

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME. THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT PSALM 139:7-10, ONE OF MY FAVORITE PSALMS. GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO PSALM 139. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, TROY SPRADLIN WILL REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT BEING A MEMBER OF A CONGREGATION. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT ABILITY OR USEABILITY. THEN WE'LL HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY WILL HELP US TO FIND SOMETHING IN SUFFERING. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT HE IS GOING TO HEAVEN? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO PSALM 139, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING IN VERSE 7, WHERE CAN I GO FROM YOUR SPIRIT? OR WHERE CAN I FLEE FROM YOUR PRESENCE? IF I ASCEND INTO HEAVEN, YOU ARE THERE; IF I MAKE MY BED IN HELL, BEHOLD, YOU ARE THERE. IF I TAKE THE WINGS OF THE MORNING, AND DWELL IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA, EVEN THERE YOUR HAND SHALL LEAD ME, AND YOUR RIGHT HAND SHALL HOLD ME.

>> (SINGING)

>> PSALM 139 IS ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST ELOQUENT OF THE PSALMS. IN IT, WE HAVE PRAISE FOR THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD: HIS OMNISCIENCE - THAT'S ALL-KNOWING. HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT US THAN WE KNOW ABOUT OURSELVES. IT TALKS ABOUT HIS OMNIPOTENCE, HIM BEING ALL-POWERFUL. HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE. REMEMBER, HE CREATED ALL OF THOSE THINGS. AND HE IS OMNIPRESENT, BEING EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME. AND THAT'S THE CHARACTERISTIC THAT'S THE SUBJECT OF OUR PASSAGE TODAY. WHEN WE GET TO VERSE NUMBER 7, WE SEE TWO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS ASKING WHERE SOMEONE CAN GO TO FLEE FROM GOD. VERSE NUMBER 8, WE SEE HIM LOOKING AT HEAVEN OR SHEOL, THE GRAVE, TRANSLATED HELL BY THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION. NOT A REAL ACCURATE TRANSLATION THERE. THIS IS THE IDEA OF THE GREEK WORD HADES, THE PLACE OF THE DEAD. IF YOU GO THERE, GOD IS THERE. EVEN THE PROCESS OF DEATH DOESN'T SEPARATE US FROM GOD. DEATH SEPARATES US FROM EVERYTHING ELSE, INCLUDING OUR BODIES, BUT NOT FROM GOD. WE GET TO VERSE 9, WE SEE THE AIR OR THE SEA, GOD IS THERE. GEOGRAPHICALLY, THERE'S NOWHERE WE CAN GO TO ESCAPE FROM GOD. THE PSALMIST IS LAYING FORTH THE ARGUMENT FOR GOD'S PRESENCE. YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM HIM. JONAH WAS TOLD TO GO THIS WAY, BUT HE GOT ON A SHIP AND WENT THAT WAY. GOD WAS STILL THERE. SO AS WE LOOK AT THESE THREE VERSES, THEY EXPLORE A HYPOTHETICAL SOMEONE TRYING TO FLEE FROM GOD; BUT THAT'S NOT THE PSALMIST'S CONCLUSION. YOU SEE, HE GOES ON IN VERSE 10 TO DESCRIBE GOD'S HAND LEADING AND HOLDING. WE HAD THIS PERSON WHO HYPOTHETICALLY WAS TRYING TO LEAD, GOD'S ALWAYS THERE; BUT HERE'S THE BENEFIT, VERSE 10. HE'S USED THAT NEGATIVE

ATTITUDE TO SHOW THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD, AND THEN HE DERIVES GREAT COMFORT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. SO AS WE SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THIS AND APPLY THIS IN OUR LIVES, GOD IS ALL-PRESENT AND ALL-KNOWING. THAT'S A GREAT BLESSING. HE KNOWS YOUR DESIRES. HE KNOWS YOUR ATTITUDES. HE KNOWS YOUR DEEDS. HE UNDERSTANDS YOU, HEBREWS 4:15. AND HE CARES ABOUT YOU, WANTING TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU ULTIMATELY. BUT HIS OMNIPRESENCE COULD ALSO BE A CURSE, BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOUR SIN. THERE'S NOTHING THAT YOU CAN DO THAT HE WILL NOT SEE AND HOLD YOU TO ACCOUNT FOR. SO THE QUESTION IS, WITH GOD'S PRESENCE, WILL YOU ALLOW THAT TO COMFORT YOU? WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO LEAD YOU? PSALM 23, THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, THE SHEPHERD THAT LEADS THE SHEEP. JOHN 10, JESUS DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD; AGAIN, LEADING. THE QUESTION IS, WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO COMFORT YOU? YOU SEE, PETER SAID IN 1ST PETER 5:7, CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM, FOR HE CARES FOR YOU. WILL YOU CAST YOUR CARES UPON HIM? WILL YOU HOLD THEM IN AND WORRY ABOUT THEM? IT'S ONE OR THE OTHER. JESUS COMMANDED US IN MATTHEW 6:31-34, DON'T WORRY. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7, BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING; BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH THANKSGIVING, LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD. THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS. WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO GUIDE YOU? JESUS SAID, IF ANYONE DESIRES TO COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME. WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO LEAD YOU? WILL YOU FOLLOW? YOU SEE, AS WE ARISE FROM BAPTISM, WE ARISE TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE, ROMANS 6:4. GOD'S ALL-PRESENT, ALL-KNOWING, AND ALL-POWERFUL, AND HE WANTS TO USE THAT POWER, THAT KNOWLEDGE, AND THAT PRESENCE TO BLESS YOU. WILL YOU LET HIM? THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS WAITING FOR US. HE'S GOING TO BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT BEING A PART OF A CONGREGATION. HOW DO WE GET THERE, AND HOW DO WE MOVE TO ANOTHER CONGREGATION?

>> WHEN THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD BEGAN ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST SOME 2,000 YEARS AGO, THERE WERE A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF THAT CHURCH WHEN THEY WERE BAPTIZED. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THEY WERE PRAISING GOD AND HAVING FAVOR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE, AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY THOSE BEING SAVED IN ACTS 2:47. AND THEN IN ACTS 5:14 IT SAYS, AND BELIEVERS WERE INCREASINGLY ADDED TO THE LORD, MULTITUDES BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. NOW, THIS INDICATES THAT WITHIN A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JERUSALEM GREW TO BE A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS. AND THE CHURCH CONTINUED TO GROW IN PASSAGES LIKE ACTS 8:4, WHERE THEY WENT EVERYWHERE, SCATTERED, PREACHING. SO IN THE FIRST CENTURY, THERE WERE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN MANY DIFFERENT CITIES WITH MANY MEMBERS MAKING UP THE VARIOUS CONGREGATIONS, JUST LIKE WE SEE IN ROMANS 16 AND 1ST CORINTHIANS 16. SO WITH SO MANY CHURCHES AND SO MANY MEMBERS, THERE WERE BOUND TO BE TIMES WHEN SOME MEMBERS WOULD MOVE FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, LEAVING A CONGREGATION AND JOINING ANOTHER. YOU THINK OF PRISCILLA AND AQUILA AS ONE EXAMPLE. THEY'RE IDENTIFIED AS DISCIPLES IN CORINTH WHO HAD COME FROM ITALY IN ACTS 18:1-2 AND ROMANS 16:3. AND THEY'RE ALSO SEEN IN EPHESUS IN ACTS CHAPTER 18. SO THE QUESTION IS, HOW DID THEY CHANGE CHURCHES OR MOVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP? DID THEY HAVE TO BE REBAPTIZED EACH TIME THEY MOVED AND WENT TO A NEW CONGREGATION, OR WHAT WAS THE

