

Paul H. Dixon
The Manifestation of the Grace of God
circa 1975

Unedited Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

As I've thought about this message, and about this night, this special day, Thanksgiving, and this special week, a week of dedication, I've been impressed to share with you tonight a message that I believe is the heart of the Bible. I preach to you tonight on the manifestation of the grace of God. And as we think about the grace of God, the Greek word that's used for grace is the word charis. And it's interesting that the same Greek word that appears many times in the New Testament, on several occasions is translated Thanksgiving or thankfulness.

Paul H. Dixon:

For instance, we'll not turn, but in Luke 17:9, Romans 6:17, 2 Corinthians 8:16, 1 Peter 2:19, this word is translated thankfulness or Thanksgiving instead of grace. The point is I think that God is telling us that grace and Thanksgiving go together. We would not have a Thanksgiving Day, we would not be able to give thanks, had it not been for the grace of God. There would be no week of dedication here at Emmanuel Baptist Church, had it not been for the grace of God. The Bible is a record of God's grace from the beginning to the end.

Paul H. Dixon:

The first time the word grace is found is in Genesis 6, when it says Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This goes right out throughout the Bible, until you get to the very last verse of the Book of Revelation. And then again, you find our attention called to the grace of God. Some people would have us to think that grace is just common to the New Testament. You'll find grace in the Old Testament. The very word itself is found at least 37 times in the Old Testament. As I said, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord before the law was given.

Paul H. Dixon:

After the law was given, God said to Moses, "Thou has found grace in my sight." Tozer said, speaking of grace in the Old Testament, "How can it be otherwise? God will always be Himself. He can no more hide His grace, than the sun can hide its brightness." Men in any dispensation may despise it, but none can extinguish it. There would be no Abraham, had it not been for the grace of God. There would be no Daniel, no David, no Samuel, no Isaiah had it not been for God's grace. Yet I think we do recognize that especially, grace is the message of the New Testament.

Paul H. Dixon:

Found 37 times in the Old, it's found 127 times in the New Testament. All of Paul's epistles speak of the grace of God. Both of Peter's epistles have the very word grace in them. Hebrews and Revelation, again, all make much using the very word itself of God's matchless grace. But there's one passage I would like to direct your attention to tonight, to center our thoughts on the grace of God. It's found in 1 Corinthians, the 15th chapter, and the first 10 verses. 1 Corinthians 15:1-10.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, preacher's pals, the man who wrote this was the Apostle Paul himself under the inspiration of the spirit of God. Keep that in mind, as we read what he said to the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 15:1,

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"Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel, the good news, which I preached unto you, which also you've received and wherein you stand." Hey, that's a great verse. "This gospel that I preached, that you've received, and that you're standing in, by which also you're saved. If you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you've believed in vain."

Paul H. Dixon:

"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. And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the 12. After that, He was seen of about 500 brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain under the present." Some are falling asleep. "After that, He was seen of James and then of all the apostles. And last of all, He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

Paul H. Dixon:

"So I am the least of the apostles that I'm not need to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am. And his grace, which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they are, yet not I, but the grace of God, which was with me." Note three things with me, please, in this passage, and especially in this 10th verse. Number one, the manifestation of God's grace in the Christian. Secondly, the manifestation of God's grace in the Christ. And finally, the manifestation of God's grace in the church.

Paul H. Dixon:

The manifestation of God's grace in the Christian. I think every Christian can speak about God's grace being revealed in him or in her. I think especially when I talk about the Christian, tonight I'm speaking about Mr. Christian. Barry Goldwater was called Mr. Conservative. Perhaps Richard Nixon right now could be called Mr. Republican. Franklin Delano Roosevelt might be called Mr. Democrat. You might want to give that tag to Thomas Jefferson. But when I speak of Mr. Christian, I'm speaking of the Apostle Paul himself, because he is the number one voice in the New Testament on the subject of grace.

Paul H. Dixon:

I mentioned that grace is found at least 127 times, the word. He used it 90 of those times. In other words, at least 75% of the time when it's used in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul is using it. Three times he gives this testimony because he wants people to know about his grace. He reflects it upon it here in Chapter 15, when he talks about how he persecuted the church of God, and yet the grace of God was revealed in him. What a thrilling testimony, as Luke gave it once and Paul gave it twice. As we see him on one occasion, standing there as the young preacher, Stephen.

Paul H. Dixon:

The deacon speaks loudly and clearly of the grace of God in the Old Testament. They take him outside and kill him, stone him. Saul stands there and says amen to it all. There he stands, a devout Jew, well educated, full of culture. And yet as he stands there, he's saying, "I don't want anything to do with what that Stephen's talking about. I don't want anything to do with Christ and Christianity." From that day on, he sets out to persecute Christians. Acts Chapter 8, that he made havoc of the church. And that word havoc means to destroy, to wreck apart.

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Paul H. Dixon:

His purpose was to tear up the cause of Christ. And it says he went into every house to do this. Did you know that the devil has a visitation program? We talk about a visitation program in the church and going house to house. The devil goes house to house too, and he did back in Acts 8. But in Acts 9, just seen Saul of Tarsus, who's to become the Apostle Paul is going down the Damascus Road to find more Christians to kill them, to persecute them. He meets the Jesus, the Christ. And as he falls prostrate on that road, he owns up to his sinfulness. He owns up to who Christ is.

Paul H. Dixon:

And by faith, he takes him as his Savior. He's miraculously transformed into the greatest preacher of all time. Oh, what Paul knew about the grace of God. May I say tonight, the same experience that Paul had on Damascus Road, you can have tonight. The same Christ who saved him, wants to save you tonight. The same Christ who was alive in that day, is alive tonight and He is able to save your soul. You know, as Paul reflected on the grace of God in the New Testament, he didn't just start with the salvation. He said in Galatians 1:15, "When it pleased God to separate me from my mother womb and call me by his grace."

Paul H. Dixon:

He could see the grace of God before he was ever saved. He saw the grace of God before he was even born. I'm sure that many of you, who are saved tonight, could stand and testify to the grace of God working in your life before you ever became a Christian. We could see how God worked in our lives, perhaps in our training, perhaps in the people we met, perhaps in the family we were born in. The night I got saved, it was the grace of God I was there. I got saved on a Sunday night and I'd never been to church on Sunday night before. I was a senior in high school. I made fun of people who went to church at night.

Paul H. Dixon:

But I was there that night, and I heard of this Christ and He saved my soul. I look back on my life and I see God working and many of you can do the same. Many of you, who are here tonight, and who are not saved will look back and you'll see God working in your life and say, "Yes, the grace of God has been there working before I ever came to know the Lord Jesus Christ is my personal Savior." And then Paul just kept talking about the grace of God all throughout the New Testament. Romans 3:24, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

Paul H. Dixon:

Romans 4:16, he said, "Therefore, it is of faith that it might be by grace." Romans 5:20, "Moreover, the law entered that the offense might have bound, but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." What a tremendous verse. Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Ephesians 2:5 says, "We are saved by grace." Ephesians 2:8 says, "We're saved by grace, not of ourselves. It's the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast."

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2 Timothy 1:9 says, "Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our work, but by his grace, which is in Christ Jesus." Listen, we do not become Christians by what we do or what we are. You become a Christian, and your sin is forgiven, and you go to heaven, instead of going to hell by the grace of God. And Paul knew what he was talking about. He speaks about the ministry of grace in his life after he got saved. In Romans 15:15-16, he tells how he's preaching by the grace of God. And 2 Corinthians 12:9, he tells how he's sustained by the grace of God.

Paul H. Dixon:

He said, "Unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee. My strength is made perfect in weakness." So in other words, we could boil it down to this. Paul saw the grace God before he was saved, can bring him to Christ after he was saved. And as he said here in 1 Corinthians 15, "I'm working for Christ, but it's not me really. It's the grace of God that's working in me." You know what that means, brethren? All of us here tonight are absolutely nothing and Jesus Christ is absolutely everything. Thank God for his grace. You cannot save yourself. You cannot keep yourself. We cannot carry out the work of God by ourselves.

