

Dr. Paul H. Dixon
Bees in the Bonnet for Leadership pt. 2
January 24, 1973

Unedited Transcript

00;00;01;13 - 00;00;21;29

Paul H. Dixon

Thank you for that. There is a real need today for missionaries to the death all across the country and around the world, there are death people with no one in a particular community or locality to reach them for Christ and perhaps God, the latter for some of your hearts to give your lives and reaching the death for

00;00;21;29 - 00;00;43;19

Paul H. Dixon

the savior. And we started yesterday and the day before on this matter of bees on the bonnet for leadership and everything rises or falls on leadership. And we talked about being right with God, being prayerful, being faithful, being submissive, being positive and being enthusiastic.

00;00;44;06 - 00;01;11;12

Paul H. Dixon

I don't know how many of you have applied this, but I've seen at least one person apply our Monroe. Came in to the ad building yesterday after chapel jumping up and down, you know, talking about what a great day it was and ran over and theatrically hugged my wife and I told him enthusiasm means controlled by God

00;01;11;12 - 00;01;30;22

Paul H. Dixon

, not controlled by the devil. Today we're going to shift gears, but we're going to stay in the practical vein for today and tomorrow. And I think you'll see how this connects with what we've considered on Monday and Tuesday.

00;01;31;15 - 00;01;46;27

Paul H. Dixon

We had some interaction in the 9:00 time. We won't be able to do that in the 10:00 hour because of being on the radio. And it wouldn't be fair to our radio listeners. But what we're going to consider today and tomorrow is how to grow in grace.

00;01;48;17 - 00;02;07;24

Paul H. Dixon

Something that disturbs me today in Christian circles is many times we're told to do something and not told how to do it. For instance, we're told we ought to have devotions and nobody tells us how to do it or we're told that we ought to have a family altar, but we really don't know how to go about

00;02;07;29 - 00;02;21;22

Paul H. Dixon

having a family altar or someone comes on. They emphasize evangelism and soul winning and say we ought to go out and one people to Christ. But invariably the people do not know how to win somebody to Jesus Christ.

00;02;22;21 - 00;02;41;06

Paul H. Dixon

Now we recognize that the scriptures place a great deal of emphasis upon growing in grace. I suppose the passage that's most familiar is first Peter Chapter two verses two and three. Would you tender with me, please? first Peter two, two and three.

00;02;54;06 - 00;03;09;25

Paul H. Dixon

And you're recognized as you read first and second, Peter, that he places a great deal of emphasis upon growing as a Christian. I believe there's a reason for this. You remember in the latter part of the gospel of John, where Jesus said to Peter.

00;03;11;03 - 00;03;36;02

Paul H. Dixon

After Peter had been converted, returned after betraying him or denying him three times three times, Jesus said to Peter Feed my sheep. And that's exactly what he does in first and second, Peter. And he emphasizes growing as sheep as Christians in both books emphasizes that in the last verse of second Peter, second Peter Chapter three, verse 18

00;03;36;27 - 00;03;56;19

Paul H. Dixon

, when he says grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And then here in first Peter two, two and three. As newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow their bond, if so, be tasted that the Lord is gracious.

00;03;57;22 - 00;04;16;13

Paul H. Dixon

Now let me say this many times we emphasize first Peter to two or three and forget first Peter to one. Look at it. Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and enemies and all evil speaking as newborn babies grow.

00;04;17;22 - 00;04;32;08

Paul H. Dixon

What we would like to do is we would like to be strong growing fruit bearing maturing Christians yet never deal with sin. Peter says it can't be done. He said if you're going to grow, you've got to deal with them.

00;04;32;20 - 00;04;43;18

Paul H. Dixon

And he talked about the malice in our lives and the guile in our lives and the hypocrisies and brother. There's so much of that with all of us. The mask that we put on the envies, the evil speaking.

00;04;43;25 - 00;05;00;21

Paul H. Dixon

He says, You've got to lay these aside and then you've got to get into the work that you will really not desire the word as long as you're desiring sin. You'll not be living in the world as long as you're living in sin.

00;05;01;04 - 00;05;17;26

Paul H. Dixon

This goes back to the first point on the first day. Be right with God. Now, Peter talks about growing, we recognize that in second, Peter, he said, we need to grow in grace and in knowledge of what Jesus Christ.

00;05;18;15 - 00;05;39;20

Paul H. Dixon

Here we talked about taking in the word and the word we find, Christ, I'll speak of this more tomorrow. But you know, Paul said this to. He said in Philippians 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable and to his death.

00;05;40;07 - 00;05;55;03

Paul H. Dixon

So evidently there's a great deal of interest in this matter. If we're going to grow, it has to do with our relationship to Christ. In the New Testament, there was an illustration of this June 15. Remember what it says?

00;05;56;08 - 00;06;15;13

Paul H. Dixon

Gray said, I am the vine and we are the branches. And the picture here is Christ as divine as Christians, where the branches. And he wants us to produce fruit. So we are in Christ and we're growing and we're maturing and we're producing.

00;06;16;08 - 00;06;37;17

Paul H. Dixon

So we have to be in Christ if we're going to grow. Now there's also an Old Testament illustration of this. Probably it comes to some of your minds immediately. Talking about growing someone like a Christian to a tree planted by the river, and it grows and it's green and it reproduces.

00;06;38;04 - 00;07;07;29

Paul H. Dixon

There's also another passage along this line that possibly of overlook. Let me share it with you, Jeremiah. 17, seven and eight turn their place. Jeremiah and the 17th chapter. Verse seven. Blessed is the man that trusted in the Lord and whose hope the Lord is.

00;07;09;21 - 00;07;23;23

Paul H. Dixon

For me, that is this man shall be as the tree we were likened to a branch in John, 15, now we're like into a tree planted by the waters, and it's brought us out of ruts by the river and shall not see when he come up.

00;07;24;00 - 00;07;40;02

Paul H. Dixon

But a leaf shall be green and shall not be careful. In the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. Now, if you look up from your Bible here, we're like into a tree and the heat comes and the drought comes.

00;07;40;10 - 00;08;04;27

Paul H. Dixon

And while other trees are not producing and they're dying, and instead of being green, they're brown. This particular tree in the midst of the trial is thriving. Why? What's the difference? The roots going down into the water now, that's what we see in Psalm one.

00;08;05;29 - 00;08;19;15

Paul H. Dixon

Some of you perhaps have memorized this, but we do well to look at it again, Psalm one when it talks about the blessed man. And incidentally, I think this is interesting. Psalm 11 is just like first Peter to one.

00;08;21;01 - 00;08;42;27

Paul H. Dixon

Some one, two and three is just like first Peter to two and three. The first verse talks about dealing with sin and the next two verses talking about getting into the word blessed is the man someone that walk at, not on the council, the ungodly more standard than the way of sinners, nor sit it in the seat

00;08;42;27 - 00;08;56;07

Paul H. Dixon

of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law that we meditate day and night. Just like Jeremiah, 17, seven and eight, he shall be like the tree planted by the rivers of water that bring it forth.

00;08;56;07 - 00;09;12;09

Paul H. Dixon

This fruit in his season is leaf also shown up with her and whatsoever. He do what you are prosperous know. I believe in prospering Christians. As I said yesterday, we ought to be optimistic, I believe Christians ought to be prospering.

00;09;12;10 - 00;09;30;29

Paul H. Dixon

Churches ought to be prospering. The world talks about success and so does God. God wants us to be successful for him now, he says. The way to be successful is that tree is planted by the water, by the river and the roots are going down into it.

00;09;32;05 - 00;09;50;00

Paul H. Dixon

So I think we would do well to consider what those words are. I called them the tap root of the soul. The branch is in the bind, and it's taking in the life of Christ into itself so it can reproduce and be strong and healthy.

00;09;50;18 - 00;10;04;15

Paul H. Dixon

The tree is going down into the water and I believe it's the type of the living water. Jesus Christ and the rook are taking the life of Christ and all he is into us so that we can be prospering, producing Christians.

00;10;05;02 - 00;10;17;24

Paul H. Dixon

Right? What are those books? I'm going to give you all three we're going to spend today and tomorrow on this. We won't be able to spend much time on the last two. I'll touch on them tomorrow. We'll spend the bulk of our time on the first one.

00;10;19;09 - 00;10;31;01

Paul H. Dixon

Those of you have good memories maybe will have to write it down. But some of you are taking notes. I'll try to go over it slowly, but not too slowly for the sake of our listeners. The first chapter of the soul is in verse.

00;10;31;01 - 00;10;52;04

Paul H. Dixon

To his delight is in the Lord, the Lord and in his lord that the meditate day and night it's the mind meditating in the word of God. The mind meditating in the world. The second Temple of the Soul.

00;10;53;12 - 00;11;23;04

Paul H. Dixon

Is the heart communicating with the Lord? That's Premiere. The mine meditating in the word, getting into the book. The heart communicating with the Lord, that prayer we touched on this the first day touched on it again tomorrow. And the third one is the mind and the heart choosing for the Lord.

00;11;24;18 - 00;11;53;04

Paul H. Dixon

That service. Obedient. You have got to have all three tell you what you know, I know all of us are made up with the emotion, intellect and will. The mind meditating in the world is the intellect. The heart communicating with the Lord in prayer is the emotion.

00;11;55;02 - 00;12;14;27

Paul H. Dixon

The heart and the mind choosing for the Lord that the will and let me say to you, preacher boys, when you preach appeal to all three and people. So easy get out of balance. Some guys are emotional breakers, and that's good.

00;12;15;01 - 00;12;29;08

Paul H. Dixon

They appeal to the emotion, but they don't appeal to the intellect and they don't do enough feeding and enough instructing and you get out of

balance. Most emotional creatures do appeal to the will as well, but many times their appeal to the intellect.

00;12;30;04 - 00;12;51;01

Paul H. Dixon

Many preach to the intellect and they give great truth, but they fill the breach to the heart. And you not only have the breach the people's minds, you also have to preach to people's hearts and you have to challenge them to take their will and to do something with what they've just heard.

