

# 1 Peter 2:21

Sunday 9/5/2010

Thank you, Will, for playing the saxophone. I appreciate that. Before we get going, we have to give a happy birthday to somebody that came to church today. It was their birthday, Debbie Craig. Happy birthday to you. Thanks for coming today. That was missed on the introductions today.

Let us all stand up. Let us say our creed here. I do not have it memorized, so let us say it with us.

*This is God's holy word, divinely inspired by God, infallible and inerrant.*

*It is my sword to fight the devil in his temptations.*

*It is my comfort in the times of trouble.*

*It is my compass for my life's journey.*

*It is God's love letter to me personally and my command in every day of my life.*

Before I get going today, I just wanted to thank everybody. It is a good crowd. We probably have 50 people missing today, and we all came out. Even on a holiday weekend, everybody came out, obviously not because of what I am going to say today, but because of your love for the Word of God and your love for Christ and what He did on the cross.

I personally want to say thank you to Bob for allowing me to get up here and share what I have been given. This is not anything that I have come up with on my own. I stole the outline from a book I read several years ago by Harry Remmer. He wrote a book called *The Purposes of Calvary*, and many of the good points in it I used for this message today. I just appreciate everybody here in the church, and I appreciate Bob giving me this opportunity to come before you today.

If you would, let us start out in 1 Peter 2:21. A lot of people, while you are turning there, when you hear that you are going to preach on the purposes of Calvary, it is either one or two things. They say, "Oh great, I come to a Baptist church and I am going to hear about Christ dying on a cross again. He is going to try to get me to get under conviction and get saved." Well, that is not the purpose today, although that should always be our purpose. The purpose here is we are all in the body of Christ today. There are not really any visitors; everybody here knows their personal relationship with Christ. That is not my point today, although we should always keep that on our mind.

In 1 Peter 2:21, I am going to read here. It says:

*1 Peter 2:21*

*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

This is the point I want to make: "leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps." The things that I want you guys to learn today are kind of my points that I want you guys to

remember a little bit while I am talking today. I want us to think about what example did Christ leave for us on Calvary? What can we learn from Him? What can we learn beyond salvation? Obviously, salvation is the main point that we get from Calvary and the main thing that we obtain from Calvary, but what examples did He leave there for us? What lessons can we learn from Him, and what did we gain from His death?

As I talked before, when we get to these kinds of sermons, everybody thinks, "Oh no, what is he going to talk about? How is he going to approach us? How is he going to go with this?" The perfect verse here for this is 1 Corinthians 1:18. It says:

*1 Corinthians 1:18*

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.*

That is what I want to talk about. It is our power. It is what empowers us as Christians to go out there and do a work for God because of what Christ did on the cross for us 2,000 years ago.

## I. The Three Natures of Christ's Death

Before we get started, I am not going to tell you how many points I have today because when you talk about points to deer hunters, it is always a good thing. You have the 30-point buck, you have the 15-point buck. I am not going to tell you how many points I have because I may not get to them all, or I may get through them in 30 minutes, and nobody has Bob on speakerphone, right? Because if we get out of here early, I do not want anybody going, "You have..." Yeah, I knew you would.

I want us to think about three things while we are going through this. First of all, I want to talk about the three natures of Christ's death.

### 1. Christ's death was a natural death.

He died on the cross just like all of us are someday going to die. Obviously, we are not going to perish on a cross, but His death was natural. Philippians 2:8

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. His death was just like everybody's. His flesh died. He literally suffered a literal physical death, just like we all will.

### 2. Christ's death was unnatural.

You say, "Well, how was it unnatural?" Romans 6:23 points it out for us very bluntly and basically. It says: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; Christ had no sin, so His death was unnatural. He should have never died. Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: He had an unnatural death because He did no sin. In fact, 1 Peter 2:22 says that He did no sin. 1 John 3:5 says He had no sin. And 1 Peter 1:19 says He knew no sin. I know I will probably kill you. You have heard "death by PowerPoint" and you hate those kinds of examples where you get someone up there and they

have all the PowerPoints and they are reading off the PowerPoints, but I do have a lot of verses today. If you guys want to write them down, that is fine. If not, if you guys want to just listen, just listen. To me, that really is a good point. He did no sin, He had no sin, and He knew no sin. It was an unnatural death for Him to die. To me, that shows me that He did not ever think of sin. For me as a man, I do not know how He did that because He was flesh just like I am. He never did any sin. Every one of us sin all day long. Every one of us do wrong. Every one of us have problems. But yet Christ did no sin. He acted on no sin. He had no sin in Him, and He knew no sin. There was no sin inside of Him. He never thought one bad thing. He never did one bad thing in His heart. He never thought evil against anybody. But yet He died on the cross for our sin. So that is why I am saying it is unnatural. It was unnatural for Him to die.

3. His death was supernatural.

His birth was different than anybody else's birth. His birth was supernatural. He came into this world supernaturally. No one will come into this world like Christ did. Nobody. His life was different than anybody else's. It was supernatural. We talked about that just a minute ago. He had no sin. He did no sin. He knew no sin. That is supernatural. And then obviously, if those two things were supernatural, obviously His death was supernatural. In John 10, it talks about the parable of the Good Shepherd. There it tells us around verses 17 and 18 that Christ had the power to lay down His life and the power to take it up again. No one else in the world can do that. When you study in the book of Matthew, you talk about the death of Christ on the cross. It says that Christ bowed His head and gave up the ghost. Nobody here in this room can bow their head down and give up the ghost on their own. That was something that took place supernaturally. His death was supernatural. He did all of that. He did everything for you and I in this room today. For you and I. There is no reason that we cannot learn something from that. That is what I want to get into. So before we start, let us bow our heads and pray and ask God to bless this time. Dear Lord, Thank You for this opportunity that You have given me, Lord, to get in front of the people that I love here in this church and the church I love, Lord. Just talk to them a little bit about what Your Son did on the cross 2,000 years ago for our sins. Lord, just take me out of this, Lord, and just forgive me for whatever I have done this week that would offend You, Lord. Just give me the words to say that someone here might gain some knowledge or some inspiration from what You have to tell them, Lord. We love You. Thank You for all You do. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## II. A Divine Demonstration

The first thing I want to talk about is that Christ died so that we can have a divine demonstration. If you would, turn to 2 Peter 3:9. It says:

*2 Peter 3:9*

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

That last part of that verse is what I want to really hit on: "but that all should come to repentance." That demonstration that He did on the cross, on Calvary, was for us not to perish.

The New Testament, almost every book and almost every chapter in the New Testament, points at some purpose or motive that led Christ to Calvary. It is everywhere throughout the New Testament. It is everywhere. You cannot miss it if you had to. The reason that it is that way is because of the demonstration. We had to have a demonstration.

The first part of that demonstration is that Christ died and He demonstrated the fact that He can beat death and hell for us. That first part of the divine demonstration is that He died to prove that death and hell, as a Son of God, have no bearing on us. From the foundations of the world, God knew that He was going to send His Son to redeem this fallen race. He knew it had to be done. Each and every one of us have come into this world under the sins of Adam. This is basic stuff. I know it is. A lot of you guys, I know it is basic. But these are the points I want you to get.

Christ came into this world knowing that He was going to have to die. He hoped that the Jews would accept Him, that He would reign as king, but He knew better. He knew better. He knew that He was going to have to be the Lamb to take away the sins of the world. With this foreknowledge, Paul writes about it in the New Testament, and we have gone over it. Paul writes about the mysteries in the New Testament. When you look at them, every one of these mysteries points towards the cross in some way or another. In some fashion or another, every one of these mysteries is covered by Calvary.

I am just going to go over them real quick, just in case you guys do not know them or you have not heard them yet.

- The mystery of God manifest in the flesh.
- The mystery of Christ and saved people.
- The mystery of the Jew and the Gentile in the same body of Christ.
- The mystery of the restoration of Israel.
- The mystery of the rapture of the church.
- The mystery of iniquity.
- The mystery of religion.

The word "mystery" there, that is what I want to point on for just a second. When you talk about Christ beating death and hell, the word "mystery" really got its origin in the Greek culture. I am not going to go back to the Greek and try to make a reference that things are better because you know Greek, that is not what I am doing. But that is where the word originated from. Every word originated from somewhere. That word "mystery" really originated from the Greeks.

The first time they used it, there was a group of people called the Ptolemies, and they would go to battle. Before they would go to battle, they would have a Senate that set up all their battle plans. These battle plans would be decided on by all these senators. The senators would get together and they would say, "Hey, I am not going to tell our leading captains what is going on. We are not going to tell anybody because we want to win this war." So what they would do is they would get the battle plan together, and right before the war, they would go out and they would tell their captains, "Hey, you need to go here. You guys need to go up on the mountainside and you need to come down this mountainside. You guys need to come over here. You need to attack from the rear flank. You guys need to hold a rear guard action. You guys have to do this,

you have to do that." So every time they would have a battle, they would do that. They would keep it a secret even from their captains because they did not want to lose the battle. They wanted to have the upper hand.

Paul uses the same word in the New Testament when he preaches. It is not because he is saying that the church is a mystery or that these things are a mystery like the pagan religions back there were using mysterious things. That is not how it was. He was using the word "mystery" as a battle plan, as a battle tactic, because God did not let it be known that, "Hey, Christ is going to die on the cross and this is what is going to happen." So there are certain things that the devil did not know. When Christ died on the cross, the devil thought that he had gained the victory. When Christ was down in hell preaching to the people, to the saints in hell at that point in Abraham's bosom, the devil thought he won up here on Earth. He thought, "Man, I have got the victory. I have won. I have done it. I have beat Him." But Christ knew something, God knew something better. God knew that Christ was going to raise again. He was going to raise all those people up, and that He was going to gain the victory over death and hell, and that we would not have to do it. By doing that, ever since then, the devil has been fighting a rear guard action trying to catch up from what God did.

When you look at that and you see, "Okay, there is a mystery," one of the things is that He demonstrated that by His death on the cross. He demonstrated that, "Now that I have beat death and hell, you guys do not have to do it. Now you guys are going to have to die, but you are not going to have to spend an eternity in hell because there is a way. I have made a way with My Son on the cross." That is one of the things I want you guys to see on that demonstration.

The second part of this demonstration of the cross is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. It says:

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

The second part of that demonstration, obviously, is the main demonstration that we all get. How do you get saved? Christ died on the cross and rose again according to the scriptures. That is the demonstration. Without that demonstration, we would have nothing to go back to, to look back to, and say, "Oh, that is how I do it." There is no other way that you can get to heaven, except for Christ's shed blood on the cross of Calvary. There is no other way.

Then you have the third demonstration. This is probably the most serious one. You have a demonstration of His love. You have that divine demonstration. So not only do you have a divine demonstration that now you have a means to escape death and hell, but you have a divine demonstration of how to get saved, and you have a divine demonstration of His love. This demonstration probably is the most important. It has to be the most important.

When you were born into this world, you carried, as I said, the sins of Adam. When you got to that certain age and you started acting on those sins, you were responsible for those sins. You absolutely are responsible. I can remember, years ago, Bob talked about during parenting classes, he talked to us about that evil day. When Daniel had to face that evil day, what did he do? When I heard that, I remembered my evil day. I remembered the second my evil day came in. I was probably 15 years old, and I offended God. It was something simple. It was something simple.