Paul H. Dixon:

This work could never be done that we see here tonight. And it shall be in the future by a preacher, by a Sule, or a Kruger, or a Carter, or any deacons, or any leaders. It can only be done by the wonderful grace of God, the grace of God and the Christian. But if you study Paul, you'll find that generally, when he speaks of the grace of God, immediately starts talking about redemption and the death of Christ. He always kept going back to Christ. So let's think of the manifestation of God's grace in the Christ. The true and the living Christ, Jesus Christ Himself.

Paul H. Dixon:

You can't speak of grace without speaking of Him. You can't speak of Jesus Christ without speaking of grace. The two go together. Jesus Christ is grace personified. In fact, I believe you could spell Jesus, J-R-A-C-E. And you could spell grace, J-E-S-U-S. Did you know that the word grace is only found in one chapter in the gospels? You say, "Paul, why?" Well, you might like to get into some dispensational truths. I prefer to be practical at this point, and I believe God didn't have to use the word grace in the gospel. All you have to do is read it, and you can see grace all over the gospel.

Paul H. Dixon:

But one time, one chapter you'll find the word grace three times. It's in John 1, let's look. John, the gospel of John, and the first chapter. Speaking of the Lord Jesus, starts out telling how He is the living word. All things were made by Him. In verse three, "Without Him was not anything made that was made." And then we get over to verse 14 and it says, "The word was made flesh and dwelled among us. And we beheld his glory, the glory, as of the only begotten of the Father," talking about Jesus. Notice what it says, full of grace and truth. Jesus is full of grace.

Paul H. Dixon:

Look at verse 16. "And of his fullness, have all we received and grace for grace." And verse 17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." You'll never understand the grace of God, until you understand the gift of God. You have to understand Jesus Christ, who He is, and what He did before you'll ever begin to fathom. Study His birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension,

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coming again, and you'll understand the grace of God. I guess the greatest sermon I've ever heard on Jesus Christ, I heard on a tape.

Paul H. Dixon:

I have that tape in my study. And if I've listened to it once, I've listened to it 10, 12 times. It's a short message. It's preached by a man, and I don't even know his name. All I know is that he's a black man. Someone was listening to a radio program one day I understand, at least the way I got the tape. And this man started preaching and they pushed the button on their tape recorder. I have never heard such a Christ honoring and thrilling message in all my life. Some of these things have meant so much to me that he said about Jesus, I'd like to share a few of them with you tonight, if I may.

Paul H. Dixon:

He's talking about Christ, his Lordship, who He is, what He's done. This man said, "He came down the stairway of heaven, was born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, baptized in Jordan. Tempted in the wilderness, went up to Calvary to die. Went down to the grave to be buried. Cleaned it out, to make it a pleasant place to live and wait for the resurrection. He said while he was alive, He performed miracles by the roadside, healed multitudes without medicine, and made no charge for His service. His power cannot be taken from Him because He said all power is given unto me.

Paul H. Dixon:

You try to destroy Him by fire, and He won't burn. You try to destroy Him by water and He'll walk on the water. You try to destroy Him with a tempest, and the wind will lick His hand and lay down at His feet. You try to destroy Him by law, and you'll find no fault in Him. You try to destroy Him with the steel of an empire, and He'll break it. You try to destroy Him by putting Him in the grave, and He'll rise. You try to destroy Him by rejection. And before long, you'll hear that still, small voice saying, "Ah, behold, I stand at the door and knock. And if any man hear my voice and open the door, I'll come in and sup with him, and he with me."

Paul H. Dixon:

Jesus Christ is the pearl from paradise. He's the gem from the glory land. He's the fairest of jewels. Times, choices, theme. Life's strongest core, light's clearest ray, purity's whitest peak, glory's stainless song. His name is honey to the taste, harmony to the ear, help to the soul, hope to the heart. He's higher than the heaven of heaven. He's holier than the holy of holys. He's the master of the mighty. The captain of the conquerors, the head of the heroes, the leader of the legislators, the overseer of the overcomers, the governor of the governors, the Prince of prince, and King of kings, and Lord of Lords.

Paul H. Dixon:

He didn't have to put His signature in the sunset because He's the owner. He didn't have to put His landing mark on the meadows, because He's the owner. He didn't have to carve His initials in the sides of the mountain, because He's the owner. He didn't have to brand the cattle on 1,000 hills, because He's the owner. He didn't have to take out a copyright on the song that He gave the birds to sing because He's the owner. And thank God this is the Christ that Paul knew. And Paul preached here in 1 Corinthians 15, and tells us of His death, and His burial, and His resurrection. And he said, "That's the good news. What a Savior."

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Paul H. Dixon:

I listened to your record today. As I listened to that record, one, that record is one of my favorite songs. I had a savior, oh, hallelujah. His heart was broken on Calvary. His hands were nail-scarred, His back was ribbon. He gave His life blood for even me. I thank God that I'm saved, aren't you by such a savior? And if we are saved, how we ought to work for Him, how we ought to labor for Him. Paul said, "The grace of this Christ working in me." Grace in the Christian, grace in Christ, grace in the church. You can't speak about God's grace, without speaking of the church.

Paul H. Dixon:

Jesus talked about building a church. He said to Peter, "Upon this rock, I'll build my church." What rock? He's talking about what Peter had just said when he said, "Thou are the Christ, the son of the living God. And the church is built upon, who this Jesus Christ is and what he's done." I believe also that Jesus Christ is not only building a church, He's building local churches. And He's building a local church right here in Toledo, the Emmanuel Baptist Church. I'd like to speak to you very practically tonight about this church.

Paul H. Dixon:

In Acts 4:33, speaking of that New Testament church, "Great grace was upon them." In Acts 11:23 when Barnabas came from Jerusalem, the Antioch, he saw this church as it was starting. And it says, "He saw the grace of God." I stand here tonight and having been acquainted with this church for the last eight years, I believe I can say great grace is upon you. I believe anyone coming in and visiting this place from week to week, and especially now, can go away saying truly, we have seen the grace of God. We recognize the grace of God in the history of this church.

Paul H. Dixon:

We have this beautiful folder that gives us a little bit about what God is doing here and pictures, a schedule for the week, but don't fail to read this part. It goes back to 1898, takes you all the way through 1972. Tells about the working of God's grace, so that you might have this place here today. I remember the first time I came to Toledo back in 1964, I was just starting my ministry of evangelism, just having finished school. Brother Sule had just been called as pastor not too long before. And as I drove my car, wherever I was riding with the car, probably Brother Sule came up across the front of this church.

Paul H. Dixon:

It was the fall of the year. I concluded at that moment, and I still hold this conclusion, that you have one of the finest, most beautiful locations for a church that I've ever seen. Just the way the church is located, and situated on the plot of land and the trees, I believe. In the building, that original building that you have there that was constructed, I think back in 1960. And it's so impressive, that I remember entering into the auditorium. And as I've returned time and time again, I've been blessed and encouraged by the grace of God and how He worked in giving you this land where this church is located right now.

Paul H. Dixon:

There are many churches across America today that I'm sure would be willing to pay 10 times what you gave for this land and I do know what you paid. You know, as we think about this land and the beauty of it, I think about the land and just the strategic location of this church. As far as I'm concerned, if you

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would've just mapped out the entire city of Toledo, there is no choicer location for any church in this city then right here where the Emmanuel Baptist Church is located. I've told many people that I believe the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo is the best for fundamentalism in the city of Toledo.

Paul H. Dixon:

In every city, there are many Bible believing churches, Bible preaching churches, but God always raises up one that somehow speaks the loudest and the clearest. And when they speak, everybody sits up and listens. I believe that the Emmanuel Baptist Church right here in Toledo. I think about the present in this beautiful building. Someone told me last night that this covers the largest area, one span without any supports, of any other building in the state of Ohio. I don't know whether that true or not. That's what somebody told me last night and it's so beautiful, everything about it.

Paul H. Dixon:

And the way it's laid out. Do you know why this building's big? Because we got a big God. You know why this building's beautiful? Because we've got a beautiful God. He's a great God. He's a God of grace and that's why you have this. I know that much could be said about the building committee, and the contractor, and everything that was done to put this building up. But I want you to know, and I'm sure many of you know it, but let's be reminded of it together, you have this building because of the grace of God. Then I have to think of your pastor, as he shared with many you people last night, how God worked in both of our lives together.

Paul H. Dixon:

We started a little boy's club. Chattanooga, Tennessee, both of us in college, both of us ready to throw in the towel. Both of us in a backslidden condition, and critical and sorry. We started a boy's club and a housing division. We started bringing boys to Jesus. And before long, we would have 84 gathering once a week. And we memorized scripture, and play ball, and preach to them, and they'd get saved. We saw parents saved. God started something in both of our hearts. I remember when he came here. I was holding meetings for him in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Paul H. Dixon:

And Don said to me, "There's a church in Toledo that's interested in me coming." But he said, "I'm not interested." And perhaps you remember, I may have some of my details not quite right, but I'm going by memory. I haven't talked to him about this at all. He didn't know what I was going to say. But the best I can remember, he came and preached, and said he didn't want anything to do with it, and he went back home. Went back to Indianapolis, determined to stay there and build work, as he was doing at that time in the Grace Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

Paul H. Dixon:

He couldn't get Emmanuel Baptist off his heart and mind. The way I gather it, some of the men who on the pulpit committee couldn't get him off their hearts and minds. And the way I gather, he picked up a telephone one day and placed the call to the Emmanuel Baptist Church. And while the men on the pulpit committee, or one of the deacons or something answered the phone, I think Brother Don said, "I'd like to reconsider your offer." They said, "That's an amazing thing because we were just here having a prayer meeting about that very thing."

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Paul H. Dixon:

You know why this man's here? Because of the grace of God. God's grace working through you as a church, and working in him as a pastor to put him here. Lord, how God used him. Thank God for his emphasis upon soul winning, his emphasis upon mission, his emphasis upon Christian education, his emphasis upon sound Bible teaching. But it's coupled with the balance and thanking God for it. But do you know why he had this balance? You might go and say, "Well, because of Lee Robertson's influence." He'd be the first to tell you, Lee Robertson has had a great influence on his life and my life.

Paul H. Dixon:

You might say, "Well, it's because of the temple, and because of Cedarville, and because of Dr. Jeremiah, and other men and right on down the line," but this isn't the answer. I tell you why he has the ministry here, because of the grace of God. God has given him a ministry, just like he gave the Apostle Paul. And the reason things are going here and growing here is because of God's grace. God's given him a message. There are many other men in Toledo and they don't have a message on Sunday. They don't have anything that reaches people. They don't have anything that gets down there where they live.

Paul H. Dixon:

They don't talk about getting saved. They don't talk about forsaking sin and living for God. You know why? Because they don't have the message. He has it, by the grace of God. Some of these men used to have it, but they've lost it. And the reason the others lost it, was not because he's such a great guy, or he has such a good mind, or he's so spiritual but because of the grace of God. Paul said, "By the grace of God, I am what I am." The staff you have here. You don't know how much I talk about your church. In fact, sometimes I think other pastors, I get on their nerves because I'm constantly telling them about this church.

Paul H. Dixon:

I tell them this. There are many churches growing in America. I thank God for all the growing churches, but there are very few churches growing that are doing it through reaching families. Most churches are growing due to a bus ministry. Now, I'm for bus ministries and I think it's great to have a bus ministry, but this is one of the few churches that's doing it without one. I told the fellow that just last week in Richmond, Virginia. He has a growing. He went there four years ago, they're running 60. We had almost 600 last Sunday. Sometimes I hit 800. They're building a new complex, it'll take care of thousands.

Paul H. Dixon:

But out of this 600, they'll bus in somewhere around 350 or 400 of them. I was at one church this spring where we had 1,200 in Sunday school and they bused in 800 of them. A lot of them coming in. Thank God for buses. But what I am saying, when I told this man last week about this work and what was happening, and I said, "They don't have any buses." He said, "You've got to be kidding me." He said, "I didn't know that guys were building churches today without buses." Thank God for what he's doing here. Do you realize that it's all by the grace of God? And another thing I say is you got quite a stand there.