00;12;51;15 - 00;13;07;00

Paul H. Dixon

And if somehow, by the grace of God in our preaching, we can emphasize all three, I believe will be biblical balance preachers. All right, the mind meditating in the world. As I said, we're going to spend the bulk of our time on this.

00;13;07;11 - 00;13;25;06

Paul H. Dixon

How to do it. What does meditation mean? Joshua said this book of the law shall not depart out of my mouth, but thou shalt meditate, Darren day and night that the master observed to do according to all that's written there in then thou shalt make their way prosperous.

00;13;25;10 - 00;13;42;16

Paul H. Dixon

Then thou shalt have good success. What does it mean to meditate well in the 9:00 Chapel? Some of the gang share with us what they thought it means to ruminate rumination. A good illustration is a cow chewing your cud.

00;13;44;00 - 00;13;55;10

Paul H. Dixon

I'm not a farmer, and some of you farmers may have to correct me on some of this. I've used this illustration before and talked about a cow chewing is cud and you can tell I'm not a farmer. It's her could not his good.

00;13;55;21 - 00;14;13;10

Paul H. Dixon

The cow is out there in the field and the way I understand it. The cow has breakfast and decides that after 9:00 Chapel, she wants her coffee break. And so instead of going and having some more coffee, she just stands there and she brings up part of a breakfast again.

00;14;14;10 - 00;14;37;05

Paul H. Dixon

And she has that cut, and she works that over fact. Someone said they stood out in the field and they watched a cow who were cut for 55 seconds. Exactly. Very systematically. 55 seconds worked over that cut, and then she swallowed it and brought some more up and went over 55 more seconds.

00;14;38;08 - 00;14;55;09

Paul H. Dixon

If she did shoot it one second, less you to miss something, if you shoot it one second more, she would have been wasting or your power. She knew exactly how long to stay with that cut. Now that's what meditation is in the world it's working at over.

00;14;55;25 - 00;15;14;23

Paul H. Dixon

The problem we have in Christianity today is most of our Bible study is just a hit or miss. I want to give you an illustration that will use these two days. There's one group who's had a great deal to do with my Christian life called the navigators located in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

00;15;15;06 - 00;15;30;12

Paul H. Dixon

The materials they have to offer and the emphasis they have the of someone from their sit me one day, a picture of a hand. And it had a hold of the Bible. The word is the sword Hebrews 4:12.

00;15;31;06 - 00;15;46;23

Paul H. Dixon

We need to get a grip on the sword so we can use it to defeat the enemy, to bring glory to Christ. Their victory in our lives. How do we get a grip on the sword? The little finger represents hearing the word.

00;15;49;02 - 00;16;17;21

Paul H. Dixon

This fingerprint represents reading the word. This is studying the word. Memorizing the word. And meditating on the word. The thumb touches every finger. The point is, hearing is not enough, you need to meditate when you're here. You need to chew it up.

00;16;17;21 - 00;16;29;19

Paul H. Dixon

You need to say, How will that work in my life? How can I implement it? Don't just hear it and say, I've heard a message. Think about it. Meditate on it. What can you get out of it? Practical truth.

00;16;30;05 - 00;16;47;11

Paul H. Dixon

Hear it. Meditate on it when you read it. Meditate when you study. Meditate when you memorize, you see as bad, Tavenner says. You can have a head full of scripture and a heart full of sin. Just memorizing 1000 verses does not make you spiritual.

00;16;47;26 - 00;17;09;08

Paul H. Dixon

Just having a quiet time does not make you therefore spiritual. Just because you have been in a class or on your own have studied a portion of scripture that doesn't mean we've arrived. What we need to do is meditate on that just as the branch takes in Christ the Vine into its system and the branches reach down

00;17;09;08 - 00;17;22;27

Paul H. Dixon

into the river and take that living water so it can grow, the tree takes it in. We need to be able to meditate on the word and Jesus, said Leo. I am calm in the volume of the book.

00;17;24;12 - 00;17;45;06

Paul H. Dixon

And we take in Jesus as we take in the world. Now we're going to come back to this. And tomorrow we're going to find out how to hear and meditate. How to read and meditate, how to study, how to memorize, but we're not start on that today.

00;17;45;27 - 00;18;11;04

Paul H. Dixon

I think we've got enough to think about. And I'd just like for us to sing all live for Jesus. I'll read my Bible. I'll watch and pray. God help us to be growing Christians. I'll live for Jesus. They, uh, I read my Bible.

00;18;11;12 - 00;18;52;03

Paul H. Dixon

I'll watch, I'll pray the is better, uh, I will. I live four days, uh, the uh, right father. We cannot grow, but by your grace, we know it is all of the we praise you for that. Help us in these days to learn, to apply all of us preachers, teachers, students to grow in the grace and the

00;18;52;03 - 00;18;57;19

Paul H. Dixon

knowledge of our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ, day by day in 1973 for Jesus, a gay man.