I went to Pizza Hut with my friends, and all my life, I was told, "Never smoke. Do not smoke, do not smoke, do not smoke." Not because you are going to die and go to hell because you smoke, but because it is bad for your body. Everything about it is bad. So I heard, "Do not smoke, do not smoke." I went up to pay for my pizza or whatever I was eating, and there was a cigarette laying right there. My two friends were with me. Guess what I did? I turned from what my mom and dad said to do. All my life, I grew up in a Christian home. I knew better. I picked up that cigarette, and my friends, of course, dared me to do it. They had never done it before either, and so there we go. We go in the car, and there I started right there. I started smoking, just to be cool, I guess. I do not know. I guess I was not very cool. But that is the problem. That was my evil day. At that point, I knew that I had offended God, and I had offended God's love towards me, and I knew that I should not have done that. But I did not take the advice of people that love me, and my family, and my parents that tried to raise me right. I did not do it. To this day, because we started doing that, I have a friend that cannot put them down. He has got a problem with them ever since, and that was our evil day, I guarantee you.

That shows that I now offended God, and there has to be a way to reconcile myself, the offender, to the offended. Obviously, that way is Christ, and that demonstration is Christ, and that demonstration is Christ on the cross. I think probably the greatest slap in God's face is that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. I think the greatest injustice that we can do to God as an offended party for our sins is to reject what Christ did for us on the cross. That has got to be the worst.

When I think about what God looks at as sin, and what God looks at as wrong, and what God looks at as how we do things badly, I think the worst thing is an unsaved man saying, "No thanks, God, I do not want to do that. I do not want Your love. I do not want Your love." Every one of us in here wants God's love. Every one of us needs love, needs human love. We need human affection. And yet, God sent His only Son to come down here in the form of a man and die on the cross for our sins, and we reject Him. We reject that demonstration that He did on Calvary. That has got to be the worst slapping in the face for God. He did it while I was a sinner. He did it knowing that I was a sinner. He did it knowing that I have the potential of rejecting Him, but yet He did it anyways.

*Romans 5:6-11*

*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if,*

*when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Thank God for that demonstration. Without that demonstration, we would all be doomed to face hell and face torment and that wrath to come. We do not have to do that.

### III. A New Destiny

Moving on to point number two. Christ died not only to give us a demonstration, but Christ died that we might have a new destiny. You say, "Well, where do I find that?" Turn to 1 Peter 3:18.

In 1 Peter 3:18, this is where I am going to kind of get into a point, guys. About a month ago, we started studying on Thursday night how to put notes in your Bible, and how to get that going, and basic points, doctrinal issues and stuff, getting those in your Bible, and running reference points to that. I am just going to walk through what I am going to talk about on this new destiny. So if you want, just write the verses down. You do not have to turn to all these. I am going to go to several passages in here. But the good thing about it is you can pick which one you think is the base passage, and then connect all the other ones to it. So I am kind of wrapping Thursday night into this as well. If you guys want to, write these down, or get the tape later and go through it, because there are several verses here on this.

Christ died that we might have a new destiny.

*1 Peter 3:18*

*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

I do not know if you guys paid attention to it, last week or the week before, Glenn Beck held that rally on the same day that Martin Luther King had his rally up there in Lincoln Memorial in Washington. It was funny because the news media wanted to attack anybody that went up there. I am not saying I am a Glenn Beck fan. I have probably never listened to one broadcast he has ever done, but the point rings true to this point. So that is why I am bringing it up. He had, I guess she was a reverend. I do not remember her name, but she was one of the nieces of Martin Luther King. She was there in support of Glenn Beck, which the news media thought was odd because they were trying to make a controversy there when there really probably was not much of a controversy. They had her there and she said, she brought up the point perfectly. They said, "Why are you here?" And she said, "Well, we are all God's children. And we all need to love each other. And that is why we are here." Because that was Martin Luther King's message: "We need to all pull together. And we all need to get together and love each other because we are all God's children."

Well, I am here to tell you that this verse right here, 1 Peter 3:18, tells us that we are not all God's children. For me, this is the base verse. It says, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." Obviously, there is someone that is just, and there is someone that is not just, that He might bring us to God. So here is the question: if He has

got to bring us to God, the question is where were we? Obviously, this shatters anything about a universal fatherhood that we are all God's children, saved or lost. That is the point. The point is He has given us a chance for a new destiny.

Every false religion in this world teaches us, every false religion teaches us at some point or a way that God loves us all. That is just, unfortunately, not true. God wants to love us all, but until you accept His Son and the work of what His Son did on that cross, you are not His son. That is the bottom point. I am going to give you several verses to back that up here, because this is a major issue. So when someone comes to you and says, "Hey, we are all God's children, God loves us all," God wants to love us all. There are two families, and this is the new destiny. There is either God's family or there is the devil's family. That is the bottom line. Because He has died on the cross, He has given us that chance to obtain that new family and obtain that new destiny. Because before we were destined to go to hell, now if we get into that adoption in Christ and God's family, now we have the opportunity to go to heaven and be one of His sons.

I am not saying I do not love all those kids down there in that nursery. I really do. But I do not love them like my own kids. There are three little boys down there in that nursery that at a heartbeat I would give up my life for. Now, I am not saying that I do not love your kids, but every one of us would have to think for a second about giving up our life for someone else's kids. That sounds terrible, but that is the principle.

Here is the first verse I want you guys to write down.

*John 1:11-13*

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

That is the slap in the face on that divine love that I talked about earlier. It has never been necessary to become the children of Adam. When you are born, you become that child. But there is something, this verse says that we have the power to become the sons of God. Not that we are the sons of God. Not that God loves us all. Not that we are part of this universal fatherhood.

*John 8:19*

*Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

John 8 is probably the definitive chapter on this, if you are looking for something. But if you go here and you tell them, "Your father is the devil," you are probably going to lose their interest really quick, and you are probably going to lose the battle. But John 8 is probably the definitive chapter on this. Listen to a few verses here of what Jesus Christ Himself says to the children of Israel. Obviously, the Jews did not have the same father as Christ did.

*John 8:42*

*Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.*

If you were the sons of God already, and God loved everybody, you would love Me as well.

*John 8:44*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

That, to me, is the definitive verse. But as I said, if you go to somebody and you just quote that to him, you are probably going to get shut off real quick and you are not going to be able to prove your point.

