

“Are We Being a Dam or a River For God?”

By Bob Heitzler

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I remember going to work many times, singing that song, “Jesus Is the Lord of the Way I Feel” (“Praise the Lord, Ha-le-lu/I don’t care what the devil’s gonna do...”). I used to sing it, “...Couldn’t care *less* what the devil’s gonna do...” Sometimes we were going through some stuff at work that Satan ordained against us. Some of us brothers worked together, and we stood as one. If they asked Tom Hanson what the message was, they got the same answer from Bob Heitzler; they asked Bob Heitzler what the message was, they got the same message from Greg Bozarth, and so on and so on. We weren’t split, we were of one mind and one accord in the message of the Word of God. Many of them were quoting their pastors and their teachers and some evangelist on TV, but we quoted the Word of God.

I thought about that Galatians is a letter to the church. It’s not like he was coming to town preaching at a group of people, he’s specifically talking to the members of that church. It’s no different than if our bishop come and talks to the body of believers here.

I thank God for calling me to this ministry; I thank God for the leadership of this ministry. I thank God that they have pulled me aside many times and said, “Bob, you need to straighten this out, fix this..” It’s the sanctification time. Sometimes if you ask God, “What do I need to fix?” you might get a big list. The message that we get here, sometimes it steps on your toes, and sometimes it stomps on your feet. Sometimes the rebuking is heavy, and sometimes they are just reminders. Whoever is delivering the message up here, the message is coming from God. I remember we were talking about your message, Wednesday night, Tom, at “It’s All Good,” and I believe that everybody that was there is here today. Even a new person came out and her name is Amy, she’s sitting back there; she came out today. It was an awesome time of fellowship, rehearsing—and it was good to see people speak their minds and share about that message, Tom, it really was.

Today, we’re talking about Galatians chapter 2, so let’s give the Lord a praise. Galatians chapter 2 starts off with verse 1, and I’m going to be jumping around, because they only gave me a certain amount of time to get all this out. The first verse states.....

Galatians 2:1 *Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also*

Now I’m going to skip down to verse 7 - that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

Galatians 2:7-9 *... the Gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the Gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter...*

Here’s two totally different people had two totally different missions from God, that ministry to two totally different nations... But they were serving the same God! They were given instruction by the same person.

What is this telling us? God has a calling on every person here in this room. There may be somebody in this room today that is going to a nation to share. Maybe someone in this room

is going to another fellowship, or to another congregation. Maybe that person will walk in today; maybe they'll walk in tomorrow. Maybe it's somebody that's been sharing with that work right now.

Paul, who was named Saul at the time, do you think he woke up that morning knowing that God was going to change his whole life? Or Peter, that he was going to wake up one day and be in charge? It's just common folks, just like us. Also, another point I want to make, is that it doesn't matter if it is a nation we are called to or, a fellowship, congregation, coffee shop, kitchen table, work location, school, college, and etc.... God is the one that calls us and He will qualify us!!

If you ask somebody, like, in my family, if somebody mentions, something that happened fourteen years ago, what's the next question that they might ask? "What happened fourteen years ago?" Let's Find Out!! We're going to talk about what happened to Paul on that day:

Acts 9:1-2 *And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*

So Paul is getting permission from the High Priest. Paul really thought that he was doing the will of God that day, bringing people bound, because something new was happening. So, on his way:

Acts 9:3-6 *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?...*

He got a wake-up call that day. Now he's afraid. Here he is, thinking that he's going a work for God, and God Himself just knocked him to the ground. The people that were around, heard a voice but saw no man. As he came up off the ground, he was blind. He had to be led by hand, and he asked, "What do you want me to do?"

Acts 9:6-9 *...And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.*

Three days, he can't see, and he's not eating. What a wake-up call! Can you imagine the people standing there, hearing a voice, and see nobody? What would you think? I'd be like, "Wooo! A ghost maybe? I don't know!" They heard something, but they couldn't see what was going on! They knew that the person in charge, that was Saul at the tie, they had to help him go where he needed to go. Now, in verse 10:

Acts 9: 10-12 *And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.*

Here is Ananias praying, “God use me; I’m here! Use me!” God answers the prayer, “Okay, I want to use you,” and what does Ananias say? “Lord...” verse 13:

Acts 9: 14-18 *Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.*

“He’s after people just like me!”

Acts 9: 15-17 *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house;...*

He stepped out by faith. God can fix it. God prepared the way, now he’s walking in... How would you feel? Your worst enemy, and God is telling you to share with them? You’d be thinking, “Okay, God, it’s got to be You.” Make sense? I’ve got a point to this; it’s coming.

Acts 9: 17 *...and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul,...*

Already acknowledging him as brother...

Acts 9: 17-18 *...the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.*

He was baptized in Jesus’ name. Saul (Paul) straightway preached Christ.....

Acts 9:20-22 *And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*

The same people that he hung with, now are seeking him, to kill him. Now they’re after him.. He knew that, because he used to be on the other side. He knew where they hid at. He knew all the hiding places.

Acts 9:23-24 *And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.*

So, they had to sneak him down in a basket, over the wall. Who did? The people that he used to kill. The Christians are now helping Paul to escape for his life. “Aw, man, a week ago, he was after us, and now we’re helping him out? Okay, God, You must have done something here.” So, there it is, verse 25:

Acts 9:25-27 *Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles,...*

Now Barnabas is taking him to the hiding place. Paul is like, “You guys were hiding here? Wow, I never thought about looking in here.” God protected the Christians, at the time, in their hiding place. Now Saul, is coming to Jerusalem, and he has the calling to preach unto the Gentiles.

Just a side note:

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

So Saul got his name changed to Paul.

Acts 9:27-31 ...and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Peter was called to minister to the circumcised, but he had to be the one to share with the Gentiles. Why? because he was the leader. So,, here is Cornelius (I’m in Acts chapter 10 now) praying and seeking God, and God spoke back to him; God sent an angel to speak to Cornelius. Here is a Gentile, praying, and seeking God, and he prays down an angel. I’ve never prayed down an angel. This guy did. This guy had a walk. This guy had something going on there. let’s read it:

Acts 10:1 *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,*

That means you’re in charge of a hundred people.

Acts 10:2-3 *A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day...*

So about three o'clock in the afternoon...

Acts 10:3 *...an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*

So, here you are praying, imagine somebody walking up to you and saying, "Yes?" You'd take a double-take, wouldn't you? There was something about this angel, that he knew it was from God, and he wasn't afraid of it. The angel gave him instructions. Now, let's skip down to verse 9, Peter was on the housetop, praying about noon time. He saw a vision:

Acts 10:9-19 *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.*

Peter didn't have any trouble figuring that one out: .He saw the vision three times, and there were three men seeking him.

Acts 10:20-26 *Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.*

Peter knew that he was not God; he was just the messenger of God. Here's Peter walking in, and the place is full. Cornelius has got everybody there to hear the message. Once again, these are Gentiles; once again, we're talking about Galatians chapter 2. There's a point to this.

Acts 10:27-31 *And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.*

He's rehearsing the story back to Peter what he saw. Peter's still mapping this all together. "Wait a minute, something happened to me about that time, too."

Now, if we skip down to verse 43... Peter was sharing, there was something familiar about this, because it had happened before, on the day of Pentecost. He recognized that this was happening again. He recognized that something was going on; he's been here before. It's happening here; the Spirit of God is coming down, and it's sitting on these people. Peter didn't go by himself; the Scripture says that he brought six people with him. Peter was sharing, we go down to verse 43:

Acts 10:43 *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

Did not Matthew 28:19 say to go to all nations? It didn't say just Jews, it said to all nations. God already had this planned. God already had this in the making. Maybe Peter didn't know that, that day when He said that, but now he's seeing it. In verse 44:

Acts 10:44 *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word.*

It wasn't Peter's word, it was God's Word.

Acts 10:45 *And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished,...*

The people that were with him are like, "Whoa! Wow! This is happening!"

Acts 10:45-48 *...as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

Peter stayed around teaching Bible studies still. He's spending time with these people. Now, in Acts chapter 11 (we're not going to read the whole thing), he's going to Jerusalem to explain what he did, and they asked him, "Are you crazy, going to the Gentiles?" because they're used to the old ways, the old Jewish rules, the Law of the Old Testament. God prepared a new way, and it's being unfolded in front of them. He explains the whole story, and, then, in verse 15:

Acts 11:15 *And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.*

He's talking about on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost filled that room, but now it filled that house.

Acts 11:16-18 *Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*

Why did I share this? Because it's teaching us that it doesn't matter walk of life someone came from, they can be saved. We have a brother here that was a Muslim but he was welcomed in when he came. There's people in our ministry that were drug addicts or alcoholics or prostitutes. All walks of life can come through our doors, and we share with them the Gospel of Christ. They get saved and they don't do that any more; they don't back to that lifestyle any more. We can't judge people coming to God and say, "We can't share with them because of this..." God doesn't want us to do that. That's what it talks about in Galatians chapter 2 (I'll be there in a minute), God wants us to share with everybody that comes through that door. If they pose a threat, if they're here for the wrong reasons, I trust that our ushers will escort them out immediately. If they walk in receiving, they want to hear, then we're going to welcome them in. we can't pick and choose who we share with; we can't pick and choose who God sends to our ministry. I remember one time, one brother said, about Richard Brand, "I can't talk to him; he's a clown. He's not even serious. God, You want me to talk to him?" He got past that and talked to Richard Brand. Richard Brand is still saved, still faithful in Norfolk Virginia right now. Too many churches pick their own crowd to attend!

Peter needed to be reminded what happen on this day...

Galatians 2: 11-14 *But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?*

Brother Tom shared last week:

Galatians 1: 6-7 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

Peter forgot about what happened in Acts chapters 10 and 11. He was sitting down, fellowshiping with somebody, and then some Jews came in, and he removed himself, and sat on

this side, away from them, so that it would leave the image that he was a good Jewish person, even though the people in Jerusalem already knew that the Gentiles had been given the Gospel. There are times that we—I only want to speak for myself—there have been times that I got up and moved, too, because I didn't want to be around certain people, and God fried my bacon for it. God showed me that everybody can make it to Heaven. I was raised prejudiced. I don't like admitting that, but I was raised prejudiced. I was told to stay away from certain people, not to date certain people. All because my grandfather taught that to my dad. I realized, down deep inside me, that it was wrong, but every time I spoke up, I got hit pretty hard. If I didn't have the beard, you could see two cuts in my face from my mom's diamond ring. I took a stand that day. I went to school, and there were two African-American girls there that day (this was 1967); I sat down right across from one of them, and I reached over and I touched her face, because I had never seen an African-American before in my life. I didn't know what—and we became friends. I saw that she had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and I had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and I asked, "Can I have your peanut butter and jelly sandwich? I'll give you mine," and hers tasted better than mine did, and she said mine tasted better than hers did. I was so happy, I went home and told my mom, "Hey, mom, I met two new people at school today!" She hit me so hard, "Stay away from them!" I remember looking down, bleeding into my bowl of Wheaties. I never saw my mom so shaken before in my life. She said stay away from them. Did I stay away from them? No, I didn't. A miracle happened. My parents wanted their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary here at the church, and they wanted me to perform the ceremony. Guess who they asked to be there? Brother Parrish. When I saw my mom give Brother Parrish a hug, I knew God healed her. I knew God healed it, at that time, it was over. Until this day, she's always asking, "How is Parrish doing?" very phone call. When they were in town, Parrish shared something in service (I don't remember what it was that pastor had him share) but whatever it was that was shared, it changed my parents' lives. That was years ago, and they're still asking about him.

So I can't pick and choose who I want to talk to, who God sends my way. I wake up in the morning, and I said, "God use me," and God says, "Okay, talk to a man named Brent." If you ask God to be used, He's going to use you. If you don't want to be used of God, then don't ask. That's why my message title for today is, "Are we Being a Dam or a River for God?"

Peter was fellowshipping with the Gentiles until some Jews came from Jerusalem that was sent by James. Peter then separated himself from the Gentile to a point that others did to. What Peter did, everybody else did too. They were following the leader.

Do we pick and choose who we hang around with? Or share with? God is using us to share his Gospel... That's why I say, are we being a dam or a river for God?

I heard this story many times over the years about preachers and pastors don't always agree with the church philosophies, the doctrine, and the teachings, but they must abide by what they say or they will be thrown out. Also they are afraid to preach certain sermons from the pulpit for fear of upsetting some church members, this might stop the offerings and tithes coming in. So they preach to tickle people's ears. Not here. We preach the Word of God here. If you walk away mad, that's a good thing, because it's going to cause you to search the scriptures and find out for yourself.

Peter was an important leader in the church of Jerusalem, so why shouldn't they believe in what he was teaching? We want to believe we can trust in the teachings of the church leaders, but we should be careful to study the Word of God ourselves so we can know if they are teaching

something incorrectly. Our Pastor always taught us, ever since I've been here, "Don't take my word for it, read it yourself!" I'm saying don't believe me, read it for yourself.

Paul, in front of all everyone within the church, tries to talk and reason with Peter and let him know what he is doing was wrong. Peter did this in the open, so Paul rebuked it in the open. If Peter had done it on the side, then Paul could have talked to him on the side, but since he did it in the open, Paul had to correct the situation. Something had to be said. He said "You are a Jew, but you don't live by the old laws anymore. So why do you make the Gentiles live by the Jewish laws?" When people come through that door, we're not going to change their culture, how tall they are, their upbringing... We have to accept them for who they are and that God has sent them here. If you're a Bears fan, (football season starts today) and you get baptized, you come up out of the tank still a Bears fan. You're a new man, spiritually, but you're still going to root for the Bears. If you're a Minnesota fan, you're going to come up still rooting for your team. Minnesota, Green Bay Packers, and even the Baltimore Ravens... It would be nice if everybody came up out of the water rooting for the New England Patriots, but I know that's not the case. The point I'm trying to make is, we're still the same person; we're still flesh and blood. We still make mistakes. We still fall short sometimes. We still get angry. We still throw the dishes. What do we do with it since we got saved? We have a God who hears us, who talks to us, who we can pray to for forgiveness.

When we disagree with someone in the church, do we go to that person? We seem to hear about that this person that gets mad at a person (could be pastor, teacher, other members) they start calling people, like a phone campaign... or they post it on Facebook, start IMing people and on and on.

Paul had a problem with Peter, he didn't go to James or John, Paul went to Peter and he addressed it with him. If we have somebody that offends us, if Brother Malcolm offends me, I shouldn't say, "Brother Parrish, Brother Malcolm offended me." He's going to stop me in my tracks, and say, "Did you talk to the brother?" I say, "No," but I already know what to do; I need to talk to the brother. Sometimes it's easy to get captivated and motivated and start listening to accusations. We've got to say no to that; we've got to support each other. If somebody comes to you with an accusation, redirect them. Send them to that person, please. A whole lot of issues would be taken care of just like that. That person will learn, "I did something wrong," and go to God, and it gets absolved. The type of job that I do is QA (quality assurance), and I check people's work. So, if I check some work on September 5th, for example, and they made a mistake, I don't wait until they're sitting in the supervisor's office to answer for that mistake. By that time, they've done more. I get right up and I go to that person, "Hey, when you did this, you should have done this, this, and this." I take care of it right away. Some people wait until the end of the month just to watch that person get fried. Not me. I take care of the issue right away. I have learned that if I offend somebody, I'm going to call you until you answer the phone, I might knock on your door... I'm going to do everything I can to reach you before the sun comes down. I take that very seriously. If you're not willing to listen to me, then I realize that I did my part. I didn't just let it drop and forget about it.

