

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

Unedited Transcript

00:00:00:08 - 00:00:20:09

Paul H. Dixon

As I mentioned last night, a book has been released by the National Council of Churches. It was written by a man by the name of Kelly, but it was funded, the study was made by the National Council. The book is entitled Why Conservative Churches are Growing.

00:00:21:17 - 00:00:39:00

Paul H. Dixon

This man was interviewed on NBC and I saw that interview. And it was interesting some of the conclusions that this man has come up with. I personally disagree with many things that he had to say as to how he generalized, why conservative churches are growing.

00:00:39:01 - 00:01:00:19

Paul H. Dixon

It's interesting what he considers conservative. Mormons are considered conservative, the Jehovah's Witnesses are considered conservative, the black Muslims are considered conservative. And of course, he tosses in just about anything that's growing and that it has something to believe that believes in something very strongly.

00:01:01:03 - 00:01:20:13

Paul H. Dixon

And he says sometimes they even make it difficult to get into their organization. He calls this conservative, and I believe he goes back mostly, and he's dealing with the psychological and he's dealing with the problems of our day and how the liberal churches have let down the barbs and don't believe in anything and stand for nothing.

00:01:20:25 - 00:01:34:15

Paul H. Dixon

And therefore their churches are going down and they're suffering financially. I don't know whether you saw it, but Time Magazine came out just a few weeks ago with the study of the seminaries in this country. And the two leading seminaries.

00:01:35:23 - 00:01:55:03

Paul H. Dixon

five years ago are no longer in the top six seminary. one of those two was Union Theological Seminary. And the other was the divinity school at the University of Chicago, both of them quite liberal. Whereas they were leading the pack in the enrollment, no longer are they doing so.

00:01:55:17 - 00:02:17:05

Paul H. Dixon

Dallas Seminary, Trinity Seminary, Fuller Seminary. Gordon Cornwell and a couple of others are now in the top six. Actually, what's happening today is that conservative churches and schools are growing people that believe

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something, but I believe it goes deeper than something that psychological.

00:02:18:02 - 00:02:31:13

Paul H. Dixon

And as I look out over this congregation and I realize what God is doing in this church, I think we would do well to go to the scriptural principles. To find out why churches like this are growing today.

00:02:32:21 - 00:02:51:08

Paul H. Dixon

And they decide what we have to keep doing in order to keep growing. Because I would truly think that that would be the goal of this church. I would trust that I would not be preaching to any deacon or any Sunday school teacher or any leader, any person tonight who would be sitting there and saying, Well, we

00:02:51:08 - 00:03:10:24

Paul H. Dixon

are big enough. I'll tell you what, if you think you're big enough, you won't be this big, very long. You'll be small. You know that you never stay the same. I was in a church. one of the best known churches, I'm sure, in this part of the country, one that's in fellowship with your church.

00:03:10:24 - 00:03:21:22

Paul H. Dixon

And I went in there and we were going to establish some goals and work on some things for a big attendance on the closing Sunday. And the pastor said to me, said Paul, I hope it works, but our people don't believe in things like that.

00:03:22:20 - 00:03:41:03

Paul H. Dixon

We don't believe in goals, and we don't believe in this thing of emphasizing numbers and statistics and things like that. Our people say that they emphasize quality, not quantity. We had the goals and so forth and had tremendous attendance on the closing Sunday, but again to me just the last spring, and he said, Paul, you know, I

00:03:41:03 - 00:03:57:22

Paul H. Dixon

told you that our church wasn't concerned about numbers. He said we are now, but not because they're going up because they're going down. You see you either get bigger, you either grow and you keep advancing for God or you start retreating, you never stayed the same.

00:03:58:01 - 00:04:16:14

Paul H. Dixon

And I believe when you study the Bible, you'll find that the New Testament church, the local church, Jerusalem and the new churches, the local churches that the Apostle Paul and others founded were growing

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churches. They were not only growing numerically, they were growing spiritually.

00:04:16:23 - 00:04:33:07

Paul H. Dixon

And when I talk about a growing church, I'm not just talking about this church going up to 2005 thousand or 10,000 or what have you. I wouldn't do your bit of good to have 20,000 people here next Sunday if after they got here, they didn't get something, if after they got here, they didn't grow in grace and

00:04:33:07 - 00:04:46:13

Paul H. Dixon

people got saved. We need to grow spiritually. We need to grow numerically. How do we do it? Let's go to the New Testament to the Book of Acts Chapter two to find out the principles of a growing church.

00:04:48:15 - 00:05:10:05

Paul H. Dixon

There are many words. That we could pick out in the Book of Acts and say these are the key word as to why God bless those early Christians. We could pick out the word Premiere, we could pick out the word Whitman.