*Matthew 13*

*He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;*

In Matthew 13, you find the parable of the tares and the mustard seed. This spells it out to you so perfectly, it is unbelievable. This is one of those parables where Christ talks and then He just explains every point down the line. It says, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man, the field is the world." There is a definitive passage on the field. "The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one." You see right there that there are two families. That doctrine still holds true.

*Galatians 4:4-6*

*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

If there were not two families, what in the world is He teaching a doctrine of adoption for? It would not be necessary.

*Ephesians 2:19*

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*Ephesians 3:15*

*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

God talks to us about the household of God. It is obviously different than the household of Satan.

*Philippians 2:15*

*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

There is a difference there. That talks to the sons of God, "that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God." And then it talks about a crooked and perverse nation. There is a difference, guys, there is an absolute difference.

*2 Thessalonians 3:2*

*And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*

If there are unreasonable and wicked men, they are obviously not the sons of God. For not all men have faith. Those who have faith have the ability to become the sons of God. That is where it starts. The bottom line here is, guys, there is a new destiny. Christ died on that cross to give you that new destiny.

One of the quotes that I got from this book when I was going through this, and one of the things I took from him is, Harry Remmer said, "The impact of the cross bent human history out of the course in which it was flowing, and directed mankind toward God." Christ did something very powerful on that cross. Not only did He give us the power to have a new demonstration, and gave us those demonstrations, but He gave us that new destiny. So next time someone tries to fill your ear with that kind of baloney, you can tell them, "Hey look, we have about 10 verses right here that we can prove to you that that is not true." When you hear it on TV, I do not care if Martin Luther King's niece did say it. This is not right. We are following the Bible. We are not following what man says.

## IV. A New Deliverance

The next point is three pointers. We are getting close to a legal buck, are we not? I am talking to you guys over there in the back row. We are getting close to a legal buck here. Christ died that we might have a new deliverance. Turn to Galatians 1:4. If you are picking this up, all my points start with "D." That is kind of cute. I like that. So you can go through that and figure that out for yourself.

*Galatians 1:4*

*Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

When you study mankind, you realize that mankind basically has two natural desires, natural instincts. Either mankind is going to go towards philosophy, the philosophy of "I can do it, I do not need God, I do not need something greater than I am to handle it. I can think on my own, I can act on my own, I can do whatever I want to on my own." When you have that philosophy, that is one natural instinct that man has. Or man gravitates towards God and says, "I am going to rely on God. I am going to have a God-consciousness and I am going to let God guide me and do what I need to do." Those are basically the two natural things.

Every unsaved, lost man in the world thinks that he can do it on his own and relies on philosophy to get him through life. What a terrible place. To me, that is the most lonely and most terrifying place a man could be because I know when I was unsaved, if I had to rely on myself, my goodness, it was going to be bad, and it was bad. I screwed it up minute by minute. But you basically have those two things, and from that, you can either base everything in life on philosophy or going towards God and asking Him for the answers and basing yourself on something that is true and constant, which is this Word of God, rather than going to yourself and asking your friends or your buddies, "Hey, what should I do? How should I get through this? What do I need to do?" and them giving you bad advice.

Everything is based on that. You have religion that is based on it, you have philosophy that is based on it, government, politics, social control. Guys that have tried to do it on their own have failed every time. Almost every time through history, we are going through church history right now. That is probably the coolest thing I think I have gone through since I have come to church here. Bob has just outlined everything for us. Really, it follows those two lines. Everything follows two things: either the true line or the false line. It is really easy. Without God and man, if you have man's way of doing things, you are not going to get it done. Almost every time when we were studying that, and I may be wrong, but almost every time, it has ended in bloodshed of some kind. Every time. It has always ended up in chaos. Everything that has happened, that man tried to do outside of God and on his own philosophy, it ends in bloodshed. You look at every king, you look at every politician, every pope. We studied them all. You find out about every false religious leader that goes through it. Every one of them ends up in bloodshed and death and agony and pain. That is what happens when man tries to do it without God. Christ died on the cross so that we can have that new deliverance. So we do not have to worry about what we want to do, but what God wants to do.

Those of you that know me, know that I am not a traveling circuit preacher at all. I know it is hard to believe, with my silver tongue up here. I am a police officer. What I do for a living is I am a police officer. I am a detective in one of the area police departments around here. I have seen Galatians 1:4 time and time again. I have seen it. God died on the cross to deliver us from this present evil world. I am going to give you a couple examples. I know William likes my police stories, so at least one person in here will like it. This is what happens when man tries to do it on his own every time. This is what happens.

I remember one day I got a call to an apartment complex I had been to numerous times. The mother was a prostitute, and she was always having problems with people here and there. I remember going to this house and dealing with her numerous times. I never realized a big part of her life. But one day I got called to an address, and I immediately knew which one it was. I thought, "That is odd," because it was a call of a juvenile out of control. I did not have any assisting. It was just a kid, a 10-year-old, 11-year-old kid. So it was not any big deal. I walked up the steps, and it was a huge long step up to the staircase, and I could hear this kid was just absolutely out of control. So I opened the door and went in, and sure enough, this kid was throwing stuff everywhere and having problems with his mom. It was the same mom that I had dealt with numerous times. Because the kid was out of control, I put handcuffs on him. I took

him down. I was not the one that was handling the call. My assisting officer was up there, and he handled the call. So I went down and spent some time with this kid to find out what his problem was. This is a demonstration of this present evil world. I know there are probably some of us that are in here that have gone through this exact same thing.

I took him down, and as I was walking him down the steps, he started crying. I do not even remember if I was saved or not at this time; I do not think I was. But it affected me still the same. I took him down and stood him next to my patrol car, and he was just sobbing. He was wanting to hug me. He was just crying and crying and crying. I said, "What is going on? What is the problem? Why are you acting the way you are acting?" He finally composed himself a little bit. He told me, "When I was about eight years old, my mom and the people that she brought over thought it would be funny to see me get drunk. So they started giving me alcohol, and I would run around the house out of control. Over the years, they said that was what they did for fun. That was the game they did." This kid was bawling. He was wanting to get out of handcuffs. At this point, I was wanting to just hug the kid and take him home and adopt him and let him be my son. But I knew he had some major issues. He said, "That was not enough. That just was not enough." He said, "After a while, the alcohol just was not making it fun for him. So they started giving me crack cocaine." It just tears your heart out. It tears your heart out to see these kids like this. That is the present evil world that we live in. It is just absolutely sick. What can you do for them? What can you do for them?