Paul H. Dixon:

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You don't build a church like this by yourself. God has given one of the finest music men in this country to this church. I meet a lot of them, a lot of music men, a lot of good men. They don't touch this man. A lot of times I pray, "Lord, why don't you just impress it upon Don to go back into evangelism? He can travel with me." I could tell when my prayer's not being answered, whatever God is saying. And I am just saying the reason this man has the ministry he has here at this church is because of the grace of God. You see, I'm not saying this tonight to build up these men.

Paul H. Dixon:

I want you to see the reason they are what they are, and they're doing what they're doing is God's grace. This youth man you have here, where can you find a youth man with the ballast this young fella has? Steve Carter, his emphasis upon souls, and his emphasis on sound, biblical principles and Bible teachings. You know what? He's building a young people's group, and he doesn't even have any rock groups, and he doesn't sing. A lot of churches have the idea you can't reach young people today, unless you bring in the world, and bring in your rock band, and bring in the rock groups.

Paul H. Dixon:

And they look like Peter, Paul and Mary up there, and that's the way to reach young people. He's doing it without it, thank God. It's the grace of God. Reason he hasn't gone to pot and gone off on some of these tangents, it's not because of him or his family, but because of God's grace. I always think about the choir. Y'all remember what happened back in 1969? I don't cry much. In fact, I'll cry more when somebody else is preaching. Very seldom that I can cry when I preach. So hardhearted, I guess. Wish I cred more.

Paul H. Dixon:

I sat on the platform in the other auditorium, Don Kruger led the choir. I'll never forget that song. He sang beautifully, but they sang better. Now we're even but the song was He Touched Me. I sat there on that platform, those tears ran down my cheeks. And when I got up there to preach, I still had a tear in my heart. All I remember how God was in that service but that choir, that song they had, He Touched Me. Choir, do you know why you got a song? You know why you can sing? Let's follow up that to Colossians in Chapter 3, "With grace in your hearts to the Lord." You know why you haven't hung your hats out on the willow?

Paul H. Dixon:

It's because of the grace of God, it's not because you have such great voices. It's because God's given you this song. You're singing because of the massive grace of God. I thank all of the workers in this church. I came into the building this morning to go over to your gym and shoot a few baskets, while I was waiting for lunch over at the Sules. There's one of your men putting locks in on the doors. Thanksgiving Day, locks on the doors. These are things people don't see. They see the choir, and they see the preacher, and the song leader, and the youth pastor.

Paul H. Dixon:

But the men who put in long hours, and they work up there in the radio booth, and they do all kinds of things, and women who help in the church. Why? Because of the grace of God. Your nursery, that's one of the greatest places in the church is the nursery. That's a place where many times it's difficult to get workers. But I tell you, it's thrilling to me, to go and walk into a nursery and see all those little children,

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and realize those are children, who are going to be brought up in the Word of God. God's going to put his hand on some of them. He's going to call them into the ministry.

Paul H. Dixon:

God's going to work in their lives. We have these babies in the nursery because of God's grace. Visitation, how many other churches in Toledo have 100 people going out on Thursday nights to knock on doors? You know why this church is out knocking on doors, and inviting people to come to the church, and inviting people to come to the Lord? It's because God is going to work the grace in your hearts. I can remember when Pete was still cutting hair down at the barber shop and he had no time for this church. Now, he's cutting hair down there at that barber shop and he's got a song in his heart.

Paul H. Dixon:

He's here every chance he can get to get some cards, and to go out and knock on doors because of the grace of God. Everyone who's out there visiting, is doing so because God's going to work your grace in your heart. I think about your young people. The school that God has given you to train these young people. A big school, a solid school, excellent facility, tremendous quality of education. I remember the last time I was here last fall, all those big old boys sitting across the front of the auditorium. All the teenagers, I don't know how many rows they would fill.

Paul H. Dixon:

It looks like you got just some new seats now. I kind of like the other seats better. You ought to get those back again, but you have all these teenagers here tonight. There they were, and I could just look at them. Looked right down the gun sites there when they were in the front. They were right down under the spigot where the blessings come out, right under the gospel of God. There were all those teenagers. Brother Stewart told me how he had a class for all these boys who were preparing for the ministry. And how every fifth Wednesday, one of these boys would get up and give a message. Brother Dave told last night about all the guys and gals going off to the Christian school.

Paul H. Dixon:

How many are going to be going into the ministry as evangelists, and pastors, and missionaries? Our School teachers and God using them in many, many different ways and this thrilled my heart. Why, this is exciting. This is what the work of the church is all about. And you know why you have so many young people? I could tell you the name of a man, and now, he is one of the best Bible men in this country. He's one of my favorite men. He sat across the table from me in Cincinnati one day and said, "Paul, one thing I can't understand is why we have so few young people going to my church."

Paul H. Dixon:

Do you know why you have them? Good preaching, good youth men. Right but above all, grace of God. The grace of God working in their lives, and the grace of God working through them to reach others for Christ. They've really been working to get out of school teams tomorrow night. I understand some of them have advised their whole classes to be here tomorrow night. And we're just looking for a great time after the service, and sharing the Word of God with them. Praying many will be saved in the service, after the service. Why? Because of God's grace.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul H. Dixon
The Manifestation of the Grace of God
circa 1975

After the second World War, some of you will remember that the Japanese started attacking the Philippines. And our boys who were there prepared to fight and they gave their best, but they thought that help would come and it never came. About a year later, these men who had died had been taken captive there at the time, perhaps had given up hope, those who are alive and in the prison camps. When the United States launched their invasion at Guadalcanal, the secretary of war came out and made this statement.

Paul H. Dixon:

"We're going into Guadalcanal. We have placed as many men as we need. And we have placed as much food, and we have placed as many arms, and placed as much ammunition. We have placed as many doctors and nurses. We have twice as much medicine. We have twice as many airplanes as we need, and we're going to win them back." I want you to know tonight that God never has a time. That God always has twice as much grace than we need. And the same God that in his grace has given you what you have now, wants to do it two-fold, three-fold, four-fold, over again.

Paul H. Dixon:

This is not the end, this is the beginning because of the grace of God. Solomon said in 89:11, "The Lord God is the son and chief. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk upright." Zechariah 4:7, it says, "Who art thou, O great mountain before Zerubbabel. Thou shall become a plain. He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, cryings, grace, grace, grace." I believe if there's one thing that we could all stand together and just shout in unison to the heavens, and to the city of Toledo, His grace, grace, grace. We are what we are.

Paul H. Dixon:

We have what we have because of the grace. I invite you tonight to shout with me, perhaps in a more dignified manner, by standing all over this building and singing with me as we've never sang it before, Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. Will you stand, please, all over this building? [Singing 00:43:33] Let's pray. Our Father, help us never to get over proof of God's grace. Grant that these here tonight, who know not what we're speaking of, might be recipients to the grace of salvation tonight.

Paul H. Dixon:

Grant, oh God, those of us who are saved, might labor more, yet not us but the grace of God that works within them. With every head bowed and every eye closed, I'd like to ask you a very simple question. Before you answer this question, I'd like for you to keep your heads' bowed, please. No one look around. I want you to answer this question honestly, please. Before I ask the question, I want you to know what I'm not asking. I'm not asking you are you a church member tonight. Baptist, Methodist, Catholic Lutheran, Presbyterian, that's not the question.

Paul H. Dixon:

The question is not do you live a moral life, not if you've been baptized, not if you've been confirmed. But the question is, have you been saved by the grace of God? This is evangelist Paul Dixon. I want to thank you for listening to this message from the Word of God. I trust that it has been a blessing to your life. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Savior, let me encourage you to do so right now. I would invite the Christian listeners to pass this tape onto a friend.

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Helpful literature is available to those who make decisions for Christ, if you will write to the following address. Christian Educational Publications, Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio 45314.