife who once were fighting now rejoicing in the savior and trying to reach other couples for Jesus Christ. To see a teenager who didn't have any purpose in his life who was searching, and he comes to Christ, and now he knows what life is all about. And he wants to tell others about Jesus. This is great. Thrilling. Exciting. God's plan is that the fruit of salvation should be children.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, I believe that when you study the Bible, you'll find there are many kinds of fruit. That speaks of the fruit of answered prayer. The fruit of obedience. Galatians 5 speaks of the fruit of the spirit. But John 15,

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

I believe also speaks of the fruit of souls. So take your Bibles down and turn back a couple of books to John in the 15th chapter, the gospel of John, not the epistle of John, verse 8 says, "Herein is my father glorified that you bear much fruit. So shall you be my disciples." This is the greatest fruit bearing chapter in the Bible, talks about abiding in Christ, taking his life into ours. He's the vine, we are the branches. And we are to bring forth fruit through his enablement, through his power. And look what it says in verse 16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain." God says, I've ordained this. I've ordained that everyone who is saved, who's in the vine should go out and should reproduce, should be fruitful. And that fruit should remain.

Paul H. Dixon:

I believe there are legitimate reasons for not having physical children today. There are no legitimate reasons for not having spiritual children. Do you have any spiritual children? The apostle Paul said, in I Thessalonians chapter two. He said, "When I get to heaven, ye are my joy." He's talking about these people that he has personally led to Christ. In Philippians chapter four, verse one, he talks to these new converts. And again, he calls them his joy. When you have a part in leading somebody to the savior, it's not only joy in this life, it's joy throughout eternity. How much joy do you have to your account? How many people going to be in heaven because of you? How many of you had a part in bringing to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Paul H. Dixon:

As I said, I believe there are legitimate reasons for not having physical children. No legitimate reasons for not having spiritual. For instance, it is possible to be too old to reproduce, physically. But, did you know it's not possible to be too old to win souls? I was in New Jersey one summer in meetings, and I met a dear fellow. He must have been close to 80, and he'd only been saved maybe a year. He was an old sea salt. He was a sea captain, and somehow he was there on the coast and he came into this church and heard the Bible preached and received Christ and got saved. The pastor eventually resigned the church, went to Jacksonville, Florida, to work in a mission. That fellow said, "I don't have any family," said, "You led me to Christ. I think I'll just go with you." And so he went to Jacksonville, Florida, and I was in the area and I looked him up and this old fella every day would go down to the city square where all the park benches would be. Other old men would come around and just sit down and swap tales. And he'd be down there with pockets full of tracks, telling these guys about Jesus Christ. He was winning souls and he was in his eighties. Can't be too old spiritually to reproduce.

Paul H. Dixon:

You can be too young physically to reproduce, but you can't be too young spiritually to reproduce. In fact, did you know that I find in meeting after meeting, that the finest soul winners in most churches are new converts. Now, you would think that they would be the deacons. You would think they would be the people who've been raised in church and who got saved early and been saved 25 and 50 years. Sometimes I find that, there are a few. But the guys and the gals, the men and the women who are really excited, generally are the new converts. I was in Buffalo last year this time. I walked into a meeting. Man, the first service, here's this guy kind of a chunky fellow, about 25, 27 years old sitting on the second row, got his wife and kids.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

Every night he walks in with a cassette tape recorder. He doesn't want to miss a thing. He's got somebody with him just about every night, some neighbors or some friends. And if they wouldn't come with him, he'd tape the message. And after the meeting was over, he'd go over to their house and knock on the door and say, "Hey, I want you to hear what I heard tonight." And he'd leave him the cassette tape recorder. And he was just so thrilled about getting people saved. And I said to the pastor, "How long has he been saved?" He said, "About a month, about a month."

Paul H. Dixon:

I walked into a meeting in Toledo. In fact, the Emmanuel Baptist, where brother Fleck's son-in-law is. And it was just a few months after I was with you the last time. It was in the fall of 1969. I walked in the first night, I sat down. Here are all these teenagers, sharp teens like you have. And the pastor said, "Yeah, you see that young fella?" And I looked out and he was pointing at him, you know? And I said, "Yeah." He said, "I got a story to tell you about that guy." And so when the service was over, he said, "Six weeks ago, this kid walks into the church on a Tuesday night. He has another teenager with him and the other teenagers doing all the talking. As he walks in, he says, "Say, I want to see the pastor.'" "Well, he said, "I'm the pastor."