You say, "Oh, I cannot imagine that you would even want to do that job. Why would you want to see that?" It is a great example for me. Every day I go to work, I see what the world is dealing with. I see what I was saved from. I see what every one of us were saved from. It is just amazing. It is amazing.

I think of another time where I got a call on two people fighting, two grown people fighting, a guy chasing this woman around the house with a machete. I got called there. We went up there. They were no longer out of the house. So we went up there. I remember the house was just, it looked like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. I thought, "What in the world? There cannot be anybody here. Surely this is, they were somewhere else." So I walked up the stairs. I had to walk over a porch that was all rickety. We knocked on the door. There was not a light on in the house. All of a sudden, the door flew open. Here was this guy standing like he was just a wild animal out of control. I thought, "What in the world?" I knew he was on some kind of drug or something. But there was a sheet covering the door behind it to keep the air on. I think it was two days before Christmas. It was terribly cold out. He ran back into the house. So we walked in after him. They had one room segregated off. In this room was him and his wife. His wife was sitting on the couch. She looked like a skeleton. She was gone. She looked like nothing but a skeleton. She had all of her drug stuff sitting out in front of her. Once again, my partner was dealing with that, and I was just sitting in the back. I heard something out of the corner of the room. So I turned. Out of the corner of a room was a little three-year-old girl that came up and walked up to me. This little girl was in the worst physical condition I could ever imagine. I picked her up because she was crying. Her parents obviously did not want nothing to do with her. I picked her up and held her.

Her hair was so matted and had so much lice in it, you could see her whole hair was moving. It was terrible. It was absolutely terrible how these people were treating that little girl.

To top it off, I thought, "I hear a little bit more." This girl was absolutely filthy. I heard another kid crying. I looked in the bassinet. They had a little playpen there. There was a little baby. It must have been eight months old. It was crying really badly now because the little baby, the daughter, the sister was not there with her. So I picked the baby up. They had a bottle. I saw a bottle was in there and picked it up. I was about to put it in the baby's mouth. I realized there was dog feces all over the nipple of this bottle. This is what this baby had to eat. I shook the bottle. It was like cottage cheese in there. That was all the baby had to eat. I know this is pretty descriptive. But that is the evil world we live in. That is this present evil world. And yet every day, God made a way for us to be delivered from this present evil world. For some reason, even as children of God, we decide that we want to go back to that every day. There is always something that drives us back to this evil world.

Once again, you say, "How can you do that?" Because every day, it is an example of what Christ did for me and how I was redeemed from this present evil world. It is easy for me. I am in this world, but I am not of this world. I cannot stand the things that these unsaved people do to each other. It is absolutely crazy. And the things that saved people do to each other. And the lives that we keep getting back into every day. Me too. I do it too. There are certain things in my life that are easy for me to fall into if I would let them do it or let them possess me. But when you look at it, Christ died for that deliverance. Who are we to shake our heads and say, "God, forget it. I do not want it anymore. I just want to stay in this world because this world is so good to me"? I am telling you, it is not. I could go on and on with stories like that all day long. A lot worse ones that I just cannot say in public. It is just absolutely terrible.

*Titus 2:14*

*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Why do we want to go back to this? Why do we constantly go back to this world that is never anything but problems and sufferings and heartaches for us? I do not understand it. But that is Christ that died for us for a new deliverance.

## V. A New Desire

The next point, point number four. Christ died that we might have a new desire. Before I was saved, my desire was always things of this world, just like I talked about just a minute ago. My desire was something that, whatever I wanted to do, I did. But when I first came to this church five years ago, or so, I guess it has been a little longer than that now, but five years ago, I came to this church and I saw the desire of everyone in this church and how it was different than the desire of all my unsaved friends. I saw that there was a difference here. I am not saying just here. I am sure that in several churches throughout the country, there is a good desire. Good saved men and women have a desire to do right.

When I was unsaved, I came in here, and even growing up in a Christian home, I realized that there was something different. When you go out on Saturday night with your friends and you go out to a bar, everybody is the same. Did you ever notice that? Everybody is doing the same thing. Go to a ball game. You do not have to go somewhere bad. Go to a ball game. For the most part, everybody is doing the same thing. We are like cows just walking down the road, chewing our cud, and just going straight ahead, not doing anything. It is all the same. The desire is all the same: the world, the world, the world. Whatever the world has got to offer us, whatever feels good, whatever we can do now in the moment, that is what we did. But Christ died that we might have a new desire.

When I got saved, immediately I knew that I had a different desire. I am not saying that everything in this world is bad to do. Obviously, we are humans. We have got to do things. We have got to do things that we love and enjoy. But if they get between us and God, that is when it is a problem. My desire now is just to be a steward of God. That is my desire. I just want to be a steward of God. I want to do whatever God has for me to do. I am not saying I know what my calling is. I cannot say that I know what God wants me to do 20 years down the line. I do not know. I have no idea. But I know that since the will of God that I got saved, I know that God's plan for me is to do something. At this point, I am just going to be a steward. I just want to do what is right, or at least try to do what is right. That should be the desire of all of us.

To be honest with you, I see it here. When I first came here, I was so jealous. I saw people that were my age. Forget about the people that have been around that were older that were still doing it. This church is just absolutely plentiful with them. But I saw people that were my age and were different. They had a different desire than the people that I was hanging out with. The desire of the people I was hanging out with was whatever makes me look better in front of him. That is what I want to do. But now I get into a body of believers, and it is, "Look what we can do together. Look what we can accomplish for God together." That is the desire that we need to have. That is what I love about this church. As I said, there is so much there that I see in this church, and I love because of that desire. There is absolutely a difference. You can tell it because when you go to work tomorrow morning, people look at you differently. There is a difference there because their desire is to progress as far as they can in this world. Our desire is to invest ourselves or to do something in man's life so that they can have the same desire that we have. That is the difference.

The Bible says to set your affections on things above, not on things of this world. Before I was saved, and a lot of Christians do this too, we fall back into it. Once again, I do not understand why you would want to fall back into this problem, but we all do. But it says to set your affections on things above. For me, two things that I want to set my affections on are this Bible. I am not saying I am perfect. No one is. But I want to set my affections on things in this Bible, and I want to set my affections on the souls of men. Those are the only two things that are eternal. Those are the only two things that you really should do.

I want to take some time here just for a second, and I want to tell you the difference between spending your life and investing your life. There is a big difference. Those of us who are older, and I include myself in this, I know when I was younger, I started working. I have been working

pretty much the same job since I have been 21 years old. I am 30, going on 36 years old now, and I have spent a lot of my life. I have not invested my life. When you look at it, those of us that have been through life a little bit or more than I have, you see how when you are younger, you spend your time. You do not invest your time. It is gone. Your time is gone. There is nothing you can do to get that back. Spending something, you do not have anything to show for it. But when you invest your time in something, you have something to show for it. When you invest yourself, that is what is quality. That is what lasts. You have to look as a saved person on investing your life into something. That investment is here in this Bible and in the souls of men, as I talked about.

Before I was saved, I spent my life doing what I wanted to do. Now I am trying to invest my life. Once again, I am not up here saying, "I am better than everybody." I am saying we should all have this. We should all feel this. I am now trying to invest my life into something. I have three little boys that I want to invest everything that I know into them. Several of you parents that have grown children have done that. The reason I know that you have done that is because your children are here just like I am here. Because you have invested your time in them, and you have invested this Book in them, they are here. You have invested your life in something.

Before I was saved, I spent my life. I spent my life doing whatever I wanted. Now that I am saved, I am trying to invest my life into something. The proof is in the pudding. If you would have known me before, some of you guys have known me for a long time. I would never get up here and do this, ever, ever, ever, ever. My idea of a good time was anywhere but in church. Some of us got hurt in church. A lot of us have been hurt in churches. I did not want anything to do with it. I did not want to spend my time in it. Now I am trying to invest my time. Everything in my life has changed. My prayer life has changed. My relationships have changed. My testimony has changed. Everything about me. Everything has changed because I am now trying to invest myself instead of just spinning my wheels and spending my time doing what I always did before.

The example I have of this is if you go back to the time of Christ's death, you have Pilate. You have Pilate and Christ. Look at how Pilate was. If you would have asked anybody back then who you would rather be, would you rather be that man hanging on the cross, dying, whipped, bloody, or Pilate, who was one of the biggest rulers of the world under Caesar? He had everything he wanted. He had a beautiful palace. He had everything in life that he did. Pilate spent his life for Rome. What has he done for you now? Pilate? Who is he? He got a little bit in the Bible, this much. I already told you Christ is mentioned in every book and almost every chapter in the New Testament, or something pointing to Christ on the cross. Pilate got this much. He spent his life, and it is gone. He did not do anything for us. Now you look 2,000 years later, look what Christ did. He invested His life for us. That is the difference. That is what I am talking about, spending and investing. Millions of people are going to be able to experience glory and eternity with God because of what Christ invested Himself on that cross for. He absolutely gave us that new desire. He absolutely gave us that new desire so that we can also now turn around and invest our lives into other people. That is the difference between spending and investing.

The problem is, a saved man and an unsaved man can spend his life. I still spend my time. I still spend my time not for the glory of God. I still do. I have got to work. I have got to eat. I try to do everything to the glory of God, but we do spend our time. Those of you that know me very well know that I am going to waste this whole next week going up to Wisconsin and bear hunt. I am going to spend my time up there. Now if I get the opportunity, hopefully I will be able to invest my time in witnessing to somebody and giving them salvation. That is at least what I am telling myself. I do not know how many people are going to come around when I am sitting in a tree, but that is the difference. We have got to have a balance obviously, but saved men and unsaved men can spend their time, but we need to try to have that same goal that Christ did by investing His life for us.

## VI. A New Dynamic

We are getting up to a really big buck here. We are up to point number five. The fifth thing is that Christ died that we might have a new dynamic.

*Acts 1:8*

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

There is a difference between power and dynamic. That is what I want to talk about here for the next few minutes: power and dynamic. To me, and this all goes underneath, He gives us a new dynamic. For me, I do not know about you, but in nature, I think the most impressive thing is lightning. Lightning is an unbelievable, powerful thing. To me, tornadoes do not touch it, hurricanes do not touch it, tsunamis do not touch it. You get hit by a bolt of lightning, you are done. You might as well just write it off. Unbelievably or not, I saw a guy just on the news the other day that actually survived one, and he had a hole here and a hole here on his foot. It just went right through him, but I do not know, it just was not his time, I guess. But to me, the power of lightning is unbelievable.

There is a difference between power and dynamic. Ben Franklin figured out the dynamic of power. He really did. Power is nothing until you use it. The power that is in you, you have the power. Lost people, lost men have had power. As I said, all the kings and the popes and the rulers of the world over the last 2,000 years, they all had power. Power in and of itself is not necessarily a good thing. But when you harness that power and you use it for good, then it becomes a dynamic.

Another way to look at it would be my dad right now. He is building a car. He just got the engine running the other day. But that car does not do any good if all you have is that engine. That engine is the power, but until you harness that power and put four wheels on it, and put some brakes on it. My dad has a lot of power right now, but he has no dynamic. His car is sitting there, he has got the chassis all going, he has got the exhaust all going. He has got everything going, but he cannot sit in that car and go yet. He has got all the power in the world, but he has not got no dynamic. That is what we need to use. That is what we need to have.