00:05:11:06 - 00:05:31:10

Paul H. Dixon

We could pick out the two words, the phrase one accord. And I will mention these things in the course of this message, we could just say, Holy Spirit, that would summarize it. But I have one word, in my opinion, that is the key as to why God bless the early church.

00:05:32:09 - 00:05:56:02

Paul H. Dixon

It's a very simple word, and I'm going to read, beginning with Act Chapter two, verse 41 through verse 47, and you see if you can pick out that word. And they that is these early Christian. Many of them new converts, they've just been saved as Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, then they that gladly received his

00:05:56:02 - 00:06:12:08

Paul H. Dixon

word were baptized on the same day they were added on to them about 3000 souls. No, God evidently believes in statistics. You give them every once in a while, they gave a whole book about statistics, a book numbers I reckon we could be emphasizing just as well.

00:06:12:17 - 00:06:31:04

Paul H. Dixon

And these people continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers and beer came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the apostle and all that believed were together and had all things common and sold their possessions and goods and part of them to all men as

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00:06:31:04 - 00:06:51:05

Paul H. Dixon

every man had need. And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple and in breaking bread from house to house their eat their meat with gladness and singleness apart, praising God and having favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be safe.

00:06:52:08 - 00:07:08:12

Paul H. Dixon

How did you catch the word, what do you think it's going to be the one? All a lot of words came out there. What do you think about this one? You like that one continue. I better not I better stop you right here, we'll get about as many words as there are in there.

00:07:09:21 - 00:07:36:20

Paul H. Dixon

Daily. D. A I L. Why? Daily. You say that that doesn't do much for me. I like prayer, I like steadfast. I like to say, Do I like Baptize? What? What daily? Listen. We're never going to have a daily church, and we're never going to really be the Christians that we ought to be unless we are daily

00:07:36:20 - 00:07:52:28

Paul H. Dixon

Christian every day. We realize that Christianity is not just the business of going to church on Sundays and being there one day a week or being there Wednesday night or Thursday night visitation. It's a matter of every day business of living for God.

00:07:53:27 - 00:08:15:05

Paul H. Dixon

I want you to know that something, first of all, they were a daily people. first of all, they were daily because they were say. It says in verse 41, they gladly received his word. Peter is standing up and bracing before them all to do.

00:08:16:08 - 00:08:31:22

Paul H. Dixon

I want you to visualize this crowd many in the crowd this day. What stood in another crowd pilot stood up instead of Peter and Barn of Grab is on one side and Jesus is on the other. And Pilot says to this crowd, Which one do you want me to set free?

00:08:33:03 - 00:08:49:02

Paul H. Dixon

They said Brabus. He couldn't believe his ears, and he said, well, what do you want me to do with Jesus? They said crucify killing. Get him out of our lives. And they did. And now, just a few days later, Peter is standing up.

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00:08:49:09 - 00:09:09:14

Paul H. Dixon

He's breaking the basically that same crowd of people. And without any fear, he stands there and he tells them that that same Jesus went to the cross, died for their sins, made atonement for them, satisfied God. And the only way they could go to heaven would be to receive Christ as their savior.

00:09:09:19 - 00:09:32:15

Paul H. Dixon

He preached the death, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that he was no longer dead, that he was alive and 3000 people believed it. 3000 people got say, I'm preaching too many men, women and young people here tonight, preachers pile teens who need to do the same thing, that those people that you need to get saved tonight.

00:09:32:26 - 00:09:49:07

Paul H. Dixon

What a thrill it is to be here and just to realize what God is doing. I've had people come up to me and the last few nights and say I was saved last month. I was saved last week, had a few come up and say I was saved last year when you were here, and I especially wanted

00:09:49:07 - 00:09:59:26

Paul H. Dixon

to come up and share it with me. It was a blessing to my heart, but I meet people who've been saved. Week after week right here at the Emanuel Baptist Church, and we could have these people file across this platform.

00:09:59:28 - 00:10:13:29

Paul H. Dixon

And you know what they'd say. They'd say it works. Many of you would stand and say, I've been saved just in recent days or in recent years, and God has changed my life and God has changed my family because of what Jesus Christ did for me.

00:10:14:06 - 00:10:28:18

Paul H. Dixon

And the same thing Jesus Christ did for these people. He'll do for you tonight, young fella. Young lady. Sorry, ma'am, you're here. Christ died for you, just like you did for us. He's alive tonight, and whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

00:10:28:22 - 00:10:52:15

Paul H. Dixon

You'll never be a successful Christian unless you get up every morning, every day knowing you're saying. You've got to know. You may be here tonight and a member of this church. You may be baptized. You may be faithful and yet down deep inside, you may get up many mornings wondering whether you're really safe.

00:10:53:19 - 00:11:12:02

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Paul H. Dixon

You may have sat through Fred Brown's meeting just a few weeks ago, and I know his preaching and God uses him in a tremendous way to reach people, Deacon Sunday school teachers, leaders, Christians who've never been say You may have sat through that entire meeting, and he gave those invitations and you stood there and you knew that

00:11:12:02 - 00:11:27:22

Paul H. Dixon

you had doubts about your salvation. But you're here again tonight, and you still aren't sure that you're saying you will not be a growing Christian. You will not make your contribution to a growing church unless you daily know that you're saying.

00:11:29:28 - 00:11:49:08

Paul H. Dixon

The second thing I notice about these people as they were daily obedient. Not just say, but obedient. It says they gladly received his word in verse 41 and they were baptized. I wondered tonight if you're here and you're safe.

00:11:49:09 - 00:12:19:10

Paul H. Dixon

Have you been baptized? There's a great deal of emphasis in the Book of Acts on obedience. Just let me share a couple of verses with you. Acts Chapter five, verse 29, please. Then Peter and the other apostles answered, they're answering the religious leaders of this day who have them on trial or questioning them and said we ought

00:12:19:13 - 00:12:36:22

Paul H. Dixon

to obey God rather than men. These early Christian, they didn't care what happened to them. They could be beaten. They could be killed. They said, We're going to obey our God. We're going to live for our God. We don't care to please, man, just kill.

00:12:38:08 - 00:12:50:00

Paul H. Dixon

Here are a lot of people talking about the feeling of the Holy Spirit. We all to talk about we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled as breakthroughs, we need to be filled as laymen all of this bill with the Holy Spirit of God.

00:12:50:08 - 00:13:09:08

Paul H. Dixon

But you know, and all the talking about filling there something that is generally left out. The word obedience. You'll never be filled with the spirit unless you're an obedient Christian convert 32. We are his witnesses of these things at 5:32.

00:13:09:22 - 00:13:32:08

Paul H. Dixon

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And so is also the Holy Ghost whom God has given to them that obey him. If you want the fullness of the Holy Spirit, you've got to be an obedient Christian. If you haven't followed the Lord in believers baptism and the Bible method of baptism is immersion.

00:13:33:11 - 00:13:49:25

Paul H. Dixon

After you are safe, if you've been sprinkled, you haven't been baptized, if you've been poor and you haven't been baptized. If you were baptized before you were, say that's no good. It's immersion after salvation and that's the first step of obedience.

00:13:49:25 - 00:14:02:03

Paul H. Dixon

But that's not the only step obedience. This is something we need to exercise every day of our lives. Just starting the day off, Lord, I'm going to obey you today. I'm going to put you first in my life.

00:14:02:07 - 00:14:20:16

Paul H. Dixon

I want to know what your word has to say for my life in this issue, and I'm going to obey it no matter what anybody else does. Barely knowing we're safe. Daily obedient. And then I believe we need that daily steadfastness if we're going to be a daily people for God at 2:42.

00:14:21:24 - 00:14:47:25

Paul H. Dixon

And they continue steadfastly. And the Apostles doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayer. I remember when I was a student in school. The president of the school, Dr. Robertson, used to get up. And he would break usually every Monday, and he would be there in many chapels.

00:14:49:09 - 00:15:02:22

Paul H. Dixon

And I thank the Lord for everything I got in my training, but there was one thing he said so many times that I guess at the time I got sick of it, but I don't get sick of it now because I think of it so often he would get up there and that white headed fellow would look

00:15:02:22 - 00:15:16:10

Paul H. Dixon

out at us and those eyes, you know, that sit back in here. You've had him here at this church. He looked like he's peering out at you through two coal mines. And I said way back in and looked like he's looking right through here, and he'd look out at us as young people and he'd say, be steady

00:15:16:10 - 00:15:34:04

Paul H. Dixon

young people. And he'd say that over and over again, he'd say, stay at it, be steady, stay at the job, brother, I believe that's what we need to

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hear in this day and in this time. Young people just stay at it, just keep plugging away.

00:15:34:10 - 00:15:45:13

Paul H. Dixon

You young people who've been saved and are going off to these Christian schools and maybe some of you in secular schools, you just go on cutting the path for God. You just stay in the harness. Don't turn to the left.

00:15:45:13 - 00:16:00:04

Paul H. Dixon

Don't turn to the right. Just keep going right straight down the line. That's the same thing for you. Sunday school teachers and your deacons and every man and woman in this church. Some of you been saying for a long time, some of you have just been saved for a short time, but don't waver a bit.

00:16:00:14 - 00:16:16:06

Paul H. Dixon

Just keep on going. Don't let anyone discourage. Don't let anything else discourage you. You just keep going for God until you hear that final. Trump and God continue to bless this church pastor. So told me that somebody came back to this church recently.

00:16:16:15 - 00:16:35:06

Paul H. Dixon

Who's a former member? That person came up to him and said, Pastor, through Don't you change your thing? We've been away from this church and we realized what we had while we were here and don't you change a thing, you just keep right on doing what you're doing, you know what she was saying to you saying be

00:16:35:06 - 00:16:54:26

Paul H. Dixon

steady brothers who she was saying Emanuel Baptist Church, just stay at it. Same kind of youth program. Same kind of emphasis, visitation, soul winning emphasis upon the Bible. Be steadfast for God. It's so easy for people to be up and down and up and down.

00:16:55:13 - 00:17:07:07

Paul H. Dixon

You know, they're just some simple things to to help you on this thing of faithfulness. Just decide young preachers, piles, teens, bombs and they just decided that you're going to be in church every Sunday morning Sunday school. Don't be some of these people.

00:17:07:07 - 00:17:15:16

Paul H. Dixon

I know some folks who go to Sunday School go home after after Sunday school don't ever do that. Other folks say, Well, I'm not going to go to Sunday school, I'm going to be in the Sunday morning service.

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00:17:15:21 - 00:17:30:00

Paul H. Dixon

Don't waste that hour. Don't stay in bed. Don't read the paper. Get here for Sunday School, where the word of God is taught, where you can get it. How many times can you get the word of God taught to you like you can in the Sun is glad to be here for Sunday school Sunday morning, Sunday night

00:17:30:07 - 00:17:47:21

Paul H. Dixon

. There's a training, our program there for that training, our program. If there's a soul winning program being taught, be there for that soul winning program Wednesday night. Be here Thursday night visitation. Be here, just faithful. Just stay at the job and God help you in every area of your life to let things just become a part of

00:17:47:21 - 00:18:09:14

Paul H. Dixon

you. And they'll be real to you. And we've got to be steady for God. Daily people will be a steady people and steadfast, but not only where they say obedient and steadfast people. They were loving people. Verse 44 says all that believe we're together and had all things common.

00:18:10:22 - 00:18:26:29

Paul H. Dixon

This must have been a precious congregation. Why are these people just love to be around one another and they just enjoyed the fellowship of the other so much and they'd get together and they didn't just talk about the ball game or or talk about social things.

00:18:26:29 - 00:18:48:22

Paul H. Dixon

They talked about the world and they talked about soul, and they fellowship in the world. Brethren. I hope I never hear the day. That handful of people in the Emanuel Baptist Church decided they had all the answers and they didn't like what the pastor was doing, or they didn't like what brother Kruger was doing.

00:18:48:23 - 00:19:00:07

Paul H. Dixon

They didn't like the brother Carter was doing. They started raising a ruckus and they said, this guy left a while that they just go off and start another church and just do it their way. I am so tired of church splits and all of this, but you know what we need.

00:19:00:07 - 00:19:13:25

Paul H. Dixon

Rather, we need love in our church. You know, some people say, well, the model is talks about love. The madness doesn't know what love is. We love him because he first loved us. And you can't really love one another until you've experienced the love of God.

00:19:14:08 - 00:19:32:06

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Paul H. Dixon

But just because the model has talked about love, we need to practice love is fundamentally a new commandment I give unto you, Jesus said that you love one another as I have loved you. The G also love one another by this shalom and know that you're my disciples if you have love one to another.

00:19:32:10 - 00:19:46:26

Paul H. Dixon

If you're here tonight and you've got something that you've had in your mind for a long time and get somebody in this congregation, you go and get that thing straightened out and you have prayer with them and you be in the place where you can love that person, where God can use both of you for his honor

00:19:46:26 - 00:20:02:06

Paul H. Dixon

and glory. I remember when I was in a meeting one time evangelist by the name of Jimmy Johnson. I always liked Jimmy John's just something about him. I just liked him. He had his own way. He didn't care what anybody thought about the way he did it.

00:20:02:07 - 00:20:17:16

Paul H. Dixon

He just stand up there and preach. And I like Jimmy John's, and he gave this illustration. He said, What happens if you're hanging a picture and you take a nail and you start to drive that nail into the wall and all of a sudden that hammer flips and hit your finger?

00:20:18:27 - 00:20:32:02

Paul H. Dixon

What does this have to do? That answers, huh? I know you were going to get to years one of these days all the time trying to be in the limelight, all the time, getting the attention, how you were the one up there.

00:20:32:02 - 00:20:53:08

Paul H. Dixon

I had to hold the hammer, but you were there in the limelight. Is that what that had? No. As soon as you hit that finger, that hand goes one just like that. And if your bodies like my body, not just by hand, but brother, I start moving around and my legs and my whole body start working together

00:20:53:08 - 00:21:06:19

Paul H. Dixon

to take care of that thumb. I don't know why. I don't think it helps that much. But boy, the whole body says, you know, we're with your thumb. We're sharing this with you. We're all part of the body of Christ.

00:21:07:01 - 00:21:28:03

Paul H. Dixon

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Everyone. And when somebody slips and somebody falls, somebody falls in the sand or somebody makes a mistake, that's a glaring mistake. Let's not sit back and criticize whether that's what that person has. Galatians Chapter six verse one teaches, and let's help that person in every possible way that we can because a growing church is a loving church

00:21:29:22 - 00:21:52:26

Paul H. Dixon

. Well, not only were these people who were daily saved and knew it obedient, steadfast, loving, but they were giving. Notice, if you will, it says in verse 45, they sold their possessions and goods and parted them to all men as every man had knee.

00:21:54:05 - 00:22:07:13

Paul H. Dixon

Now, I realize that this is a giving church. Has to be a giving church to take up almost \$17,000 this week. I realize it's a giving church by your generosity to me and the times that I've been here for meetings.

00:22:08:03 - 00:22:18:24

Paul H. Dixon

I know what you give on Sundays and I know you have to be a giving church to take care of of a building like this and the financial burdens that go with it and the other buildings in it and the indebtedness that you have.

00:22:19:20 - 00:22:41:08

Paul H. Dixon

But I also know when I preach to this many people, all of you are sharing the burden. All of you are tithing. All of you aren't giving, many are, but some are. And listen, Brant, you are missing out on the blessing and you're not going to really be a growing Christian unless you're a giving Christian, and this

00:22:41:08 - 00:22:51:29

Paul H. Dixon

isn't really going to be a growing church like it ought to be until every single Christian is growing in this church. I remember one old boy wrote me one day and he said, You know what? He said, I got faith.

00:22:52:10 - 00:23:06:01

Paul H. Dixon

And he said, Just to prove to you that I've got to say this, that you may not believe it. But he said, I've started tithing, and he says when God touched my pocketbook, he said, you know that something had to happen to me, and I'll guarantee you every man, woman and young person in this building, you start

00:23:06:01 - 00:23:22:25

Paul H. Dixon

giving to God and to his work and the Lord will bless you. Well, these were not only daily people. They also had a daily program. I think there are certain things that we need to do every day that will help us to be

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the daily people work, if you will, a Chapter 17, verse eleven, and I want

00:23:22:25 - 00:24:00:23

Paul H. Dixon

you to see one part of their program at 1711. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, and that they received the word with all readiness of mine and searched the scriptures. How frequently every Sunday? Daily. Search the scriptures daily, whether those things were stone, these people around the world every day and you're not going to be

00:24:00:23 - 00:24:15:12

Paul H. Dixon

a growing Christian, nor am I and this will not be a growing church unless we're in the world every day. Well, the emphasis upon the word in the Bible Deuteronomy 30:14, but the word is very neither in thy mouth and in my heart that thou may do it.

00:24:16:06 - 00:24:32:11

Paul H. Dixon

Job said. Thy word was more on to me than my necessary food. The Psalm has said that the word was a lamp under his feet and the light onto his path. Isaiah said, I shall heal world behind me, saying This is the way walk you in it to the law.

00:24:32:18 - 00:24:47:07

Paul H. Dixon

He said, This is where I find my counsel man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that preceded thou, the mouth of God again and again upon the word. I understand Brother Tasseled touched on it and had a part of his message on a quiet time.

00:24:47:16 - 00:25:00:11

Paul H. Dixon

I underline it again tonight. I give it to those who are here for the first time and these meetings. You need to be on the word every morning. Teens don't go to school without getting something out of the book.

00:25:01:27 - 00:25:21:11

Paul H. Dixon

Preachers pals start the day in the word read fewer two or three verses, but read your Bible every day before you go to school. Men read the word before you go to work, ladies, read the word before you start your housework day before you go to your job, but set up a way to get into this work

00:25:21:11 - 00:25:40:22

Paul H. Dixon

systematically every single day of your life on a private basis. They were daily in the word privately. And I also believe they were daily in the word as families. Chapter six, verse one, please. They're talking about their program.

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00:25:42:21 - 00:26:04:18

Paul H. Dixon

The program they had so that they could be the people God wanted them to be. Chapter six verse one. And in those days when the no the disciples was multiplied, there arose the murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because the widows were neglected in the daily administration.

00:26:06:08 - 00:26:20:26

Paul H. Dixon

Now, the program of that New Testament church was to go out and to carry on some social services, evidently in the homes and some spiritual services. You know, most liberals talk about needing a social emphasis more than evangelicals.

00:26:20:26 - 00:26:42:16

Paul H. Dixon

Talk about a social emphasis. Most of your fundamental churches are doing more socially accidentally than most of these people are doing planning to do so. This church right here does more for this city socially than all the liberal churches put together in this city, but I believe as these people were going into those homes and these early

00:26:42:16 - 00:27:03:21

Paul H. Dixon

apostles and these that they get deacons to come out as a result of this, they were ministering in the homes, the things of the law. Now I believe that today the way God expects this to be done is for the man who's the head of that house, who's the priest in that house whose job teaches is to

00:27:03:21 - 00:27:23:25

Paul H. Dixon

minister the word. I just finished the meeting last week in Richmond, Virginia. The man I was with the pastor's name is Bill Rice. He has not. A son of John, all right. He is married to one of the daughters of John.

00:27:23:26 - 00:27:46:14

Paul H. Dixon

All right. And so a rice married a right. As I was with them, I had a good meeting and enjoyed it ever so much. Dr. Rice has six dogs. And I don't know how much you know about him, he has been one of the men at the forefront of emphasizing evangelism and soul winning in this nation.

00:27:47:25 - 00:28:04:12

Paul H. Dixon

God has used the Sword of the Lord all across this nation. But Dr. Rice, if there's one thing that people say stands out above everything else is he has a number one family, a top notch family. He's raised some girls that just won't quit.

00:28:05:02 - 00:28:18:14

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon

These daughters have all, I think, married men who are either in full time Christian service or living for God, and they're raising families for God. I guess the only family that I know, it's quite like it is the Cooper family.

00:28:19:10 - 00:28:30:21

Paul H. Dixon

That's a blessing for me to know what God has done and that Krueger family. So when I was there, I'm the kind of fellow when I'm around someone that I know has something going for him, I wonder why.

00:28:31:16 - 00:28:43:14

Paul H. Dixon

And I guess they got so tired of hearing me after the daughter's name is Joanna. I'd say, Joanna, why did what did your daddy do that gave you such a great home? Well, she said, number one, he ran it.

00:28:44:26 - 00:28:57:06

Paul H. Dixon

He said, my dad was gone and on the road, but he kept his finger on everything in that home. He said, My mother did everything just the way my daddy said to do it, and he did everything, just the way the Bible says to do it.

00:28:57:27 - 00:29:11:14

Paul H. Dixon

And she said part of the thing that stands out in my mind the most, he loved this she took time for. But every morning we had a family all right after breakfast and we got up late and we're going to be late for school.

00:29:11:14 - 00:29:30:18

Paul H. Dixon

We were late for school, but we never missed that family on. And she said, You know how we had it? We started in the Bible at Genesis one and we would read a chapter every morning and we work our way through the Bible and we'd go back and we'd start all over again and we work our way

00:29:30:18 - 00:29:42:24

Paul H. Dixon

through the Bible again. She said the little ones, when they just started to read, would read a few verses. Those of us who could read more would read more. She said My daddy never sat us down and gave us any sex education.

00:29:43:17 - 00:29:54:11

Paul H. Dixon

We got it as we were working through the word of God. We discussed this as we would come to it in the word of God. She said. I got to thinking about it when I went off to Bible school.

00:29:54:18 - 00:30:05:11

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon

I knew more than most of the kids sitting in the doctrines class, and the reason I knew more was because what my daddy taught, my mama taught us that we sat around that table going through the Bible as a family.

00:30:08:01 - 00:30:22:15

Paul H. Dixon

Oh, I said, God, help me to have a family like this. Oh, God, help me to teach the word of God in my family like this. It may not work the best for you to do it after breakfast, but you do it after supper.

00:30:23:08 - 00:30:36:19

Paul H. Dixon

If you have to do it at the close of the day before you go to bed, do it then. But this is not the best time. I have to admit I probably had it at that time more than any other, but it's just like your tacking it on just because you have to or something and you can

00:30:36:19 - 00:30:57:16

Paul H. Dixon

get it some time after supper or during the middle of the day. But any time have it where we go through the Bible and we get into the world as a family. I have in my bookshelves, in my library there in Chattanooga are set of commentary a bit by a man by the name of Matthew Henry, Matthew

00:30:57:16 - 00:31:12:17

Paul H. Dixon

Henry said, You know how I read this commentary? My daddy used to gather us enough for the farm and we'd sit down on his knee and he would teach us the Bible, sometimes for an hour at a time, and he'd have us take notes on what he taught us.

00:31:12:23 - 00:31:27:23

Paul H. Dixon

And he said practically everything that's in Matthew Henry commentaries I got at my daddy's knee. We need a revival of poems like that. We need a revival of going back to emphasizing the word of God in our home.

00:31:28:00 - 00:31:42:28

Paul H. Dixon

We have to have this kind of a program, a daily program for ourselves, individually, moms, dad, teens and power. But we have to have a program as a family for being in the word of God. There's one more thing we have to have in this program.

00:31:45:06 - 00:32:06:13

Paul H. Dixon

That daily soul winning daily witness, you see, if we just sit and learn the word of God in church, in private, in the home and don't give out the word of God, we will not be spiritual. We will not be growing.

00:32:06:13 - 00:32:21:27

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon

Will wither up and die. I know people have great theological training. I know people who said it know some of the great Bible teachers of this day. And yet those people are doing absolutely nothing for God, reaching a world that's lost and going to hell.

00:32:22:05 - 00:32:47:23

Paul H. Dixon

And I thank God for the emphasis in this church on evangelism. But rather, it can be better. There's a lot more that needs to be done, and I want you to notice what it says and act. five, 42 x five, 42 and daily in the temple and in every house they cease not to teach and preach Jesus

00:32:47:23 - 00:33:04:05

Paul H. Dixon

Christ every day. You have a visitation program in this church on Thursday night. Thank God. Hundred people going out on Thursday night. How to be more of you? I pray to God. 152 other people going out on Thursday night.

00:33:04:05 - 00:33:20:03

Paul H. Dixon

Everyone here tonight, coming on next Thursday night and going out on visitation. We shouldn't just be going out Thursday night. We ought to be witnessing every day they did. If we're going to grow and the church is going to grow, we have to share Christ every day.

00:33:20:25 - 00:33:37:17

Paul H. Dixon

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. You know, there are people all around us. We just dropped the ball, don't we? When is the last time you actually sat down and talked to somebody about their song? I don't mean when you invited somebody to come to church.

00:33:38:22 - 00:33:49:01

Paul H. Dixon

I don't mean when you left the track with the way we ought to do this. I mean, when did you actually take the time to tell somebody how to get safe, you say? I don't know how to tell anybody how to be safe.

00:33:49:03 - 00:33:58:05

Paul H. Dixon

I've been coming to this church I believe in for winning or I'm just a new convert like to lead somebody to Christ. But I don't know if you've been safe. Just tell them what God's done for you. Just get started.

00:33:59:25 - 00:34:21:15

Paul H. Dixon

But people are all around waiting on us to talk to them about the safety. I bought a new automobile last spring. I talked to this man about this guy for several months. We talked about the price. I walked in one day

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

after I'd signed the contract, he'd ordered my car and he called me up and said the

00:34:21:15 - 00:34:34:17

Paul H. Dixon

cars arrived as I sat down with that man's desk and he had me those keys and I handed him a check. We closed that deal and I left across that desk and I said, Sir, I certainly appreciate the way you've dealt with me.

00:34:34:17 - 00:34:45:07

Paul H. Dixon

I realize I am not an easy man to sell an automobile to, but I'd like to talk with you about something I have, and I promise you, I will deal with you in the same manner you just dealt with me.

00:34:46:15 - 00:35:08:17

Paul H. Dixon

So what do you have? I said, I have Jesus Christ as my savior, and I'd like to tell you how he can be your. He looked at me and said, would you really do that? He said, Paul, I have four teenagers, and he said I've been thinking about this for a long time that I have a job

00:35:08:17 - 00:35:25:05

Paul H. Dixon

, a family, everything that seemingly would make life worth living. But there's something missing in my life. I said, I believe you've got it. He said, Let's talk about it. I picked him up the next day for lunch, and we talked about this to make a long story short, that man came to know Jesus Christ as his personal

00:35:25:05 - 00:35:37:17

Paul H. Dixon

savior. After that man was saved, my wife and boy and I had the joy of leading him to Christ in his home. He looked at me and he said, Paul, for eight years, I've been waiting for somebody to talk to me about this.

00:35:39:18 - 00:36:06:21

Paul H. Dixon

Here he is in senior Ohio for eight years of churches all around, I wonder how many Christians, what car from that man. But for eight years, a lot of talk to him about the savior. Monday morning, I got a plane on a plane in Washington, DC on my way over to Washington National from the Holiday Inn.

00:36:06:25 - 00:36:22:07

Paul H. Dixon

A man was driving me in that Holiday Inn van and I could tell he was a. I got his name and I couldn't even understand long. I said, Where are you from? He said, I'm from Thailand. I could tell he didn't know much English, and I said, Let me ask you this something.

00:36:22:17 - 00:36:34:15

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon

So do you know what it means to be safe? Do you know what it means on how to become a Christian? No, no. I said, How long you been in this country that I've been in this country for two years?

00:36:35:01 - 00:36:52:19

Paul H. Dixon

I said, Has anybody in all the times you've been driving back from Holiday Inn to watch the National Airport? Anybody talk to you about becoming a Christian? He said, not not one person who talked me into it. I wonder how many Christians got in their van and wrote in the Washington National Airport.

00:36:52:26 - 00:37:12:01

Paul H. Dixon

Here was a man seated right next to walk on his way to hell, and he never took the time to even talk about Jesus Christ. Several years ago when I was in school. A young man and I started a dry cleaning business.

00:37:15:19 - 00:37:33:05

Paul H. Dixon

We picked up cleaning all over the school. We worked our way through school for a couple of years like that. We were known as the Evangelists Adobe School. We held meetings every weekend. We'd go out in the summertime for weeks at a time, both up separately.

00:37:35:26 - 00:37:51:05

Paul H. Dixon

You know, young men graduated from the Bible school, went off to your meetings and decided to take the past without Monahan's, Texas. You passed it up there in Monahan's and then you go to Waco, Texas, and it passed in Waco.

00:37:52:12 - 00:38:04:09

Paul H. Dixon

I was with them in Waco and meetings and the last time I was there a year and a half ago, he said. Paul, this burden of evangelism is so much on my heart he that I know it's it's a step of faith and maybe a step of folly, he said.

00:38:04:09 - 00:38:16:10

Paul H. Dixon

But I want you to pray with me about whether I ought to be an evangelist or not. He said I did it all the time. I was in school, but still in my blood. We got down our knees day after day and that meeting and prayed about what God would have him to do.

00:38:16:10 - 00:38:36:22

Paul H. Dixon

It was a major decision because you see just a year before you had a brain tumor, take it off to him or take it off of his brain for about treatments. Didn't have any insurance. About six weeks later, I got a

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

long distance call in Georgetown, Illinois, and it was Sam Skinner on the other end, the line

00:38:36:22 - 00:38:53:25

Paul H. Dixon

, he said, Paul, that I want you to know that I've got a half battle and he said, God wants me to be an evangelist. And then I was thrilled and we rejoice together. I wanted him to be an evangelist and he started out and he just finished his first full year in evangelism.

00:38:54:15 - 00:39:07:29

Paul H. Dixon

And he's so happy and I had the privilege of recommending him some places, and I heard the reports that I know of many people who've been saved, and he had some 3035 meetings. It was exceptional for one whole year, his first year and evangelism that I'm doing well in every way.

00:39:08:01 - 00:39:25:21

Paul H. Dixon

I got my last letter from him or I suppose, about six weeks ago. Today, I received a long distance call. Sam Skinner is about 37, 38 years of age, want to be with the Lord last night at 10:30 p.m..

00:39:28:20 - 00:39:55:12

Paul H. Dixon

The second tumors come on this brain. Ministry of Evangelism is through. I called his wife this afternoon and she said, Paul. Before Sam left for his last meetings and when he came back from meetings. He was out and have the operation didn't communicate much in the last five weeks?

00:39:57:28 - 00:40:11:01

Paul H. Dixon

Before we left for that last meeting, the goal was to remain had been saved one of these meetings, and it was just saying Frank, Well, did he led you to this place to preach the word of God and that I got to say?

00:40:12:21 - 00:40:32:18

Paul H. Dixon

She said Sam looked at me and said, Benny, this is what it's all about. She said, What do you mean, Sam? She said, I mean, this is what it's all about. He said it never grows old. Just seeing people say just seeing sinners coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is a person of faith, and I'm so glad

00:40:32:18 - 00:41:00:13

Paul H. Dixon

that God gave him that full year going on when it's to Christ, even glory. Now, one of was not some young man take on Sam Skinner left off ready to. three. I pray, God, that every single one of us who are safe will take up where he left off, but this business a lot, it's all about we

Paul H. Dixon
A Growing Church
circa 1979

00:41:00:13 - 00:41:15:26

Paul H. Dixon

may not all stand behind pulpit, but we are to make people and God can use our spirit both for Christ. Let's start talking about Jesus and making it a daily business. You know what'll happen? There'll be daily appropriation.

00:41:17:17 - 00:41:37:02

Paul H. Dixon

Procreation means the Daily Edition X2, 47 says the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be say, this is one of the great churches in America because people get saved every Sunday and often you'd have to go back a long ways to find a Sunday that somebody didn't get to save that.

00:41:39:03 - 00:41:57:14

Paul H. Dixon

They didn't get saved every Sunday in the New Testament. They got saved every day. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, the Lord added to the church daily threats that we say will make this a daily church but daily lethal when in fact there's much to be done.

00:41:57:28 - 00:42:07:04

Paul H. Dixon

God can use every man, woman and young person here and I preaching to many of you tonight who have not been in the hearts and you've not been one of those daily Christians.