Paul H. Dixon:

He said, "I'd like to ask you some questions about your church." He said, "Number one, does your church preach the Bible?" He said, "Yeah, yeah. This is a Bible preaching church." He said, "Okay, number two." He said, "Are you in the national council of churches?" He said, "No, no. We don't have a thing to do with national council of churches." "Number three," he said, "Is this a soul winning church? Do you get people saved in this church?" He said, "Yes." He said, "We do." He said, "Do you have visitation programs?" He said, "We send out about a hundred people every Thursday night to knock on doors, win people to Jesus?" "Well, he said, "I guess this church will do then." He said, "This is my cousin. I'm from Colorado. He lives here in Toledo. And I just won him to Jesus today. And I want to get him in a good gospel preaching, soul winning church." And he said, "I guess we'll let him come to your church then."

Paul H. Dixon:

Why old Don, was so excited. He said, "You know, this doesn't happen every day where they just walk in off the street." And he gave him to his youth man, his youth man took him around. The next night I stood up to preach. I saw that guy sitting out there. I gave the invitation. He's just saved six weeks. I saw him lean over to a friend. He said, "Do you want to go tonight?" His friend said, "Yeah." He brought his friend down the aisle. Practically every night I saw him with somebody different. He'd lean over. And he'd say, "You want to get saved tonight?" The guy'd say, "Yeah." And he'd walk down the aisle. One night, I saw him coming down the aisle with a girl that looked just like him. It was his twin sister and he was bringing her to Christ. He'd only been saved six weeks.

Paul H. Dixon:

Don asked me to come back the following February, 1970, to speak to what he called his committee of concerned men. He had 70 men who wanted to be soul winners. And you know when you got 70 men who want to win souls, things are going to happen. I'll be preaching in the dedication of their new building Thanksgiving week for two days that will seat 1500 people in their new auditorium. It's no wonder the places grown when you got 70 men who want to win souls to Jesus Christ. I spoke to that committee of concerned men. And when it was all over, remember now this is probably February. I'd been there in September or October four or five months later. He said, "Paul, we didn't allow teenagers

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

to attend this." But he said, "That one guy standing back there in the back begged to at least come and listen to you." He said, "We wouldn't let him meet, but we let him stand in the back and listen to the message." He said, "That's the kid who has saved six weeks when you were here last time." He said, "He's been saved six months now and he's brought 30 teenagers to Jesus Christ."

Paul H. Dixon:

I was back in that church last fall. It looks to me, I don't know for sure, it looks to me like the youth group has doubled. Man, they just fill the front of the church. And about the first two rows are filled with big old guys, juniors and seniors in high school. And a lot of these guys have been called to preach. So many of them that they have a homiletics class for kids in their church, preparing them to preach. And the fifth Wednesday night, they allow one of their teenagers to preach the prayer meeting service. And did you know that many of those big old guys were led to Christ by that new convert. Now, the point is that we need to be involved in winning souls to Jesus Christ. And if new converts can do it, why can't those of us who've been saved for years get on the ball and do the job that God has called us to do?

Paul H. Dixon:

The cutting edge of the New Testament church is the new converts. I don't know why. We somehow have the idea today, you get somebody saved, withdraw him from all of his friends, train him for a couple of years, and then maybe he can be used of God. It just doesn't work that way. It's amazing. You don't have to know a lot of scripture. People who have just been saved, they go out, they can tell people what God's done for them. Well, oh boy got saved in a meeting in Cleveland. He came to my house a year and a half later. He got saved on Saturday night. He just come out of the Navy. First time he'd heard the gospel. He said, "I never heard it until that day." I talked to him in his home. He came that night, got saved. Here it is 18 months later. He said, "Paul, I got saved on Saturday night, went back to work Monday. I worked in the hospital and I said, "Oh, God, help me to go to everyone in this hospital and tell them about Jesus."

Paul H. Dixon:

He said, "I didn't know how to answer their questions. I didn't know any of the Bible. I just knew I was saved and I wanted them to be saved." He said, "I went from bed to bed and told people what had happened to me on Saturday night." He said, "You know, any question they brought up, believe it or not, God gave me the answer." He said, "I've been at it for the last 18 months." I see him every once in a while, he's still at it. He's still thrilled about it and excited about it. Winning souls to Jesus Christ. This will solve a lot of the problems in the church to just get busy winning souls.

Paul H. Dixon:

Psychiatrists tell us that many people who are having physical problems, they are really psychosomatic. And if they just get involved with others, they'd forget about their own problems. And I believe that a lot of the problems among Christians and in churches today would be solved if people just get involved winning souls to Jesus Christ. You can't squabble and you can't have differences, brother, when things are happening and people are being saved. I got a 10 year old boy, boy, he's a great guy. I like for you to meet him sometime. His name is Scott. I'd like to have another boy when Scott is 20, then I like to have another when he's 30, another when he's 40. And I want to have my last boy on my 80th birthday. My wife's not too excited about it, but I am.

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

Paul H. Dixon:

You said, "Paul, what in the world do you want with a kid when you're 80 years old?" Kids keep you young. Huh? Isn't that right? You can't get old when you got a kid around the house. You got to go out in the yard and throw the ball and play horsey and roll on the ground with them and box with them. You just stay young. Kids keep a church young, spiritual kids, new converts. They keep a church alive and vibrant. Most people judge a church by their buildings or their missionary budget, or how much money they have in their treasury. And I believe God judges a church by how many kids are in their spiritual nursery. And when we don't have kids in our spiritual nursery, you might as well write Ichabod about over the door, the glory of the Lord has departed. God has established the local church to go out and reach a community for Jesus Christ. And this is what it's all about. You enjoy the word more. You enjoy the services more. Prayer takes on meaning when the heartthrob of every Christian and the church is to win souls to Jesus Christ. We're talking about a sob outside of a maternity ward.

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, let me ask you this. What is the formula for fruitfulness? If we realize the fruit of marriage is children, and the fruit of salvation is children. What is the formula for fruitfulness? I'll tell you how we can tell this. Let's look at some of the barren women of the Bible and see how God gave them children, okay? Let's start back with the first one we already started, our text, Rachel, Genesis 30 verse 1. Now here's the woman. She didn't have any children. She wanted children. What is there that stands out that marks this woman? Listen to her. She cries out, "Give me children or else I die." How would you sum that up? I'd say she's a pretty desperate woman, wouldn't you? That's what we need. Desperation.

Paul H. Dixon:

What would happen if you passed the offering plates? Now, in fact, I don't guess you do pass the offering plates here on Sunday morning. Let's say you went back to the box, the treasurer did, financial secretary checked the boxes back there on Sunday morning, and they were empty. Nothing. Come back Sunday night and check the boxes. You figure, well, the people were just holding off till Sunday night, and you check the boxes Sunday night, nothing. Empty. You reckon there'd be a business meeting Wednesday night, huh? Deacons meeting, board meeting. I mean, everyone, what's going on here? Why did the money stop? What happens when nobody gets saved on a Sunday morning, nobody gets saved Sunday night? Couple weeks go by, nobody gets saved. Month goes by, couple months go by, nobody gets saved. We just enjoy the word. We just go on our way and just, it's all right. Don't get excited. Don't get concerned. God will give it in his time. No, we need some good old fashioned desperation over souls. Oh Lord. How come nobody got saved today? When we get to the place that we can't stand it, if nobody's being saved in our services, people will start being saved in the services.

Paul H. Dixon:

God doesn't give children where they're not wanted, spiritual children. But when a church's heartthrob is for souls, you watch it. That church suddenly becomes a soul winning church. Desperation. I remember a fellow coming to me in Cincinnati, Ohio. I preached Sunday morning. He walked down the aisle after the service, he shook my hand, sharp looking guy. He said, "You remember me?" I said, "I think so." He said, "We went to high school together." He was about three years ahead of me. Topnotch athlete, two handicap in golf. He's won many tournaments in the Cincinnati area. He said, "Paul I've been saved recently." And he said, "I want to be a soul winner. I'm a businessman. I want to win souls to Christ. I don't know how." I said, "Come to my motel room, we'll talk about it." He came over the next day. We sat there, chatted, shared some things, prayed together.