When Christ died on the cross, He left for us a power. Unsaved man does not want that power. He thinks he has got the power in his own to do it. He thinks, "I can do this on my own. I have got the power, I have got all the power in the world to do whatever I want to." But it means nothing. It means nothing without having that dynamic. The Holy Spirit inside of you is that power. With a saved man, the second you accept Christ as your personal Savior, that power is what motivates you and what drives you. If you do not have that, you are left to your own devices, and you are going to end up screwing up every single time. The Holy Spirit is what gets us through this.

*Galatians 3:13-14*

*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

That power is what we use to accomplish things for Christ. I guess a way to look at it, I do not know if everybody remembers Jeff Bush's message when he was here, that missionary that came, Brother Keith. His message was perfect for this. I am not going to embarrass anybody by asking if they remember the three points that he gave us, but I remember it because it was perfect for what I was going to preach.

- Salvation was his first point.  
Salvation is when we obtain that power. That is the power. You get it, but without doing something through it, there is still no dynamic. There is still nothing going on.
- Service, the second point that he talked about on that service, that service is our dynamic.  
We are now doing something for Christ. We have a purpose here, guys. We do. We have an absolute purpose to get something done for Christ, and without that dynamic, without that power, we are just spinning our wheels. We are just like a parked car in a garage, or we are like lightning that keeps on destroying people. We are not going to ever do anything.
- Sanctification, and that is the end result, being set apart and getting your reward, doing what God wanted you to do and having that purpose and having that drive and having that motivation to get something done for Him.

## VII. A New Dominion

Point number six is that Christ died to establish a new dominion. When we talk about dominion, we talk about something that has control over us. Whether it be the world or whether it be money or whatever it is, something that has control over us has dominion over us. Christ died so that we can have a new dominion.

*Romans 14:7-9*

*For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the*

*Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*

For a lot of us in this church, this has been a hard year. I know Mike, you lost your dad. Bev lost her mom. I lost my mother-in-law. It has been a tough year. I have had two friends that have died. It has really been a long, hard year for everybody in the church. We have had a lot of suffering in the church. We have had a lot of freak accidents. It has just been weird. I do not understand it, but this verse is what gets us through it all. It says, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord."

When Christ was on this Earth, He lived and gained dominion over this Earth. He is the only one that has done that. That is what makes, remember we talked about Him being supernatural, living that supernatural life at the beginning of the message? He lived a supernatural life and He gained dominion over this world. He dealt with everything we dealt with. He loved, He lost. You look at the marriage of Cana when He was there. He obviously was having a good time when He was at that wedding. He was not just sitting there like a bump on a log and walking around like the Pope blessing people all day long. He was having a good time, just like the rest of us have a good time. He loved in this world. He talked about His friend Lazarus. When he died, He cried. He loved and lost just like all of us, but He gained dominion. He did not let this world hold something over His head.

So when He died to give us a new dominion, we now have that ability too. Now that we are the sons of God, He has given us that ability to gain dominion over living, over this life. We now have the true joy that we should have throughout this life. We can now deal with love. We can deal with loss. We can deal with temptations when they come to us because we do not have to worry about, "Oh, gee, what do I do? How do I get through this?" We do not have to worry about that anymore. Christ died for us. He gave us that example. We are sons of God. We have Christ living inside of us. We can gain that dominion too. Whether we live or we die, we can get through it because we have that example.

Remember at the first of the message, I talked about the verse in 1 Peter 2:21. It says, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." One of those steps, guys, is that dominion. We do not have to worry about it anymore. Whether it is life or whether it is death. That is the beauty of it. That is how we deal with the loss. That is how we deal with the loss in this life because Christ is still going to be taking care of us. Those of us who are saved and in this body, in this body of believers that I love so much, Christ died so that we have dominion over death now. We do not have to worry about dying and suffering and eternal wrath of God in the lake of fire because He has done it already. He has beat it. He has helped us. That is how we get through it. I can rejoice right now that my mother-in-law is in heaven. I do not have to worry about that. It has been taken care of. We do not have to continually live and worry about those issues.

By Christ taking the keys of death and hell away from the devil, He really did us a favor. He did us a favor. And yet we reject it every day. We reject it every day. We try every day to do

something contrary to what Christ did for us on that cross. We do. We try to make something better on our own. We try to do something better than what Christ did. It is all done for us already. It is all done for us. We do not have to worry about it.

An unsaved man does not have dominion over this life, and he does not have dominion over his death. He does not have control. But we do, and that is something that we can look forward to and something that we can embrace and say, "Christ did it for us already."

- An unsaved man has no dominion over sin, the death of sin.

He cannot control himself. Just like that 11-year-old boy that I talked about, he has no choice. He is caught in this world. He does not have any dominion. He has no way of getting out of it and making himself a better life. But Christ did that for us.

- An unsaved man has death of ignorance.

He does not have any idea of how to understand spiritual things. I was talking to a guy a couple weeks ago, and he asked me, "Isn't church boring for you? How long have you been going to church now?" I said, "Well, I got saved five years ago, and I cannot say I have not missed a weekend, but I have been going to church for five years now." He goes, "Isn't it boring?" I go, "Why are you saying that? What are you talking about?" He kind of caught me off guard. I thought, "What are you talking about?" He said, "Well, the Bible only means one thing. The verse can only mean one thing." It took me a second. I kind of sat on it for a second. I go, "What do you mean it just means one thing?" He said, "Well, you open up your Bible. There are 31,000 plus verses in the Bible, and it only means one thing." I thought to myself, "What an ignorant thing to say." Even if you understood one verse a day, it would take you 20 years to get through what each verse means in the Bible, not to mention the spiritual application it has to it. I told him, "Each verse to me means something new to me every day that I read it. Because the Holy Spirit deals with me differently every day." He goes, "No, no, no, you said the Bible can only mean one thing." I thought, "I have to apply a biblical principle here because this is just not working here." I thought to myself, "An unsaved man does not understand the spiritual principles of God." That was the bottom line. I could have argued that to him until I was blue in the face and dead and gone away, and he would not have understood that. He would not have understood it. Their death of ignorance, they do not understand spiritual things of God. They can understand what one thing means doctrinally and have a head knowledge of it, but they do not have that heart knowledge that leads us to spiritual things. That is a terrible thing. What a lonely thing. What a sad thing. Not to have that dominion over that.

- An unsaved man has death of fear.

We all have fear. I think fear is what drives us all to salvation at some point in time. Fear helps us, points us to the cross, because without fear, what do we have? Fear is probably our most natural emotion that we have. But fear of an unsaved man, an unsaved man has the fear of being judged without an advocate to plead their cause. They do not have anybody there. They are left to themselves. Can you imagine how scary it is going to be when an unsaved man gets to God at the Great White Throne Judgment? That is going to be a fearful time. I think about it. I am shaking my boots thinking about the Judgment Seat of Christ. I know I am going to get through that. An unsaved man has no idea of the fear that is going to

come to them. That is what they are dead to. They have no idea. They are going to stand before God Almighty, and there is going to be no one standing there to plead their cause. I know at the Judgment Seat of Christ, Christ is going to be there pleading my cause. He is going to say, "Joe was a piece of dirt on this Earth, but he trusted in Me. And I want him with Me." The devil is going to just go at Him and go at Him, and say, "Look at all the stupid things he did. Here is a whole list. He got saved in March of 2005. Look, there are all the stupid things he did right here. These are all the sins he committed. He needs to go to heaven." And Christ is going to say, "Yeah, he needs to go to heaven." But an unsaved man, that fear is there. That fear is there right now. When you go before God Almighty, and you have to bow your knee to Him, and say, "You did not trust in what Christ did on the cross 2,000 years ago. You did not believe one thing that He did for you. It was so simple. It was so simple. When you are thirsty, you took a glass of water, did you not? When you were thirsty, you took a drink. How come it is not?" Salvation was just as easy as that. Take it, believe it, accept it. But an unsaved man has got to stand there with trembling knees, fall down before Him, bow his head before God Almighty, and He is going to say, "Depart from Me. Get out of here. I do not know you. You did not accept My Son? I do not accept you." That is a fearful thing.

- And then the death of despair.

They do not have dominion over despair. I do. The way they spend their days wrapped up in this world, and they call themselves alive. Did you ever notice that? Did you ever notice how the world thinks that you are weird, and how you are dead? The world itself thinks they are alive. The world thinks they have got everything. The world thinks they have got a corner on everything. I get it every time my unsaved friends, I call them friends, the people I knew before I got saved that are not saved now, they are still in my life. They still call me up. "Hey, let us go out, let us go here, let us go there." I look at them, I say, "How long have you known me since I have been saved? In the last five years, do you know me to ever do the things that I did before I got saved? Why do you keep asking me to do these things?" Because they think they are alive, and they think I am dead. They think what I have got is a sham. I remember one time, a guy told me, and this was before I got saved, and this stuck with me. Another person that I knew got saved, and there was a change in his life, and people saw that change in his life. That guy behind his back, instead of saying it to this man that has a notable change, he said, "He will be back. Nobody ever changes like that for good, they will come back." The sad thing is, the reason they think that is because us Christians do go back. We are not that shining light to this world that we should be, and he has got that bad taste in his mouth because he has seen time and time again, people say, "Oh, I got saved," they come up to them, and there is a little bit of change in their life, and then 10 months later, they are back to the world. They are back to doing the same old stupid things, but they call themselves alive. They think, "Oh, look at the good time I am having. Look at all the fun things I get to do." I tell you what, I have never been more alive in the last five years than I have ever been in my life. There is nothing that is going to change that. I am going to screw up, but there is nothing that is going to change that.

In conclusion, look at what a Christian has that Christ delivered us from. Just look at the list here.

- He delivered us from sin.

We do not have to pay the price for sin anymore. Christ paid it for us. It is as easy as that.

- He loosed us from darkness and gave us light.

No more do we have to worry about walking through this world alone without any guidance, without any direction. He has changed that for us. He has given us this Word of God. He has given us this Bible so that we can have that light, so that we can have that fellowship with Him. We do not have to live in darkness. We do not have to bump around this whole world anymore thinking that we know better than God knows. We do not have to worry about that anymore.

- He shattered the stronghold of Satan and set us free.

I do not even know if I have to expound on that. That is so simple. Satan had such a stronghold on my life before I got saved, and thank God that Calvary set us free from that.

- He redeemed us from this present evil world and gave us a new citizenship.

I talked about that when I was telling you those examples, and all of us have those examples. All of us have those examples, and every one of us can give us those stories about how evil this world is before we got saved, and God saved us from that.

- He ransomed us from the power of the grave, and we can live for eternity with God.

The One that made us, the One that loved us enough to put us on this Earth and want to have fellowship with us, He died so that we could be there with Him.

- And last and most importantly, He delivered us from the wrath to come.

That is the best part. That is the best part in my book.

Guys, are you part of His new dominion? Do you have control over that? Do you have control over your life? I would hope to say every one of us in this room do.

Let us pray.

Dear God, Thank You for this time that we can get together and get in Your Book, Lord, and just get to learn a different aspect about the cross, Lord, that we may not have thought about before. Realize, Lord, that it is more than just salvation, Lord. You have given us so many demonstrations and so many new destinies and a new dominion, Lord, that we do not have to worry about this world anymore. We can love You. We can go through life with our heads lifted up and our heads lifted high, Lord, knowing that You have got our back, Lord, and that You are going to get us through this world and You are going to take us on to glory, Lord. We love You for everything You do in our lives. Thank You so much for Your Son, Lord. Thank You for sending this Earth God to die on that cross 2,000 years ago so that I can go to heaven and be with You someday, Lord. Thank You for all You do, Lord. Bless the rest of this day and just be with us throughout the week, Lord, and help every one of us to be a good witness for You, God. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.