So I wrote down two questions:

1. Am I sure what I am upset or critical about, is it valid enough to say to the person's face without fear of being wrong? (Satan is accuser of the brothers and sisters!)

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

If I'm upset with something that someone said, before I walk up and try to correct them, I have to realize that maybe I don't have the whole picture. Maybe I need to spend time in prayer to understand. When I was in bootcamp, I was told to run to the back door. As I was running to the back door, I said to myself, "I have no idea why I'm running to the back door, but, since Chief told me to,, I'm going to." When I got to the back door, I caught someone smoking. In bootcamp you can't smoke. If I hadn't listened to the Chief, I would have gotten in trouble, plus the guy that was smoking would have gotten in trouble. Sometimes God tells you something on the way... "I want you to go down this road." "Okay. Why, God?" "You'll know when you get there." Sometimes I like to know before I get there, but sometimes God just wants us to increase our faith by trusting Him.

2. If I really believe what I believe it is right, then shouldn't I be talking to the person face to face instead of going behind their back?

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

So, here I am correcting somebody, and that same temptation might tempt me. I have to come in a spirit of meekness. Not being judgmental, not bringing the bullwhip... "Hey, brother, I'm not understanding this, but I saw this and that... Can you explain? I just want to know." "Oh, yeah, Bob, I was just doing..." and it's something that totally wasn't even what I thought it was, it just appeared that way. Sometimes there is an issue that you need to address.

Sometimes we have to check, how is our walk with God? Are we a river? Are we a dam? Are we a reservoir? The dam stops the flow from God or a river. Do we stop the flow in our lives from reaching out to people? Do we pick who we want to talk to or not talk to? Do we pray when we want to pray, or do we pray even when we don't want to? Are we like a river that the grace of God just flows through our lives so that we can give someone that drink of water from God, that will restore their soul? If a dam is on a river, and your just letting out just enough so that you can say that you're a Christian, so that you can say, "Yeah, I have a walk with God," is that really right? I don't think so. We've got to let God's spirit flow through our lives. Sometimes we don't like it. I woke up this morning, and I was sleeping so good, and feeling so fine, and I said, "I can sleep in today," and then I said, "Wait a minute, if it feels this good, it must be Sunday, or a workday." So, I rolled out of bed at six o'clock this morning, and went over my notes, and prayed, and shared, and practiced in the mirror...

I'm closing now, starting with verse 16 of Galatians chapter 2

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

We can go through all the motions in church. We can do all the works, but, without faith in God, it's not going to work. Make sense?

Galatians 2:17 *But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

I like the period there.

Galatians 2:18 *For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*

You can't go back to the old ways. God changed everything for us. It's a new life, like someone shared this morning: It's a do-over. A fresh start. It starts fresh every morning.

Galatians 2:19-20 *For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;...*

Baptism in Jesus' name is representative of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:...*

Jesus lives in my life now; in our lives now, I should say. Right? We're not going by the flesh any more; we put that under the watery grave. We rose a new creature in Christ. Sometimes the old man or the old woman wants to pop up and try to change things. We've got to put that under our feet, dismiss it, and give it back to God.

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

I live by the faith of God but we still have to go through day by day. Sanctification time—we talked about addictions. An addiction can be something as simple as sugar in coffee. It can be real bad stuff, like alcohol, drugs, pornography, lust, all kinds of stuff can be addictions. God already knows what we're doing, whether we put it right or not. Get it right now, so you don't have to face it later on. Make sense?

Thank you everybody. God bless you.