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

Paul H. Dixon:

Then he looked at me and he said, "Paul," he said, "My father is still unsaved." They've been praying for his father for years in that church. Anytime you talked about who you wanted to see saved, his father's name came up immediately, Mr. Thacker. He lived just across the street from the church. Never interested. Come maybe once, twice a year. I'd been to visit him before. He said, "Paul, I want you to go visit him, but I want you to know this." He said, "Last Sunday, I stood in the kitchen. I talked to my daddy about his soul. I'd never done this before." He said, "Listen, when I was a kid, my daddy used to spank me and he spanked me hard, but I never cried." Said, "I didn't care how hard he hit me or what he hit me with, I never cried as a kid because I knew he wanted me to cry." Now he said, "My daddy is really bullheaded." And he said, "I'm just like my dad." And he said, "I'd just grit my teeth and I would never shed a tear." And he said, "The first time my father ever saw me cry," he said, "I was 35 years old, last Sunday, stood in his kitchen with my arms around his neck," and he said, "crying over his soul."

Paul H. Dixon:

He said, "I got a kid brother, 16 years old, who sometimes will get up at two o'clock in the morning, go into my daddy's bedroom and say, "Dad, why don't you get saved?" I said, "What does your dad do?" He said, "He just rolls over and goes back to sleep." I thought, man, this guy's really hard. How you going to reach a guy like that? I said, "I'll go see him." I went over to see him. I'd been there before. I said, "How you doing?" We chatted a while. I said, "Will you come out one night?" He said, "I'll be there one night." I knew he'd keep his word, said goodbye. He came the very last night. I preached and gave the invitation, hit about the fourth verse, and all of a sudden I saw that big old man in his fifties hit the aisle. And you can't get down to the front of the church, down the middle aisle. You have to go to the back and across the back and down the side.

Paul H. Dixon:

There's a balcony that wraps all the way around it. And he had a teenage son standing in the front row of the balcony, a teenage son who just couldn't stand to see his daddy go to hell, a teenage son who was so concerned about his daddy's soul, and he spotted him coming to Jesus. This is so out of character for this church. I don't think they'd ever seen it before. I'd never seen it before. That teenage kid ran across that balcony, ran down those steps, and he beat his daddy to the front. He was waiting there on his daddy. And when he got down there, he just jumped him, straddled him, and just threw his arms around his neck and wept and wept and thanked God. And a deacon took him aside and led the man to Christ. He's there all the time. He's been to Word Of Life a couple of times. He got saved, gloriously saved because he had somebody who was desperate over his soul.

Paul H. Dixon:

Hebrews 11:11, "Through faith, also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age." Why? "Because she judged him faithful who had promised." Now here was Abraham's wife. She was past age. She was too old to have a child. God gave her a child. She was a barren woman. God said, the reason I gave her a child was because she judged me faithful. It's very simple. Not only do we need desperation, we need faith. We've got to believe today that God is still everything that he says he is. That he is the same today as he was yesterday, that we have the same God that Spurgeon had and Moody had, and Sunday had. That God is our God. Elijah's God's still living. And we've got to believe that his word is still sharper than any two edge sword. That the spirit of God still brings conviction while people are in school and on their beds and at work. And we've got to act like it and just put our faith in the Lord.

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

Paul H. Dixon:

I've been rebuked so many times on this. I remember one night in Florida, bunch of teenagers walked in and filed across the front row. A teacher brought them. These kids were from an accelerated English class. This fellow taught it. They had all accelerated classes. I mean, they were real intellectuals. All seniors, real sharp. Many of them from wealthy homes, and one girl scored number two in the nation on the merit scholarship test. And I sat on the platform and he told me that. And I thought, "Oh man, well what's somebody like me going to say to a bunch of intellectuals? What am I going to preach? What do you preach to a bunch of smart kids like that?" And you know what the Lord said? Said, "I want you to get up there. I want you to tell them about sin. And I want you to tell them about hell. I want you to tell them about Jesus." So I did.

Paul H. Dixon:

I just got up there and preached the simple gospel, gave the invitation. When the invitation was over, I said, "I'll be in the study. Anybody wants to ask me any questions?" And boy, I hit that study. And in like a shot came that girl, a guy right behind her. She said, "I've been waiting on my life for something like this." She said, "I've been going to a church all my life. And they never told me this." She said, "They beat around the bush." She said, "They don't tell it like it is." She said, "This is what we need." Hey, you know what? She came back the next night. I wish I could tell you she got saved. She didn't. She wept and wept. And I talked to her after the service again on Sunday night. And she said, "I want to become a Christian. I just don't know what my friends would think." She went home still under conviction. The young fellow who brought her, dealt with her again. She said, "I'd like to, but I'm just afraid of losing my friends." She went off to college, went off on dope, had an illegitimate child and blew her life up.

Paul H. Dixon:

Do you know what I saw? I saw that night with that young lady and those other young people that the word of God still does the job. It's still the Spirit of God is working in this day, and we don't need anything else. We don't need to give some kind of a chocolate covered gospel. We don't need to take our gospel and put it in the garb of the world. We don't need to have the world's music. We can take the word of God and good old songs like we've been singing tonight and get a job done for Christ. I'll guarantee you, a lot of people say you can't reach young people anymore like this. And I go into cities where some of the largest churches in this land are, that are winning people by the hundreds every year. And they're not cutting any corners. They're not hedging one bit. They're standing for the old fashioned gospel and this is what people need. And many more people want it that we believe in this day. Got to have faith, faith in God. And then we also need to pray. See, I've heard things like this before. I know it. We just need to do it. We need to be reminded.

Paul H. Dixon:

Look back at 1st Samuel chapter 1, at another bearing woman, her name was Hannah. Look what she did, and God gave her a child. 1st Samuel 1 verse 10. "She, that is Hannah was in bitterness of soul and prayed unto the Lord and wept sore. And she vowed a vow and said, "Oh Lord of hosts, if thou will indeed look on the affliction of thine handmade and remember me and not forget thine handmade, but will give unto thine handmade a man-child. Then I'll give him unto the Lord all the days of his life. And there shall no razor come upon his head." You know what God gave her? He gave her Samuel. Isn't that great? She said, "God, you give me a boy and I'll give him back to you." And God gave her a Samuel. I would he'd give us a Samuel this week. We'll give him back to you, Lord. Lord, if you give us a Moody this week and we'll give him back to you. God give us some young fellow's going to get saved this week,

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

and he'll be an evangelist. God give us some young fellow's going to be a missionary, who's going to be a pastor. Give us some young lady, oh God, give us young people, give us adults. We'll give them back to you. We got to pray.

Paul H. Dixon:

I've never been in a meeting yet where there was a real moving of the Spirit of God and souls who'd been on the hearts of the people for years came to Christ, but what there was fervent prayer. There's no substitute for it. There has to be definite earnest, desperate praying. When I was in Chattanooga, the men in our church one day decided to go to Panama City, Florida, fishing, salt water fishing. I love to fish, but I prefer fresh water. And after being out there once on that salt water, I decided that is my last. We went out at two o'clock in the morning, drove all night, got there at two o'clock in the morning, got back seven o'clock that evening. And I've never been so sick in all of my life. That boat was just going up and down and up and down and it didn't even do it fast. It was just slow enough to make me even sicker. My boy went with me and he didn't even get off the bed. He just stayed on that bed. Never got a line in the water.

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, after it was all over, we went out to eat, had our supper, went back to the motel and we kind of paired up and some of the guys took care of the little guys, our boys. And then the rest of us, maybe three in a room had a tremendous time of fellowships. And the three in my room, we said, "Let's pray for Bud Murray." You talk about a hard guy. I wish you could meet him. He's a tremendous guy. Old Bud, ran a bar. Old Bud, he didn't have any time for the things of God, he looked you right in the eye and tell you so. He came to hear me preach the previous Christmas, and he went out stomping when the service was over. Came back a couple months later when I was there for a revival meeting and he just stood, he just sat back there. And he stomped through the hymn book while I was preaching. He said later, he said, "I even got under conviction looking at those hymns."

Paul H. Dixon:

We claimed all Bud Murray for God. We really bathed him in prayer. We prayed for him that night. We prayed for him on the way back. Sunday, I expected to see Bud Murray walk in that building get saved. That was that. He didn't come in. I was disheartened. I went home and while I was eating, I told my wife, "I've got to go see old Bud Murray." And you didn't really go and talk to Bud Murray. He's liable to throw you out of his yard. And I walked across that yard that afternoon. He had a softball in his hand. He saw me coming and threw it at me. He threw that softball at me. I said, "What you doing Buddy?" He said, "What's it look like I'm doing? I'm out here playing softball with my girls." I said, "Do you mind if I join?" He said, "You can get out in the outfield." He put me way out there in the outfield.

Paul H. Dixon:

I stood out there in the outfield and I thought, well now finally, I'm going to wear this guy out. I'm going to talk to this guy. I know God's put him on my heart. I don't always work this way. But I just had to talk to Bud. Finally got thirsty, he said, "You want a Coke?" I said, "Yeah." We sat down on little metal glider there in the front yard of this house. I said, "Bud, when you going to get saved?" And boy, he said, "I'm all right." He said, "Just leave me alone." He said, "I am all right." I said, "Bud, I'm going to show you what the Bible says." And I started Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." "Bud, you're a sinner." I took in Roman 6:23, "The wages of sin is death. I mean, Bud, you're on your way to hell as a sinner. Numbers three, But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

yet sinners, Christ died for us." Roman 5:8, Jesus died for you, Bud. And Romans 10:13. Look at that verse. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Paul H. Dixon:

I said, "Bud, let me ask you this. If you die today, do you know you'd go to heaven?" And he looked at me with that smirk on his face. He said, "I think I would." He said, "I am trying. I am doing the best I can, and I think I'd make it." And he sat back and I said, "Bud, you didn't read that verse. Would you read that verse again? Romans 10:13, "Whosoever shall call up on the name of the Lord shall be saved."" he said, "Let me see that again." He looked at that again. He's a Georgia cracker, you know? And he said, "Goodnight." He said, "All these years I've been trying and it's not trying, it's trusting isn't it?" I said, "That's right, Bud." He said, "How do I do that?" I said, "Why don't you just bow your head right now on this glider and tell God you're a sinner, and you want Jesus to come into your heart." He said, "I'll do it." He bowed his head right there, called on Christ.

Paul H. Dixon:

I said, "Bud, what are you going to do now?" He said, "I'm going to go and tell my wife." And he ran in that house and he grabbed the Bible. He said, "Honey, do you know what Roman 10:13 says?" She said, "Bud, people for years have been talking to you about Romans 10:13." He said, "I never saw it till today. Never." I said, "Bud, we'll see at church tonight?" He said, "I'll be there." I mean, he said before, he said, "If I ever do become a Christian," he said, "I'll not go down to that old bench jumping church." It's amazing. When the church stands for something and preach the Bible and getting people saved, people in the community say, "Oh, I'd never go to that church." They can say they want to be there. He was there that night. We had a prayer meeting at seven o'clock for Bud, just the men, to pray that he would grow. Service didn't start till 7:30.

Paul H. Dixon:

We'd been in there just a few minutes, and my wife came and knocked on the door. She said, "You guys got to quit praying and come out here. I hate to interrupt you." She said, "You're not going to believe this." And I walked out and Bud Murray was standing right in front of the communion table. And as people walked in the door, coming to church that night, he waved them down the front. He said, "Come on down here." Said, "I got to tell you what happened to me this afternoon." He said, "I got to saved." You know what? That guy is just a thrill. I just love to be around him. I saw him a few weeks ago. He's still being used of God and winning others to Jesus Christ. Hasn't been a Christian very long. Oh, I'm so glad that some people pray. I'm so glad that some people were desperate, had faith in God. God works today. And God can use all of us who are saved to reproduce and to win others to Christ.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let's do it. Let's every one of us get involved in the greatest work going, those of us who are saved leading others to Jesus Christ. Let's not put it off. Let's get started tonight. Let's get started tomorrow. Be used in high school, be used on the job, be used in the community. But wait a minute. Many of you here tonight can't be used because you aren't saved. You may not understand it all, but you realize you need something. I want you to know what you need is Jesus Christ. And right now we're going to stand and we're going to sing a song. And when we do, I want to invite you to get up out of your seat, walk down to the front. We're going to have people downstairs to meet you who are trained in the Bible. And they're going to go over with you very simply, just like I did with Bud Murray, how you can receive Christ and lead you to Christ in just a matter of minutes. You can get it all settled tonight. You can know that

Paul H. Dixon
A Sob Heard Outside a Maternity Ward
1976

you're on your way to heaven when you die. I don't care whether you're a Lutheran or a Catholic or a Baptist or a Pentecostal or a brethren or a member of the Mount Calvary Independent Church. I don't care what it is, it'll never get you to heaven. You got to receive Christ.