PROCEDURE? NOW, I FIND THIS TO BE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC, BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN MANY THAT HAVE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT THIS AND ASKED ME ABOUT IT OR INQUIRED WHAT THEY NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO JOIN THE CHURCH. SO LET'S REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWER THE QUESTION. FIRST AND FOREMOST, IT IS GOD WHO ADDS ONE TO THE CHURCH, ACTS 2:47. WHEN THEY ARE SAVED, WHEN THEY OBEY THE GOSPEL, IT'S NOT THROUGH ANY MEANS OR ANYTHING THAT WE DO AS HUMANS, BUT IT SAID GOD DOES THAT. WHEN THEY ARE PUTTING ON CHRIST IN BAPTISM, IT MAKES THEM A MEMBER OF WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, AS WE READ IN COLOSSIANS 1:18 OR 2ND TIMOTHY 2:10. YOU SEE, HIS BODY CONSISTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF ALL CONGREGATIONS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD. IT IS THAT ONE BODY THAT'S MENTIONED IN EPHESIANS 4:4 WHICH MAKES UP THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD TALKED ABOUT IN EPHESIANS 2:19. SECONDLY, THE BIBLE GIVES US GUIDANCE IN PASSAGES LIKE ROMANS 16:1-2. YOU SEE, IN THAT PASSAGE, IT SEEMS THAT PHOEBE HAD MOVED TO ROME AND WAS PLANNING TO ASSIMILATE HERSELF WITH THAT CONGREGATION. PAUL'S VERIFYING BY A WRITTEN LETTER THAT SHE WAS INDEED A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THE CHURCH AND WOULD BE A VALUABLE ASSET TO THE MEMBERSHIP THERE. THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY A CHURCH LETTER OR A RECOMMENDATION FOR A CHRISTIAN MOVING FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER. AND THAT'S WHAT PHOEBE DID. SHE TRANSFERRED HER MEMBERSHIP, IF YOU WILL, FROM ONE CONGREGATION TO ANOTHER. SHE WAS ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE LORD'S CHURCH THROUGH HER BAPTISM; SO HERE, WE LEARN THAT SHE WAS CHANGING LOCATIONS OF WHERE SHE WOULD WORSHIP AND SERVE. THIRDLY, THAT'S HOW IT STILL WORKS TODAY. WHEN VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH MOVE FROM ONE TOWN TO ANOTHER BECAUSE OF A JOB CHANGE OR A DESIRE TO BE CLOSER TO THE FAMILY OR WHATEVER REASON IT MIGHT BE, THEY OFTEN SEEK OUT A CONGREGATION IN THAT LOCAL AREA TO JOIN. IT'S OFTEN REFERRED TO AS PLACING MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THAT CHURCH. BUT AS WE'VE SEEN FROM PASSAGES, IF THEY ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, THEN ALL THEY ARE DOING IS SIMPLY TRANSFERRING THE LOCATION OF WHERE THEY WILL WORSHIP AND SERVE. NOW, ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THIS IS TO CONSIDER THAT THEY'RE ALSO MOVING THE OVERSIGHT OF THEIR SOULS FROM ONE ELDERSHIP TO THAT OF ANOTHER ELDERSHIP, AS WE SEE IN HEBREWS 13:17. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT REQUIRE BEING BAPTIZED AGAIN; BUT INSTEAD, SOMETHING SIMPLE LIKE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION OR A PHONE CALL OR A MEETING WITH THE ELDERSHIP TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE INDEED FAITHFUL BAPTIZED DISCIPLES. NOW, IF THEIR BAPTISM AND FAITHFULNESS IS CONFIRMED, THEN THEY'RE IDENTIFIED AS PLACING MEMBERSHIP WITH THAT CONGREGATION.

>> WE'RE BAPTIZED, AND THE LORD ADDS US TO THE CHURCH; BUT MOVING FROM ONE CONGREGATION TO ANOTHER IS A DIFFERENT PROCESS. THANKS, TROY. WE'RE ABOUT TO GIVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO THAT YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE. AFTER THAT, JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL

US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> I THINK THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN THE BIBLE COURSE IS ON THE WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL GET IT TO YOU. WHILE YOU'RE ON OUR WEBSITE, LOOK AROUND. CHECK OUT SOME OF THE VIDEOS. YOU CAN ALSO CHECK OUT THE GOOD NEWS TODAY CHANNEL ON TRUTH.FM. TRUTH.FM IS A GROUP OF INTERNET RADIO STATIONS THAT STREAM 24/7, AND THEY HAVE THAT GOOD NEWS TODAY CHANNEL, AND YOU CAN LISTEN THERE ANYTIME YOU'D LIKE. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT ABILITY OR USEABILITY.

>> DO THE BEST YOU CAN WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT WHERE YOU ARE. THAT'S GOOD ADVICE. SOMEONE HAS SAID IT IS NOT ABILITY THAT GOD WANTS, BUT USEABILITY. YOU SEE, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH ABILITY YOU HAVE IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO USE IT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS. HOW ARE YOU USING THE ABILITY YOU HAVE? YOU KNOW, GOD GAVE IT TO YOU TO USE, AND ONE DAY YOU WILL ANSWER FOR YOUR USE OR YOUR ABUSE OF THAT ABILITY. IN MATTHEW 25 THERE IS A PARABLE OF THE TALENTS WHICH TEACHES A VERY SOBERING LESSON. WE'D BETTER WAKE UP TO THE FACT THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED US WITH A GREAT GIFT. IT IS ABILITY. AND IF WE FAIL TO USE IT PROPERLY, IT WILL COST US OUR SOULS. GEORGE ELLIOT WROTE, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNMAPPED COUNTRY WITHIN US. WELL, IN GOD'S WORD, YOU CAN DISCOVER AND EXPLORE IT FOR GOD'S GLORY AND FOR YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

>> WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF THE BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO US. THANKS FOR THOSE THOUGHTS, JIM. WE TRY TO MAKE OUR MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN. YOU CAN SEE ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS OR INDIVIDUAL SEGMENTS ON OUR WEBSITE, GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK ON CURRENT AND ARCHIVED PROGRAMS ON THE BLACK BANNER AT THE TOP. YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON BOTH YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK. YOU CAN WATCH US ON YOUR TV THROUGH THE ROKU, AMAZON FIRESTICK, GOOGLE TV, OR APPLE TV. WE ALSO HAVE APPS FOR YOUR PHONE OR TABLET. THERE'S SO MANY WAYS TO WATCH GOOD NEWS TODAY THAT YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. IT'S TIME FOR US TO HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US. HE'S HELPING US TO FIND SOMETHING GOOD IN SUFFERING.

>> WELL, HELLO. THANKS FOR STOPPING BY. YOU KNOW, I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER HOW MUCH I USED TO HATE FOOTBALL PRACTICE IN HIGH SCHOOL. EVEN THROUGH LITTLE LEAGUE ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, I HATED THE HEAT, THE WORK, ESPECIALLY THE 40-YARD SPRINTS AFTER PRACTICE. I WOULD OFTEN TRY TO FIND WAYS TO AVOID PRACTICE, BUT I WAS RARELY SUCCESSFUL, SINCE MY DAD MADE SURE THAT I WAS THERE FULFILLING MY ROLE ON THE TEAM. BUT WHEN GAME TIME ROLLED AROUND, ALL THAT HEAT AND SWEAT, THE COACHES YELLING, AND EVEN THE SPRINTS WERE WORTH IT. I KNEW THE PLAYS, I KNEW MY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND I FOUND I COULD ACTUALLY DO MORE AND PERFORM BETTER THAN I EVEN REALIZED. NOW, I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME WITH MY TEAMMATES AND COACHES AND ALL THOSE YEARS OF HARD, UNCOMFORTABLE WORK. WELL, IT WAS WORTH IT. WE FORGET SOMETIMES THAT TOUGH TIMES, HARD WORK, AND EVEN SUFFERING ACTUALLY MAKES US BETTER. A LOT OF PEOPLE TRY TO AVOID HARD WORK OR TAKING A

COURAGEOUS STAND AND JUST TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT. THAT'S WHAT PETER DID WHEN HE DENIED CHRIST. HE TRIED TO AVOID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVEN BEING ON JESUS' SIDE, FLAT DENYING THAT HE EVEN KNEW HIM AT ALL. BUT WHEN JESUS LOOKED AT HIM FROM ACROSS THE HIGH PRIEST'S COURTYARD IN LUKE 22:61-62, PETER KNEW HOW BAD HE HAD FAILED. SO IT'S INTERESTING. IT'S PETER HIMSELF, A MAN WHO ONCE TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT TO AVOID SUFFERING, TO ENCOURAGE BEING STRONG AS HE DOES IN 1ST PETER CHAPTER 1. IN VERSES 6 THROUGH 9, HE SAYS THAT WE SHOULD REJOICE IF WE SUFFER FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IF WE'RE SUFFERING FOR BEING FAITHFUL, BECAUSE HE SAYS, SUFFERING HAS A POINT. IT TESTS OUR FAITH LIKE GOLD BEING MADE PURE BY FIRE. SUFFERING GIVES FAITH STRENGTH AND MAKES IT GENUINE, AS WE SEE IN PSALM 139:22-24 AND IN JAMES 1:2. YOU MAY KNOW THAT THE NAVY SEALS TRAIN ON A CONCEPT OF 40 PERCENT. THEY SAY THAT WHEN A PERSON FEELS LIKE THEY HAVE GIVEN ALL THEY CAN PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY GIVE, THEY ACTUALLY HAVE ONLY USED UP 40 PERCENT OF THEIR STRENGTH. WE STILL HAVE 60 PERCENT OF OUR ABILITY REMAINING. SO WHEN WE ENDURE SUFFERING THROUGH PROBLEMS, WE OFTEN FIND THAT LIKE GOLD PURIFIED BY FIRE, WE'RE STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT WE WERE, LIKE IN 1ST CORINTHIANS 10:13. AND WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST GIVEN IN MATTHEW 5:44 AND 1ST CORINTHIANS 4:12-13. PETER SAYS IN CHAPTER 1, VERSE 9, FOCUS ON THE END OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS. PETER HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT, AND HE PERSONALLY KNEW THE FAILURE OF DOING SO. HE MORE THAN MOST UNDERSTOOD THE VALUE OF ENDURING TROUBLES AND FOCUSING ON HIS SALVATION OVER ANY OTHER DIFFICULTY FACING HIM. FRIENDS, DIFFICULTIES WILL COME. WE JUST HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES, WHAT ARE WE FOCUSED ON? THERE'S SO MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE TIMELESS TEXT OF THE BIBLE. LET'S USE IT TO MAKE OURSELVES STRONGER. I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> SUFFERING CAN BE A BLESSING. THAT'S SOMETHING TO REMEMBER. THANKS, JOE. IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO ASK US, WE'RE READY TO OPEN UP THE BIBLE AND GIVE YOU A BIBLE ANSWER. SEND US A LETTER OR EMAIL WITH YOUR QUESTION, AND WE'LL GET IT TO YOU. WE MAY EVEN ANSWER IT DURING ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS. IF YOU LISTEN TO PODCASTS, WE'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. WE HAVE THREE OF THEM. THERE'S A NEW GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME THAT COMES OUT EVERY MORNING. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY STUDYING THE BIBLE. ON SUNDAYS, THAT WEEK'S PROGRAM IS RELEASED AS A PODCAST CALLED GOOD NEWS TODAY WEEKLY. AND SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN COMES OUT AS WELL. AN EASY WAY FOR MANY PEOPLE TO LISTEN IS JUST SAY THIS: ALEXA, PLAY THE LATEST EPISODE OF THE PODCAST GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT HE IS GOING TO HEAVEN?

>> THERE WAS A TIME, TROY, WHERE I WAS VISITING A CONGREGATION. I WAS VISITING A CONGREGATION, AND I WAS THERE IN THE BIBLE CLASS. IT WAS A MEN'S BIBLE CLASS. AND I WAS IN THAT BIBLE CLASS, AND THIS WORD CONFIDENCE WAS BEING USED BY A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL, RIGHT? AND WHEN HE

USED THAT WORD, A LOT OF PEOPLE FELT AS THOUGH IT WAS OUT OF PLACE TO BE USED WHEN IT REFERS TO CHRISTIANITY OR WHEN IT COMES TO JUST THE KINGDOM IN GENERAL. AND I THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS A VERY INTERESTING TAKE THAT THEY HAD, AND I THINK THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONFUSING SOMETHING, CONFIDENCE WITH ARROGANCE IN THAT SITUATION, WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR QUESTION FOR TODAY, WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE IN THE SAME WAY AS SOME OF THOSE WERE IN THAT BIBLE CLASS THAT I WAS IN. THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE TODAY, IS CONFIDENCE FROWNED UPON IN THE BODY OF CHRIST?

>> WOW. WELL, TO ANSWER THE QUESTION DIRECTLY, IT SHOULDN'T BE. IT SHOULDN'T BE, BECAUSE THERE'S A DIFFERENCE, AS YOU KIND OF POINTED OUT IN THE INTRODUCTION THERE, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE OR ARROGANCE.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT BOTH. I THINK ABOUT 1ST CORINTHIANS 16:13 THAT SAYS, WATCH, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, BE BRAVE, BE STRONG. WELL, YOU CAN'T BE BRAVE AND STRONG IF YOU DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE. WE ALSO KNOW HOW PAUL WOULD ENCOURAGE TIMOTHY TO BE CONFIDENT IN HIS PREACHING. WE TALK ABOUT IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS THAT WE HAVE A CONFIDENCE THAT'S IN CHRIST. SO THAT'S OKAY. BUT THEN THERE'S ALSO ANOTHER WORD THAT YOU ALLUDED TO WITH THAT, THE IDEA OF ARROGANCE, IS PRIDE. AND THE BIBLE TALKS A LOT ABOUT PRIDE.

>> RIGHT. AND THERE'S CERTAIN WAYS IN WHICH WE HAVE PRIDE, RIGHT? SO THERE'S THE BAD WAY OF WHICH YOU HAVE PRIDE THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE, BUT YOU ALSO NEED TO HAVE PRIDE IN THE THINGS THAT YOU DO.

>> YEAH. SO THERE'S A NUANCE IN THE WORD.

>> RIGHT, RIGHT. SO THERE IS A NUANCE. AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THAT WORD CONFIDENCE IN AND OF ITSELF, IN THE BIBLE, THAT WORD IS USED A LOT. 114 TIMES.

>> WHOA. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MANY TIMES.

>> 114 TIMES IS THAT WORD USED. AND NOT JUST IN ONE TRANSLATION, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE SOMETIMES YOU SAY, WELL, THAT'S JUST THAT TRANSLATION; BUT IN 12 DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE IS IT USED AT LEAST 114 TIMES.

>> IN A POSITIVE SENSE.

>> IN A POSITIVE SENSE. AND SO THAT TELLS US A LOT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY AND HOW GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE CONFIDENCE. HE WANTS US TO HAVE CONFIDENCE. AND THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND ARROGANCE.

>> AND I THINK THAT'S WHERE PEOPLE GET CONFUSED. AND SO SOME PEOPLE, THEY JUST KIND OF PUT IT ALL UNDER ONE UMBRELLA, AND IT'S LIKE, OH, WE CANNOT BE PROUD, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF CONFIDENCE, YOU'VE GOT TO

BE HUMBLE, BECAUSE THE BIBLE ALSO SPEAKS ABOUT HUMILITY. BUT AN OLD PREACHER, WENDELL WINKLER, WHICH A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER, HE USED TO SAY, LET US HAVE THE KIND OF PRIDE THAT KEEPS THE CHIN AND THE HEAD UP, BUT DOESN'T LOOK DOWN THE NOSE.

>> OH, RIGHT. YES.

>> AND SO THERE IS A DIFFERENCE AND A NUANCE IN THE WORD, HOW YOU'RE USING THE WORD.

>> WELL, AMEN TO THAT. YEAH, THAT'S 100 PERCENT ACCURATE. AND YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE. YOUR CONFIDENCE CAN VERY EASILY SPILL OVER AND BE ARROGANT AND CAUSE YOU TO BE PUFFED UP, RIGHT? AND WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE LOVE, AND GOD IS LOVE, AND SO WE'RE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIM, AS 1ST CORINTHIANS 13 TELLS US, THAT WE OUGHT NOT TO BE PUFFED UP. LOVE IS NOT PUFFED UP.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> SO THEREFORE, WE CAN'T BE ARROGANT; BUT WE CAN BE CONFIDENT. AND GOD WANTS US TO BE CONFIDENT IN HIM. HE WANTS US TO BE CONFIDENT IN OUR SALVATION. HE WANTS US TO BE CONFIDENT IN THE FACT THAT WHEN WE PRAY TO HIM AND ASK ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, THAT HE'LL BE JUST AND WILLING TO GIVE IT TO US.

>> AMEN.

>> WHERE IS GOD? THERE'S NOWHERE WE CAN GO AND THAT HE'S NOT THERE. AND HE CAN USE US IF WE'RE USEABLE. HE CAN BLESS US EVEN THROUGH OUR SUFFERING. AND HE KNOWS US AND HE ALLOWS US TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR SALVATION. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD. BE LIKE THOSE BEREANS IN ACTS 17:11, AND SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES DAILY. IF YOU WANT TO WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE PROGRAM AGAIN TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES, YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, OUR APPS, OR OUR PODCAST. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO ANSWER IT FOR YOU. REMEMBER THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY