

>> 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. AND WE'VE GOT AN EXCITING PROGRAM TODAY. 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 PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13, WHERE PAUL SHOWS HOW HE HAS LEARNED TO BE CONTENT IN ANY SITUATION. IT'S A VERY ENCOURAGING PASSAGE. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLE, TURN TO PHILIPPIANS 4. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, FREDDIE CLAYTON VISITS US ON THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE'S GIVING OUT A TEST. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT SACRIFICE. THEN JOE GUY REPLACES FREDDIE ON THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE'S LETTING US KNOW ABOUT SOME BIG PLANS THAT GOD HAS. CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE, AND HE'S ASKING, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU? IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE SOMEONE NEW IN THE MIX, AND WE'LL GET TO MEET HIM IN JUST A MOMENT. WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION: ARE MIRACLES TODAY ONLY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE A PROPER AMOUNT OF FAITH? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO PHILIPPIANS 4, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 10, BUT I REJOICE IN THE LORD GREATLY THAT NOW AT LAST YOUR CARE FOR ME HAS FLOURISHED AGAIN; THOUGH YOU SURELY DID CARE, BUT YOU LACKED OPPORTUNITY. NOT THAT I SPEAK IN REGARD TO NEED, FOR I HAVE LEARNED IN WHATEVER STATE I AM, TO BE CONTENT. I KNOW HOW TO BE ABASED, I KNOW HOW TO ABOUND. EVERYWHERE AND IN ALL THINGS I HAVE LEARNED BOTH TO BE FULL AND TO BE HUNGRY, TO BOTH ABOUND AND TO SUFFER NEED. I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY COMES TOWARD THE END OF PAUL'S LETTER TO HIS SWEETHEART CONGREGATION THERE AT PHILIPPI. HE'S WRITING THIS LETTER TO THEM FROM A ROMAN PRISON. AND THEY'VE SUPPORTED HIM FINANCIALLY WHILE HE HAS LABORED AMONG THE CHURCHES, AND THEY JUST SENT SOME SUPPORT FOR HIM HERE. THAT'S THE CONTEXT OF THIS LETTER. HE HAS SO MANY POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION. IT'S THE MOST POSITIVE LETTER THAT WE HAVE IN OUR BIBLES. HE'S JUST GIVEN THEM SOME VERY GENTLE AND POSITIVE DIRECTION. HE SAID THINGS LIKE, REJOICE ALWAYS AND CAST YOUR REQUESTS BEFORE GOD AND HE WILL GIVE YOU A PIECE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING. VERY NICE, EASY, SOFT TEACHING, THINGS THAT REALLY DO REASSURE US. IT'S A GREAT BOOK TO READ WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS AND NEED THAT COMFORT AND REASSURANCE. HE JUST TOLD THEM TO THINK ON PURE, GOOD, AND NOBLE THINGS. AND THEN WE GET TO OUR PASSAGE. HE BEGINS IN VERSE 10 BY THANKING THEM FOR THE FUNDS THAT THEY HAVE SENT TO HIM. HE STATES THAT HE KNOWS THAT THEY WANTED TO SEND FUNDS TO HIM EARLIER, BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY. WHAT A GREAT THING FOR HIM TO SAY ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION. THEIR DESIRE TO GIVE WAS SO MUCH THAT THEY WERE UPSET THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. WE READ LATER IN THE CHAPTER THAT THEY HAD A PATTERN OF GIVING TO

HELP PAUL IN HIS WORK EVEN WHEN OTHER CONGREGATIONS DIDN'T. THIS WAS A GIVING CONGREGATION. AND THEIR FINANCIAL SACRIFICE WAS REAPING FOR THEM GREAT REWARDS IN HEAVEN. PAUL THEN STATES THAT HE'S LEARNED TO BE CONTENT NO MATTER WHAT HIS SITUATION IS. YES, THEY HAVE GIVEN HIM FUNDS AND TAKE CARE OF HIS NEEDS; BUT EVEN IF HE WAS HUNGRY, HE COULD STILL BE CONTENT IN THAT SITUATION. YOU SEE, TODAY, TOO MANY PEOPLE AREN'T CONTENT WITH HAVING THEIR NEEDS MET. WE HAVE THIS PROBLEM. WE GET CONFUSED BETWEEN THE THINGS THAT WE WANT AND THE THINGS THAT WE NEED. JESUS SAID IN THE MODEL PRAYER THERE IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 6, VERSE 11 SAYS, GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. MEET THOSE NEEDS. NOT GIVE US THIS DAY A NEW IPAD, GIVE US THIS DAY A BRAND-NEW CAR, BUT OUR NEEDS. BECAUSE YOU SEE THE LOVE OF MONEY, THAT INORDINATE DESIRE TO GO ABOVE OUR NEEDS, THAT'S THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL, 2ND TIMOTHY 6:10. A FRIEND OF MINE SAID IT THIS WAY: DON'T LET YOUR YEARNINGS GET AHEAD OF YOUR EARNINGS. THAT'S WISDOM WE ALL NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO. IN MY EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS IN YEARS GONE BY, THOSE LEAN TIMES, TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULTIES AND MAKE TOUGH FINANCIAL DECISIONS, THAT LEADS TO EFFICIENT OPERATIONS. WE NEED TO EVALUATE OUR SITUATION AND REALIZE WHAT WE CAN GET BY ON. AND THEN VERSE 13, IT SAYS, I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH VERSES TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. THAT'S HOW A LOT OF PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT VERSE. THEY JUST YANK IT OUT AND LOOK AT IT. IT'S NOT TALKING ABOUT ACADEMICS OR ATHLETICS. HE'S SAYING THAT HE CAN THRIVE AND GET THE WORK DONE NO MATTER HIS FINANCIAL SITUATION THROUGH CHRIST. ALL THINGS, THE WORK OF CHRISTIANITY THAT PAUL HAS BEEN CALLED TO DO. WE KNOW THAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS FINANCIAL SITUATION BECAUSE THAT'S THE CONTEXT. HE'S TALKED ABOUT IT IN THE VERSES LEADING UP TO IT, AND STARTING IN VERSE 14, HE TALKS ABOUT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION AGAIN. THAT'S HOW WE'RE TO UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE. SO AS WE SEEK TO APPLY THIS TEXT TO OUR LIVES, NUMBER ONE, WE CAN UNDERSTAND AND TRUST THAT GOD'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF OUR NEEDS. HE'LL GET YOU THE THINGS THAT YOU NEED, NOT NECESSARILY THE THINGS THAT YOU WANT. WE ALSO NEED TO BE CONTENT WITH THE THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE WHEN HE HAS TAKEN CARE OF US, AND WE NEED TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT HELP AND THAT CARE THAT HE GIVES US. WHAT A GREAT BLESSING IT IS. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. FREDDIE CLAYTON IS COMING FOR A VISIT ON THE PASTIME PORCH. AND YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO GRAB SOMETHING TO TAKE NOTES ON, BECAUSE HE'S GIVING US SOME GREAT TESTS TO HELP US AS WE STRIVE TO LIVE A LIFE WALKING AND TALKING IN THE LIGHT.

>> BEFORE YOU ACT, TAKE THE TEST. SOMEONE PASSED THIS TEST ON TO ME SEVERAL YEARS AGO. I DON'T KNOW REALLY WHO CAME UP WITH IT ORIGINALLY, BUT IT SURE IS OUTSTANDING. THE FOLLOWING TEST CAN BE APPLIED TO NEARLY EVERY SITUATION YOU FACE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ACTION IS RIGHT OR WRONG. ARE YOU WEIGHING YOUR OPINIONS AND YOUR OPTIONS? THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND. ASK THE PERSONAL TEST: WILL DOING THIS MAKE ME A BETTER OR A WORSE CHRISTIAN, OR MAYBE A BETTER OR WORSE HUMAN BEING? ASK OURSELVES THE SOCIAL TEST: WILL DOING THIS INFLUENCE OTHERS AND ESPECIALLY WEAK PEOPLE TO BE BETTER OR WORSE CHRISTIANS? THEN THERE'S THE PRACTICAL TEST: WILL THE RESULTS OF MY DOING THIS BE DESIRABLE? WHAT ARE GOING TO BE THE FRUITS OF MY ACTIONS? THEN THERE'S THE UNIVERSAL TEST: WHAT IF EVERYBODY DOES THIS? WOULD SOCIETY BE IMPROVED OR WOULD IT BE DEGRADED? IF ALL CHRISTIANS DO THIS, WILL IT

IMPROVE OR WILL IT DEGRADE THE KINGDOM? THEN THERE'S THE SCRIPTURAL TEST: DOES THE BIBLE ENDORSE IT OR DOES THE BIBLE FORBID IT? DOES THE TENOR OR TONE OF THE BIBLE, IF THE THING IS CONTEMPLATED AT ALL DEALT WITH, DOES IT SPEAK TOWARDS ENDORSING IT OR DOES IT SPEAK TOWARDS CONDEMNING IT? THEN HOW ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP TEST: WILL MY DOING THIS CONSTITUTE A WASTE OF TALENT AND MAYBE EVEN OF GOODS FOR WHICH I'M GOING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY THE LORD? AM I WASTING MY TALENT? HOW ABOUT THE CHARACTER TEST: WHAT WILL BE THE INFLUENCE OF MY LIFE AND SPIRITUALITY AS OTHERS NOW SEE ME IN THIS PARTICULAR BEHAVIOR? WOULD IT BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE? HOW ABOUT THE FAMILY TEST: WILL IT BRING DISCREDIT OR DISHONOR TO MY FAMILY AND EMBARRASS THEM? IS IT SOMETHING THAT I CAN RECOMMEND TO ALL THE REST OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS? AND THEN THERE'S THE PUBLICITY TEST: WOULD I BE WILLING FOR FRIENDS AND FELLOW CHRISTIANS, THE ELDERS, THE PREACHER, EVERYBODY I KNOW TO KNOW ABOUT MY ACTIONS? AND THEN THERE'S THE COMMON SENSE TEST: DOES IT AGREE WITH JUST PLAIN OLD, ORDINARY, EVERYDAY COMMON SENSE? REMEMBERING THAT BEYOND COMMON SENSE, WE MUST BE GUIDED BY REVEALED SENSE. AND THAT'S THE BIBLE. AND THEN HOW ABOUT THE FAIRNESS TEST: IS IT HONEST? AND IS IT PRACTICING THE GOLDEN RULE? AND OF COURSE, LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, THE SECOND COMING TEST: IS THIS SOMETHING I WOULD NOT MIND AS A CHRISTIAN THE LORD FIND ME DOING WHEN HE NEXT APPEARED TO TAKE ME THEN TO JUDGMENT? THIS IS FREDDIE CLAYTON WALKING AND TALKING IN THE LIGHT.

>> THANKS, FREDDIE. DON'T SET THAT PAPER DOWN QUITE YET, BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO GIVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU CAN ENROLL IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE.

>> 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.

>> BE SURE TO WRITE DOWN OUR ADDRESS, GNTTV.ORG. FROM THERE, YOU CAN WATCH ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS AGAIN, OR YOU CAN EVEN DOWNLOAD A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROGRAM. JUST LOOK AT OUR CURRENT AND ARCHIVED PROGRAM, AND YOU WANT TO LOOK FOR THE FULL PROGRAMS. CLICK ON THE EPISODE THAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, AND THEN YOU CAN CLICK ON THE BUTTON THAT SAYS NOTES, AND YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE TRANSCRIPT. YOU CAN WATCH THE VIDEO FROM RIGHT THERE AS WELL. YOU CAN ALSO LISTEN TO OUR CHANNEL ON TRUTH.FM, WHICH IS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON THEIR WEBSITE OR THEIR APP. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT SACRIFICE.

>> LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BEING A CHRISTIAN INVOLVES TOO MUCH SACRIFICE ON YOUR PART? YOU KNOW, A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL THAT WAY, AND THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD. A MAN BY THE NAME OF HP LIDDON WROTE, QUOTE, NOTHING IS REALLY LOST BY FAILURE TO OBEY GOD'S CALL, END QUOTE. WELL, THAT'S TRUE. GOD CALLS US TO BECOME CHRISTIANS THROUGH HIS WORD, THE

GOSPEL, ACCORDING TO 2ND THESSALONIANS 2:14, AND NOT THROUGH SOME SO-CALLED DIRECT RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, AS SOME CONTEND. AND THOSE WHO ANSWER THAT CALL BY OBEYING THE COMMANDS: BELIEVING, REPENTING, CONFESSING CHRIST, AND BEING BAPTIZED, FIND THE TRULY ABUNDANT LIFE. JESUS SAID, HE WHO FINDS HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, AND HE WHO LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT. THAT'S MATTHEW 10:39. YOU SEE, THE POINT IS THAT WE LOSE BY TRYING TO HANG ON TO THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD. WE WIN BY GIVING UP THOSE THINGS, BY SACRIFICING THEM TO HAVE THE GREATER BLESSINGS OF CHRISTIANITY. SO NOTHING WORTH SAVING IS LOST BY LIVING A LIFE OF SACRIFICE IN CHRIST. IN FACT, EVERYTHING IS GAINED.

>> SEEING THE BIG PICTURE AND KNOWING THE RESULT ALLOWS US TO SEE HOW SMALL OUR SACRIFICES REALLY ARE. THANKS FOR THAT, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED A GOOD NEWS TODAY EPISODE AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH? YOU CAN DO THAT ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL, ON ROKU OR APPLE TV. PROGRAM'S THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. YOU CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE OR APPS AND GET A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROGRAM. GO LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO WATCH THE PROGRAM, CLICK ON THE NOTES, AND A TRANSCRIPT IS RIGHT THERE. IT'S TIME TO HEAD BACK OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US. AND HE'S HELPING US MAKE SENSE OF THINGS IN THIS LIFE.

>> WELL, HELLO. THANKS FOR STOPPING BY. YOU KNOW, I'M JUST SITTING HERE THINKING, DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY THINGS HAPPEN? GOOD THINGS TO BAD PEOPLE, BAD THINGS TO GOOD PEOPLE? SOMETIMES IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO US. WE TRY TO MAKE SENSE AND SEARCH FOR SOME REASON, SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR WHY SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED. WE'LL LOOK FOR SOME CONNECTION OR CAUSE SO THAT WE CAN MAKE SENSE OF A TRAGEDY OR A TROUBLE, WE LOOK FOR SOMETHING, SOME ACTION OR SOME PERSON TO BLAME IT ON. BUT WE MIGHT REMEMBER WE CAN ONLY SEE WHAT MAKES SENSE TO US RIGHT THERE IN THAT MOMENT. IN JOHN 9, JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED BY A BEGGAR, A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND FROM BIRTH. THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS, WHO SINNED TO CAUSE THIS, THIS MAN OR HIS PARENTS? ALL THEY COULD SEE WAS A MAN IN A TERRIBLE CONDITION, AND THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF IT. SURELY IT WAS EITHER HIS FAULT OR HIS PARENTS' FAULT. BUT JESUS REVEALS IN THIS PASSAGE THAT SOMETIMES GOD HAS BIGGER PLANS. HE TELLS THE DISCIPLES THAT NO SIN CAUSED THIS MAN'S AFFLICTION. HE'D BEEN BLIND UP TO THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE SO THAT THE WORKS OF GOD CAN BE REVEALED IN HIM. GOD HAD A PLAN THAT NO ONE, NOT EVEN THE MAN HIMSELF, COULD HAVE EVER KNOWN. IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES, JESUS HEALS THE MAN BY PLACING CLAY ON HIS EYES AND TELLING HIM TO GO WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM. THE MAN IS HEALED AND RETURNS TO THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM; BUT THEY DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM. WHEN THEY QUESTION HIM, HE SAYS A MAN NAMED JESUS HEALED HIM. THIS MAKES HIS FRIENDS WANT TO FIND JESUS. BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE. HE WINDS UP TESTIFYING BEFORE THE JEWISH COUNCIL. IT IS PROVEN THAT A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED AND THAT IT IS CONNECTED TO JESUS, EVEN THOUGH THE COUNCIL WON'T ACCEPT IT. JESUS LATER SPEAKS TO THE MAN, CONFIRMING HIS FAITH. THE MAN'S LIFELONG AFFLICTION BECAME A BLESSING. THINK ABOUT HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE JESUS WALKED BY THAT DAY; BUT IT WAS THIS MAN, A POOR, BLIND BEGGAR, WHO WAS SPECIAL ALL ALONG, WHO WAS PART OF A BIGGER PLAN

THAT GOD HAD SET IN PLACE EVEN BEFORE THE TIME OF THIS MAN'S BIRTH. HE WAS A VESSEL BY WHICH GOD'S WORD, HIS WORKS, AND CHRIST WERE CONFIRMED BEFORE OTHERS. COLOSSIANS 3:17, VERSES 23 THROUGH 24 SPEAK OF DOING EVERYTHING TO THE LORD. EVERYTHING: BEING HAPPY, BEING SAD, OUR WORK, OUR RESPONSE TO SUCCESS AND ADVERSITY, EVERYTHING. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES IN THE TIMELESS TEXT THAT SHOW US THAT. LIKE THE BLIND MAN, WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW GOD'S BIGGER PLANS THAT OUR SUCCESSES AS WELL AS OUR SUFFERINGS MAY BE A PART OF. I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> THANKS, JOE. DON'T FORGET WE'VE GOT THREE PODCASTS AVAILABLE FOR YOU: GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME, GOOD NEWS TODAY WEEKLY, AND SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN. NOW CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE. AND HE'S ASKING, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU?

>> MAY I HAVE JUST A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT NOTHING EVER OCCURRED TO GOD? I HEARD THAT EXPRESSION SEVERAL YEARS AGO. I BELIEVE THE FIRST TIME I HEARD IT WAS FROM BROTHER JOHN DEBERRY, A GOSPEL PREACHER, POINTING OUT THE FACT THAT NO MATTER WHAT, GOD IS IN CONTROL, AND NOTHING HUMANITY EVER COULD DO WILL CATCH HIM OFF GUARD OR UNPREPARED. AND ISN'T THAT A COMFORTING THOUGHT, TO KNOW MY GOD LITERALLY IS ALWAYS PREPARED AND, AS THE SAYING GOES, IN THE KNOW? LIFE THROWS US SOME CURVEBALLS FROM TIME TO TIME, DOESN'T IT? AND THE SHOCK AND SURPRISE ALONE CAN MAKE SOME SITUATIONS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. WHAT A COMFORT TO KNOW I CAN PLACE MYSELF IN THE HANDS OF A BENEVOLENT GOD WHO IS NEVER UNPREPARED TO HELP ME THROUGH ANY SITUATION LIFE BRINGS MY WAY. NO WONDER DAVID PENNED THOSE OFT-QUOTED WORDS FROM PSALM 23, THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT. AND LATER ON IN THAT SAME PSALM, YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME. FRIEND, MAKE SURE THE LORD IS YOUR SHEPHERD, AND HE WILL BE WITH YOU, TOO, THROUGH EVERY PHASE OF LIFE AND ITS UPS, DOWNS, AND IN BETWEENS BECAUSE, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU, NOTHING EVER OCCURRED TO ALMIGHTY GOD? I'M CHAD DOLLAHITE, AND THIS IS JUST A MINUTE.

>> STAY WITH US. I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE NEW.

>> (SINGING)

>> FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, WE'VE CLOSED OUT EVERY EPISODE WITH THE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION SEGMENT. GUYTON MONTGOMERY HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF HANDLING THOSE QUESTIONS ALONGSIDE TROY SPRADLIN. WE REGRET THAT GUYTON IS NOT ABLE TO CONTINUE DOING THIS, BUT WE'RE THANKFUL FOR HIS STUDY, HIS TIME, AND HIS DEDICATION FOR THESE FOUR YEARS. ANTHONY DISMUKE IS GOING TO WORK WITH TROY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS, AND WE'RE EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE HIM WITH US. ANTHONY IS AN EXCELLENT PREACHER, AND I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO AGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT. NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: ARE MIRACLES TODAY ONLY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE THE PROPER AMOUNT OF FAITH?

>> TROY, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MIRACLE?

>> I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE.

>> NO, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ONE?

>> I MEAN, IF I DID SEE ONE, I DON'T KNOW THAT I WOULD SAY THAT WAS A MIRACLE.

>> RIGHT. SO I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE'RE DEFINING AS A MIRACLE, RIGHT?

>> EXACTLY. WHAT IS A MIRACLE.

>> RIGHT. SO WE WOULD HAVE TO DEFINE THAT, BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL COME UP WITH A LOT OF DIFFERENT TERMS AS TO WHAT A MIRACLE IS IF YOU ASK THEM TO DEFINE IT.

>> EXACTLY.

>> SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SAY, WELL, I GOT IN A CAR ACCIDENT, AND I CAME OUT OF THAT CAR ACCIDENT. THAT WAS A MIRACLE. THE DOCTOR, I WAS HAVING SURGERY AND I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT THROUGH THAT SURGERY, BUT THAT WAS A MIRACLE. I MADE IT THROUGH. AND SO SITUATIONS LIKE THAT WHERE PEOPLE SAY THAT THOSE ARE MIRACLES, EVEN TO THE EXTENT SOME MIGHT SAY, WELL, I JUST MADE \$1000 OFF THE LOTTERY, RIGHT?

>> I AM POSITIVE THAT'S NOT A MIRACLE.

>> I'M 100% SURE THAT IS NOT A MIRACLE. BUT THE ACTUAL DEFINITION OF A MIRACLE IS SOMETHING THAT'S SUPERNATURAL, SOMETHING THAT TAKES PLACE, AN EVENT OR SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE THAT TAKES PLACE THAT'S SUPERNATURAL, IT'S NOT NORMAL FOR US TO SEE THAT, AND BY A DIVINE AGENCY THAT THAT DOES TAKE PLACE.

>> THINGS THAT GOD DOES, THE THINGS THAT JESUS DID AS WE SEE IN THE BIBLE, EVEN THE EARLY APOSTLES, WHENEVER THEY WERE DOING THINGS THAT WERE BEYOND WHAT IS NATURAL.

>> CORRECT. AND SO THE POINT THAT WE MAKE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, FIRST OF ALL, IS THAT THERE'S NOT MIRACLES IN TODAY'S TIME.

>> RIGHT.

>> BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT JESUS AND THE APOSTLES ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD THE ABILITY TO PASS ON THOSE GIFTS, RIGHT?

>> AND IT COMES BACK TO WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT DEFINING A MIRACLE. OBVIOUSLY, GOD CAN STILL DO A MIRACLE AT ANY TIME, BECAUSE HE'S THE ALMIGHTY. BUT YOU SAID IT: MEN TODAY DON'T DO MIRACLES. AND WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THE BIBLE TELLING US THAT THOSE THINGS WOULD COME TO AN END.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND ONLY APOSTLES COULD PASS OFF THAT POWER.

>> RIGHT. AND AS YOU SAID, THOSE THINGS HAVE COME TO AN END. BUT WHEN WE HAVE RECOGNIZED MIRACLES TAKING PLACE, TO ANSWER THE LATTER PART OF THIS QUESTION ABOUT DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FAITH IN ORDER FOR THESE MIRACLES TO TAKE PLACE -

>> AH, FAITH HEALERS.

>> SO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE THINK ABOUT SITUATIONS WHERE THERE WERE MIRACLES TAKING PLACE. DID THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FAITH IN ORDER TO HAVE THAT MIRACLE PERFORMED ON THEM?

>> RIGHT. AND BASED ON THE QUESTION THAT YOU'RE SAYING, TODAY, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS YOU HAVE SOMEBODY CLAIMING TO DO A MIRACLE, AND THEN IF THE PERSON ISN'T HEALED, THEN THEIR RESPONSE IS, WELL, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH. SO DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO HAVE A MIRACLE? WELL, I DON'T THINK SO, BECAUSE THE BIBLE SHOWS US SEVERAL INSTANCES THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE FAITH.

>> RIGHT. AND ONE OF THOSE THAT WE WANT TO LOOK AT OR WHICH YOU CAN NOTICE IS JOHN 11:43. JOHN 11:43 IS TELLING US ABOUT LAZARUS, RIGHT? IT'S ABOUT LAZARUS BEING RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

>> PRETTY SURE HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FAITH PART OF IT.

>> LAZARUS HAD NO IDEA HE WAS GOING TO DIE. HE PROBABLY COULD HAVE CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION WHEN HE GOT SICK AND THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT HE HAD NO INTENTION ON BEING RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

>> RIGHT. HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

>> HE DIDN'T HAVE FAITH IN THAT.

>> I THINK ALSO OF THE LAME MAN AT THE GATE BEAUTIFUL IN ACTS CHAPTER 3. HE WAS EXPECTING A HANDOUT. IN FACT, IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT, YOU SEE THAT IT WAS PETER SAYING IT'S THROUGH OUR FAITH, THROUGH OUR FAITH IN JESUS THAT RAISED THIS MAN. LET ME ADD ONE MORE. WHAT ABOUT EPAPHRODITUS? HE ALSO WAS SICK. WHY DIDN'T PAUL HEAL HIM?

>> EXACTLY.

>> SO, NO, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AMOUNT OF FAITH THAT THE PERSON HAS AS FAR AS THE MIRACLE. AND I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THIS IS WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES, ANTHONY?

>> WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THOSE?

>> YEAH.

>> THAT'S TO SHOW GOD AND HIS MIGHT AND HIS POWER.

>> EXACTLY. MARK 16:20, IT SAYS THAT THE DISCIPLES WENT OUT AND PREACHED EVERYWHERE, THE LORD WORKING WITH THEM, CONFIRMING THE WORD THROUGH THE ACCOMPANYING SIGNS. THERE WAS A PURPOSE FOR MIRACLES. WE DON'T NEED THAT PURPOSE TODAY.

>> RIGHT. WE DON'T NEED THAT PURPOSE TODAY. GOD'S PROVIDENCE ALLOWS HIM TO WORK IN NATURAL WAYS THAT CAN HELP US IN THE SOCIETY THAT WE LIVE IN. SO NO, YOU DON'T NEED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FAITH IN ORDER FOR MIRACLES TO HAPPEN OR TAKE PLACE, BECAUSE GOD IS ALMIGHTY. HE COULD DO A MIRACLE IF HE WANTED TO, BUT HE DOESN'T NEED TO, ESPECIALLY IN TODAY'S TIME.

>> AMEN.

>> AS WE'VE SEEN ON OUR PROGRAM, THOUGH GOD ISN'T WORKING THROUGH MIRACLES TODAY LIKE HE DID DURING THE FIRST CENTURY, WE SEE HIS PROVIDENCE AROUND US TODAY. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE BIBLE. SEE IF YOU'RE BEING TOLD THE TRUTH. BE LIKE THOSE BEREANS IN ACTS 17:11 AND SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE DAILY. TEST THESE THINGS, WHETHER THEY'RE SO. IF YOU'D LIKE TO WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PROGRAM AGAIN AND HAVE EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES, YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, OUR APPS, OR EVEN THROUGH OUR PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY