

>> 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 TODAY, AND HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT ROMANS 8:26-28, WHERE WE READ ABOUT ONE OF THE WAYS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TODAY. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO ROMANS 8. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, WE HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN WILL BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT LIGHTHOUSES. THEN WE HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY BRINGS ANOTHER TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT AS HE EXPLAINS TO US THAT WE ALL HAVE A PURPOSE. CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE AS HE EXPLAINS TO US HOW TO HEAR GOD. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: DOES GOD JUDGE COUNTRIES TODAY LIKE HE DID DURING THE OLD TESTAMENT TIME PERIOD? IT'S A GREAT QUESTION, AND I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO STICK AROUND TO HEAR THEIR ANSWER. THERE'S A BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT HOW GOD IS ACTIVELY OPERATING ON OUR BEHALF TODAY IN OUR PROGRAM. WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE OPENED UP TO ROMANS CHAPTER 8, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 26, LIKEWISE THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPS IN OUR WEAKNESSES. FOR WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT, BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED. NOW HE WHO SEARCHES THE HEARTS KNOWS WHAT THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT IS, BECAUSE HE MAKES INTERCESSION FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD. AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

>> (SINGING)

>> IN ROMANS CHAPTER 8, WE'VE JUST READ ABOUT THE SUFFERINGS THAT JESUS HAS GONE THROUGH BEFORE WE GET TO OUR TEXT HERE BEGINNING IN VERSE 26. YOU SEE, EVERYONE ON EARTH HAS DIFFICULTIES AND SUFFERINGS. THOSE SUFFERINGS ARE INEVITABLE. WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO ENDURE THEM. BUT THE HOPE OF HEAVEN WITH ITS ESCAPE FROM THE TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS OF THIS LIFE HELP US TO DEAL WITH THOSE DIFFICULTIES. SO AS WE GET INTO OUR TEXT HERE, THAT WORD LIKEWISE IS IMPORTANT. JUST LIKE WE HAVE THE HOPE OF HEAVEN, WE GET THE HELP AND THE HOPE THAT COMES FROM WHAT OUR TEXT IS TALKING ABOUT. AND OUR TEXT BEGINS TEACHING US THAT THE SPIRIT HELPS IN OUR WEAKNESSES. WE'RE GOING TO GET MORE INTO THAT IN JUST A LITTLE BIT, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS HELPING US TODAY. NOW, NOTICE FROM THIS TEXT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT ISN'T DOING ANYTHING TO US; ALL HE'S DOING HERE IS LISTENING TO US, IS UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT IS WE'RE GOING THROUGH. ALL OF THE OTHER ACTION IN THIS PASSAGE IS ALL BEING DONE IN HEAVEN. SO WE DON'T HAVE AN

OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE CHRISTIAN; ALL HE'S DOING IS LISTENING TO WHAT IT IS WE'RE GOING THROUGH. AND THE PASSAGE CONTINUES ON TO TELL US THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRAY AS WE OUGHT TO PRAY. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN THAT SITUATION WHEN THINGS JUST DON'T SEEM TO MAKE SENSE AND YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR? I'VE BEEN THERE A FEW TIMES MYSELF. DON'T FRET ABOUT IT. TRY THIS: JUST PRAY. ASK GOD FOR WHAT IS THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THIS. I MAY NOT KNOW, BUT HE DEFINITELY KNOWS. FOR INSTANCE, JESUS IN MATTHEW 26:39, WHEN HE WAS PRAYING THERE AT GETHSEMANE, TAKE THIS CUP FROM ME IF IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL. YOU SEE THE HUMILITY THAT COMES IN THAT PRAYER THAT THE FATHER KNOWS WHAT IS THE BEST THING, AND WE'RE DEFERRING TO HIM. IT'S OKAY FOR US JUST TO PRAY FOR HELP. GOD KNOWS EVEN BETTER THAN WE KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT WE SPECIFICALLY NEED. HE'S BETTER EQUIPPED TO MAKE THAT DECISION FOR US AND TO GIVE US WHAT IT IS THAT WE TRULY NEED, SOMETIMES DESPITE WHAT WE ASKED FOR. SO HERE IN THIS PASSAGE, WE HAVE THE SPIRIT WHO'S MAKING INTERCESSION FOR US. HE'S FILLING IN THE BLANKS IN OUR PRAYERS AND CLARIFYING THAT PRAYER ON YOUR BEHALF, BRINGING THOSE REQUESTS, THAT WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER. YOU SEE, THE FATHER AND SPIRIT TOGETHER, THEY UNDERSTAND THE BIG PICTURE A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN WE'RE CAPABLE OF. AND IT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT JESUS ALSO SERVES AS OUR ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, 1ST JOHN 2:1. THE PASSAGE GOES ON TO TELL US THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD. WE CAN TRUST HIM KNOWING THE END RESULT, WHICH IS GETTING OUR SOUL INTO HEAVEN. SOMETIMES WE HAVE QUESTIONS. JOB, HE WAS ASKING WHY. WHY ARE THESE THINGS HAPPENING TO ME? REALLY, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASKING WHO. HABAKKUK, HE QUESTIONED GOD. HE ASKED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE SINFUL SITUATION. GOD SAID DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I'M WORKING ON THINGS IN THE BACKGROUND THAT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT. YOU SEE, THESE INDIVIDUAL THINGS THAT WE GO THROUGH MAY NOT BE GOOD, BUT THEY WILL ALL WORK TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD. SO AS WE LOOK TO APPLY THIS PASSAGE AND UNDERSTAND IT AND USE IT IN OUR LIVES, WE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN IS NEVER ALONE. WE HAVE JUST A GLIMPSE HERE OF WHAT GOD'S DOING. HE'S WORKING ON OUR BEHALF IN WAYS THAT WE WILL NEVER SEE WITH OUR EYES. BUT THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN TRUSTS THAT GOD IS FULFILLING HIS PROMISE, THIS PROMISE HERE THAT HE'S TAKING CARE OF US. OUR PETITIONS ARE BEING MADE KNOWN TO THE FATHER EVEN THROUGH METHODS THAT WE DON'T SEE. ANOTHER THING WE LEARN FROM THIS IS WE NEED TO PRAY. IT'S A GREAT BLESSING OF BEING A CHRISTIAN, SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO USE. BUT THIS SPIRITUAL BLESSING IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST, THOSE WHO ARE CHRISTIANS, ISAIAH 59:1-2, 1ST PETER 3:7. WE'VE GOT TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIM FOR OUR PRAYERS TO BE EFFECTIVE. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE FOUND IN CHRIST, EPHESIANS 1:3. AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. HOW DO WE GET INTO CHRIST? WE GET INTO CHRIST WHEN WE'RE BAPTIZED, ROMANS 6:3, GALATIANS 3:27. ANOTHER THING THAT WE LEARN FROM THIS PASSAGE IS WE CAN TRUST GOD. HE IS WORKING HARD TO GET US TO HEAVEN. SOMETIMES WE DON'T FEEL IT, BUT IT'S HAPPENING NONETHELESS. EVEN IN THOSE DAYS WHEN WE'RE WALKING THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, PSALM 23:4, HE IS THERE, WORKING ON OUR BEHALF. GOD IS A GREAT COMFORT FOR THE CHRISTIAN DURING THOSE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES. WE NEED TO TRUST WHAT HE SAID HE'S DOING FOR US, KNOWING ASSUREDLY THAT HE'S THERE ON OUR BEHALF, DOING WHAT HE CAN,

AND WE JUST NEED TO TRUST HIM. AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. WELL, IT'S TIME FOR US TO HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP WHERE, TROY SPRADLIN IS READY TO DO SOME REPAIRS. TODAY HE'S REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE.

>> ONE SUNDAY MORNING WHENEVER I WAS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY OF THE CHURCH BUILDING IN ASUNCION, PARAGUAY, WHERE I WAS SERVING AS A MISSIONARY, THIS MAN STEPPED INSIDE, HE LOOKED AT ME, THEN HE OPENED UP HIS BIBLE. HE POINTED TO IT, AND HE SAYS, I'M LOOKING FOR THE CHURCH THAT I READ ABOUT HERE IN SCRIPTURE. IS THIS IT? WELL, WITH A SMILE, I REPLIED, AND I SAID, SIR, WHY DON'T YOU COME IN AND WORSHIP WITH US AND SEE FOR YOURSELF? THEN AFTERWARDS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE. WELL, HE STAYED, WE WORSHIPED, AND HE'S NOW BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST FOR MANY YEARS. AND HIS QUESTION IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE THAT WE SHOULD ALL THINK ABOUT FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THAT IS: IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CHURCH THAT WE READ ABOUT IN SCRIPTURE? WELL, WHY DON'T WE REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING AND LOOK AT WHAT CONSTITUTES THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE? AND HERE ARE THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER: NUMBER ONE, THE BIBLE SAYS THE CHURCH IS THE ONE BODY. JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 16:18, I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH. NOTE THAT IT WILL BE BUILT BY JESUS, WHICH MEANS IT BELONGS TO HIM. HE CALLED IT MY CHURCH. AND ALSO, DID YOU NOTICE THAT HE SAID CHURCH AS IN SINGULAR, NOT PLURAL AS IN CHURCHES? AND THIS HARMONIZES PERFECTLY WITH EPHESIANS 4:4-5, WHICH SAYS, THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM. SO ANY CHURCH THAT WAS STARTED BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN JESUS OR ONE THAT CARRIES THE NAME OF SOMEONE ELSE CANNOT BE THE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE. THE FACT THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE CHURCH TEACHES US THAT THERE IS A SINGULAR INSTITUTION THAT HE ESTABLISHED; THUS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THERE TO BE SOME 45,000 DIFFERENT CHURCHES, LIKE WE HAVE TODAY, WHO ARE ALL CLAIMING TO BE HIS ONE TRUE CHURCH. THERE'S ONLY ONE, AND IT'S HIS. IT'S THE CHURCH OF CHRIST. AND WE'RE STRIVING TO FOLLOW THAT VERY PRINCIPLE. WE EVEN CALL IT BY HIS NAME ACCORDING TO ROMANS 16:16. AND NUMBER TWO, JESUS' CHURCH IS AN ACTS 2 CHURCH. AFTER JESUS WENT BACK TO HEAVEN, PETER PREACHED THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON, AND MANY PEOPLE WANTED TO BECOME A PART OF THIS NEW CHURCH. ACTS CHAPTER 2 SHOWS US THE BEGINNING OF THAT CHURCH, AND IT SAYS THAT THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED IN ACTS 2:47. THAT WAS THE DAY THAT THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD WAS INAUGURATED. AND FROM THAT DAY FORWARD UNTIL TODAY, PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING ADDED TO THAT SAME CHURCH IN THE SAME MANNER AS THOSE VERY FIRST CONVERTS WERE. IT STARTED IN JERUSALEM ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND HAS SINCE SPREAD ALL AROUND THE WORLD. NOW LASTLY, NUMBER THREE, THE TRUE CHURCH PRACTICES NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY. YOU SEE, ALL THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT, THERE ARE COMMANDS AND DESCRIPTIONS AND EXAMPLES THAT HELP US IDENTIFY THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT. THE RELIGION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS JUDAISM, WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR THE HEBREWS, THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL; AND THEY ADHERED TO WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE LAW OF MOSES, AS WE READ IN 1ST KINGS 2:3. WELL, JESUS DID AWAY WITH THAT OLD LAW, ACCORDING TO GALATIANS 3:24 AND COLOSSIANS 2:14, AND CHRISTIANS NOW FOLLOW WHAT'S CALLED THE LAW OF CHRIST, AS WE SEE IN GALATIANS 6:2. AND THAT LAW

REGULATES EVERYTHING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHURCH. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THAT EXISTS TODAY IS SIMPLY TRYING TO FOLLOW THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE EXAMPLE OF THOSE FIRST-CENTURY CHRISTIANS. SO IF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS, HAVING BEEN LED BY JESUS' APOSTLES AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DEMONSTRATED TO US WHAT TO DO IN HIS CHURCH, WELL, THEN WE CAN CONFIDENTLY RESPOND BY REPLICATING WHAT THEY DID. SO IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE ONE YOU READ ABOUT IN THE BIBLE? WELL, INDEED, IT IS. WE'RE TRYING TO BE THAT CHURCH.

>> HERE'S THOSE THREE SIGNS AGAIN: ONE, THE CHURCH IS THE ONE BODY; TWO, JESUS' CHURCH IS AN ACTS 2 CHURCH; AND THREE, THE CHURCH PRACTICES NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY. THANKS, TROY. NOW KEEP THAT PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH HANDY SO YOU CAN WRITE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVEN'T ENROLLED IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE, CONTACT US TO GET STARTED. REMEMBER THAT OUR COURSES ARE GIVEN FREE OF CHARGE. WE WON'T TRY TO SELL YOU ANYTHING, AND WE WON'T PESTER YOU WITH SOLICITATIONS. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US IN JUST A MOMENT.

>> 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 GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWSTODAYTV@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.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL MAIL IT TO YOU. WHILE YOU'RE ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU CAN SEE VIDEOS OF OUR CURRENT AND ARCHIVED PROGRAMS THERE. THERE ARE SECTIONS FOR EACH OF THE SEGMENTS, SO YOU CAN WATCH YOUR FAVORITES ON DEMAND. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME SEGMENTS FROM YEARS GONE BY THAT YOU MISS AND YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN. WE'VE GOT SEVERAL OF THOSE IN THE SECTION ENTITLED GOOD NEWS TODAY FROM YESTERYEAR. YOU CAN ALSO ENJOY LISTENING TO US ON TRUTH.FM, WHICH HAS A CHANNEL DEDICATED TO GOOD NEWS TODAY. YOU'LL HEAR PROGRAMS FROM ALL DIFFERENT ERAS PLAYING THERE. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE SEVERAL OTHER CHANNELS THAT ALL CONTAIN EXCELLENT BIBLE TEACHING. GIVE THEM A LISTEN AT TRUTH.FM. JIM DEARMAN HAS GIVEN US MANY EXCELLENT LESSONS OVER THE YEARS, AND TODAY HE JOINS US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT LIGHTHOUSES.

>> A LIGHTHOUSE, LIKE A TALL PILLAR RISING OUT OF THE SEA OR BUILT UPON SOME HIGH BLUFF, IS A LARGE LANTERN WHERE A BRIGHT LIGHT IS KEPT BURNING ALL NIGHT AND IS SEEN FAR OUT TO SEA. IT SAYS TO ALL SHIPS AND SAILORS, TAKE CARE, TAKE CARE. YOU KNOW, LIGHTHOUSES ARE OFTEN INCLUDED IN BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, AND THEY ARE ALSO USED IN QUOTES TO REPRESENT THE IMPACT OUR LIVES MAY HAVE ON OTHERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THINK ABOUT THIS ONE BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR: THE TROUBLE WITH DROWNING IN THE MESS OF YOUR OWN LIFE IS THAT YOU'RE NOT IN ANY SHAPE TO SAVE ANYONE ELSE. YOU CAN'T BE A LIGHTHOUSE WHEN YOU'RE UNDER WATER YOURSELF. WELL, TO ME, THAT DESCRIBES THE CONDITION OF ONE WHO IS OUTSIDE OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, WHO HAS NOT OBEYED THE GOSPEL.

THAT PERSON IS DROWNING IN SIN AND CAN NEVER BE A LIGHT TO OTHERS AS JESUS COMMANDED IN MATTHEW 5:16, AT LEAST NOT UNTIL HE OR SHE COMES TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, JESUS CHRIST.

>> DO YOU FEEL LIKE THAT DROWNING PERSON JIM JUST DESCRIBED? IF SO, CONTACT US AND LET US SET YOU ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE TO FIND THAT LIFE PRESERVER SO THAT YOU CAN BE A LIGHTHOUSE FOR OTHERS AS WELL. THANKS FOR THOSE THOUGHTS, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? THERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT: OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND WATCH IT ON YOUR PHONE, TELEVISION, OR TABLET. YOU CAN WATCH IT THERE ON YOUR TELEVISION AS WELL. THE PROGRAM IS THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US ON THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE'S GOT A TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT THAT WE ALL NEED TO HEAR: WE HAVE A PURPOSE.

>> HOW ARE YOU DOING? SAY, DID YOU KNOW THAT A GOAT CAN'T SWIM? IT'S TRUE. AND I SAY THAT AS A SMALL GOAT FARMER MYSELF. I LEARNED THAT FROM MY DAD, WHO UNFORTUNATELY LEARNED IT THE HARD WAY. MANY YEARS AGO, DAD AND A FRIEND OF HIS WORKED AT A CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT. THOSE WERE DAYS BEFORE WEED EATERS. AND DAD AND HIS FRIEND WERE LOOKING FOR AN EASIER WAY TO KEEP THE GRASS FROM GROWING AROUND THE OPEN WATER TANK, SO THEY HAD A GREAT IDEA. THEY WENT AND BOUGHT THEMSELVES A BILLY GOAT. THEY BROUGHT IT BACK TO THE PLANT AND CONGRATULATED THEMSELVES AS THE GOAT PICKED AWAY THE GRASS AROUND THE TANKS. BUT THEN AS GOATS DO, THE BILLY GOAT JUMPED OVER THE TANK AND SUNK LIKE A ROCK IN THE 15-FOOT-DEEP WATER. WELL, THAT WAS THE END OF THE GOAT MOWING IDEA. YOU KNOW, COME TO THINK OF IT, FOR A WHILE, THAT CITY WATER TASTED A LITTLE BAAAD. EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN'T SWIM, GOATS ARE QUITE USEFUL IN OTHER WAYS. THEY CAN CLEAN UP AN OVERGROWN LOT, CLEAN OFF A FENCE ROW, AND THEY'RE KIND OF CUTE AND ENJOYABLE TO HAVE AROUND. THERE'S GREAT DIVERSITY AMONG GOD'S CREATURES, AND THEY ALL HAVE PARTICULAR AND IMPORTANT USES. WE, TOO, ARE DIFFERENT IN OUR ABILITIES. SOME OF US MAY SWIM AS BAD AS A GOAT, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS THAT MOST OF US DO WELL AT. SOMETIMES IT'S EASY TO FEEL SORRY FOR OURSELVES BECAUSE WE THINK WE CAN'T SPEAK WELL OR READ WELL OR SING WELL, OR FEEL LIKE THAT WE HAVE NO USE DUE TO OUR AGE OR OUR EDUCATION OR OUR STATUS IN LIFE, OR EVEN FROM OUR PAST MISTAKES. BUT GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL DIFFERENT ABILITIES. AND TO NOT USE THEM MAKES US VERY MUCH LIKE THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT WHO BURIED HIS TALENTS RATHER THAN USE THEM FOR HIS MASTER IN MATTHEW 25. PERHAPS WE DON'T FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN'T DO, AND LOOK FOR WHAT WE CAN DO. CAN YOU SING ALONG IN WORSHIP SERVICE, REGARDLESS OF YOUR ABILITY? CAN YOU SEND A KIND CARD OR MAKE A PHONE CALL OR JUST TEXT MAYBE TO A SICK OR GRIEVING PERSON? CAN YOU JUST SPEAK TO A NEW PERSON VISITING CHURCH? CAN YOU MAKE A SNACK OR BUY SOME FOOD FOR OTHERS WHO ARE DOING THE WORK THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO? CAN YOU JUST COME AND SIT IN THE PEW AND WORSHIP, EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT SOMEONE WAS SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU THERE? SO MANY SMALL THINGS NEED DONE, AND THOSE SMALL THINGS MATTER IN BIG WAYS. EPHESIANS 1:11 TELLS US THAT WE ARE ALL PART OF GOD'S PURPOSE THAT WORKS IN ALL THINGS. AND PSALM 139:16 TELLS US OUR DAYS OR OUR PURPOSE WAS LAID OUT FOR US EVEN BEFORE WE WERE BORN. PAUL SPEAKS CLEARLY ABOUT OUR PURPOSE IN EPHESIANS 2:10, THAT WE

ARE BUILT, WE ARE MADE IN CHRIST FOR GOOD WORKS TO DO THE THINGS THAT GOD DECIDED ARE GOOD, TAKING CARE OF THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND US, EVEN THE SMALL NEEDS. THEY ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT. THE WORD SERVICE IS MENTIONED OVER 1,100 TIMES JUST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. SHOULDN'T WE TAKE PRIDE THAT WE'RE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO GOD THAT HE CREATED US WITH PURPOSE, AS HE CLEARLY TELLS US IN HIS TIMELESS TEXT? I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> THAT'S GREAT ADVICE. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING WHAT WE CAN DO, NOT FOR THE THINGS THAT WE CAN'T DO. THANKS, JOE. IF YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO PODCASTS, WE NOW HAVE FOUR OF THEM AVAILABLE. EVERY DAY, A NEW EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME GETS RELEASED. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY WITH A DAILY DOSE OF GOOD NEWS. EVERY WEEK, THERE'S A NEW EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY WEEKLY AND SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN. AND WE'VE JUST LAUNCHED A PODCAST ENTITLED, HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION. SIGN UP AND START LISTENING AND INCREASING YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE. NOW CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MOMENT AS HE EXPLAINS TO US HOW TO HEAR GOD TODAY.

>> MAY I HAVE JUST A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? IN ACTS CHAPTER 10, A MAN NAMED CORNELIUS INVITED HIS WHOLE HOUSEHOLD TOGETHER TO HEAR THE APOSTLE PETER. IN VERSE 33, CORNELIUS SAYS, NOW THEREFORE, WE ARE ALL PRESENT BEFORE GOD TO HEAR ALL THE THINGS COMMANDED YOU BY GOD. DO WE WANT TO HEAR THE THINGS COMMANDED BY GOD? ARE WE OPENING HIS WORD, THE BIBLE, TO LISTEN? AS WE GO THROUGH OUR BUSY LIVES, MANY THINGS VIE FOR OUR TIME AND ATTENTION, BUT NOTHING IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE VOICE OF ALMIGHTY GOD. HEAR HEBREWS 1:1-2, GOD, WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS SPOKE IN TIMES PAST TO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS HAS IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS. MAKE TIME IN YOUR LIFE TO HEAR GOD AS HE SPEAKS TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD. AND LIKE CORNELIUS, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES TO JOIN YOU. HEAR IT AND OBEY IT. YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY DEPENDS ON IT. I'M CHAD DOLLAHITE, AND THIS IS JUST A MINUTE.

>> WE HEAR GOD AS HE SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD. AND IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST HEARING; IT TAKES OBEDIENCE. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM, HEBREWS 5:9. THANKS, CHAD. 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: DOES GOD JUDGE COUNTRIES TODAY LIKE HE DID DURING THE OLD TESTAMENT TIME PERIOD?

>> ALL RIGHT, TROY. THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE TODAY IS, DOES GOD JUDGE COUNTRIES IN TODAY'S TIME LIKE HE DID IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

>> OH, OKAY. SO BASICALLY, WHAT A GREAT QUESTION: IS GOD STILL IN CONTROL? WELL, I THINK THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS YES. ABSOLUTELY HE'S STILL IN CONTROL.

>> RIGHT. HE IS ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT. AND THE BIBLE TELLS US, GIVES US SEVERAL INSTANCES TO LET US KNOW THAT HE IS. ONE THAT COMES TO MIND IS THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGE WITH DANIEL IN DANIEL CHAPTER 4. DANIEL 4:17, HE LETS US KNOW AS WE'RE DEALING WITH NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN THE SITUATION, HE LETS US KNOW THAT GOD DOES RULE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN AND HE ALSO DOES GIVE NATIONS TO WHOM HE PLEASES.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. I LOVE THAT. THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT, YOU SEE THROUGH ALL THE PROPHETS, LIKE ISAIAH AND EZEKIEL AND EVEN JEREMIAH WHERE HE'S TALKING DIRECTLY TO KINGS, AND HE'S EVEN USING SOME NATIONS FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. SO DOES HE STILL DO THAT TODAY? WELL, I THINK THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN ROMANS CHAPTER 13. ROMANS 13:1 SAYS, LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES, FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD. THAT TELLS US THAT GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL OF THE NATIONS TODAY.

>> YES, IT DOES. IT LETS US KNOW WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT. GOD IS STILL THE JUDGE.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> HE'S STILL ON HIS THRONE. HE'S STILL IN CHARGE. HE'S STILL IN COMMAND. AND THE PHILIPPIANS, YOU LOOK AT THAT IN PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11, IT SAYS EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW, EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS. SO GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW HE'S WORKING IN TODAY'S TIME, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT HE IS.

>> AMEN.

>> GOD IS INDEED WORKING TODAY; NOT IN THE MIRACULOUS WAY HE DID IN BIBLICAL TIMES, BUT THROUGH HIS WORD AND THROUGH HIS PROVIDENTIAL CARE FOR US. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING, INCLUDING THE THINGS WE'RE TELLING YOU, AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE TRUE LIKE THE BEREANS DID IN ACTS 17:11. YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE PROGRAM AGAIN IF YOU NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN, HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THOSE SCRIPTURE REFERENCES, WRITE THEM DOWN, SEE THEM FOR YOURSELF. YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OR THROUGH OUR PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE MIGHT EVEN ANSWER IT ON THE PROGRAM. REMEMBER, WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY