

"BEING ON GUARD"

Acts 20:17-38

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READING OF SCRIPTURE

This is one of the great passages in the Bible that kind of shows us the heart of the Apostle Paul. It gives to us an understanding of what the whole counsel of God really is.

PRAYER

You know when we read the Bible it becomes obvious to all of us that the Apostle Paul was chosen, was called and commissioned to be God's explainer and expositor of the message of Jesus Christ as the good news of the gospel.

When we read his epistle we understand that he was God's great theologian. And he gives to us the methodology of how we can live out what Christ taught in everyday life in all of the circumstances that life may bring.

However, what we often don't understand is that the pattern of Paul's ministry was set forth in the book of Acts. In the book of Acts he makes eight great discourses. They give to us the knowledge of why God called him and what God required of him.

In Acts chapter 12 - chapter 13 - and 17 - we have three great missionary sermons. Then in Acts chapter 22 through 26 we have five defenses of the gospel.

The interesting thing there is that there is in each one of those eight discourses he was speaking to unbelievers. He was speaking to pagans. He was speaking to non-Christians. And for many of them it was their first real confrontation with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Then when we come to Acts 20, however, we see a different kind of scenario. Here Paul, the Apostle, is speaking first of all to Christians in general and second of all, to the elders of the church at Ephesus in particular.

If you go back to Acts chapter 19, we know that at Ephesus God had a great revival for him. The Lord used Paul in a miraculous way.

When he came down to Ephesus the first question he asked them was - "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you have believed?" They said - they didn't even know there was such a thing as the Holy Spirit.

Paul laid his hands on them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke in tongues and they prophesied. He labored there for two years --- part of the time in the Synagogue, part of the time in the city of Tyranus. And all that he spoke and all that he did for those two years -- God gave him a great revival.

The Lord tells us that he did extraordinary miracles through Paul in so much that they brought handkerchiefs and aprons from him and the people that those handkerchiefs and aprons touched were immediately healed.

He made inroads into all of the cultic worship of the day - to the very point that they were so touched by the Spirit of God that they accepted Jesus Christ and brought all of their scrolls of their cultic practices and burned them in a fire.

It tells us that they were worth 50,000 dracmus. If you translated that into today's world, it would probably be worth probably somewhere between \$200,000 and \$250,000 dollars.

It was so great a revival until the whole city turned out and there was also a riot by those who worshiped Artinas and Diana in the great temple that was in Ephesus.

Paul then went on his way on his third missionary journey to go on to Macedonia and on to Greece and then on to Jerusalem before ultimately making his voyage to Rome.

But in this chapter we hear him as he calls the Ephesian elders to him -- now in this next chapter in this missionary journey.

The reason he called them to him -- they are only about 50 miles away -- was so that he could have one last communication with them knowing what God's mission for him really was.

In verse 22 he tells them that he has been sent by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. In verse 23 he tells them that the Holy Spirit has warned him that he is going to face hardships and persecutions and imprisonment.

Then in verse 25 he said, the thing that hurt him the most was that he had never preached to them again. All of those people to whom he had preached in Ephesus would never see him again. That wasn't an easy thing for any of them to take.

But in verses 36 we hear them as they pray together. In verse 37 they weep together; they embrace and Paul says goodbye. And the thing that bothered them the most in the next verse was that they would never see him again.

When we read this and we look at this it is a terribly difficult thing for us to handle -- to see that kind of a farewell, to see that kind of parting.

The Ephesian elders were very close to Paul. They were his converts. They came out of that two to three year revival in Ephesus where God moved in such a great way and turned that paganistic city literally upside down. They were his close friends and he was bidding them goodbye.

But he also left them a final message. That final message is found in verse 31 when he tells them to "be on guard." And

to remember that he warned them for three years night and day with tears. He had the urgency of what was coming on the earth and what was going to happen. And he told them to be on their guard.

I have the feeling that if the Apostle Paul were here today; if he were preaching to you and he were preaching to me, the message that he would preach is the same message he gave to the Ephesians elder -- Be On Your Guard.

I think when he looked at our governmental institutions, he would say - Be On Your Guard. When He looked at our social institutions he would say - Be On Your Guard. When he would look at our educational institutions he would say - Be On Your Guard. When he looked at our ecclesiastical and church institutions he would say - Be On Your Guard. And when he looked at our family institutions he would say - Be On Your Guard. When he looked at the persons of today and the attitudes of the heart and the way people's lives seem to be going and the general sense of the secularistic world, then he would say, again, - To Be On Your Guard.

But we ask ourselves, what does it mean to be on guard? What are we talking about if we are to be on guard?

Perhaps the one word that is equivalent of it in the Bible is the word "watch." For when the Bible uses the word "watch," it is literally saying to us several things. It tells us to be alert.

It tells us to pay attention. It tells us to get heed. It tells us to concentrate. It tells us to be on our guard.

Over and over again the Bible says to watch or to be on guard.

In Matthew chapter 25 verse 13 we can hear Christ saying that we should watch -

Watch therefore because at such an hour as you think not - an hour that you do not know - you do not know the day or the hour - when the son of man will come, therefore, you need to keep watch.

In Matthew chapter 26 verse 41 he says,

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 16 verses 13 and 14 he says -

To be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. You be very courageous. And you be strong and you do everything that is in love.

In 1 Peter chapter 5 verses 8 and 9 we hear Peter saying -
The Apostle telling all of those people that were scattered out through Asia Minor under great persecution - telling them to be self-controlled and alert because their adversary, their enemy, the devil prowls

around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.

But then he says in the next verse - tell them to resist the him, to stand firm in the faith because they know that their brothers all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering.

This is what John the Revelator tells us in Revelation 16:15 - he said,

Behold I come as a thief and blessed is that person who stay awake and who has his clothes with him so that he will not be found naked and shamefully exposed.

And the main program is that we've got to understand the message of today. We've got to be alert so that we don't get caught in the down syndrome of this day. But we lift up our heads for our redemption draws neigh. We understand that God has given us the power to cope and to be overcomers whatever the situation might be.

He says - I want you to live your life by 1 John 4:4 - because He that is in you is great than he that is in the world.

I want you to live your life by Philippians 4:13 - because

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

I want you to live your life by James 4:7 -

When you resist the devil he will flee from you.

I want you to live your life by Romans 16:20 and know that

The God of peace shall soon crush Satan under your feet.

And when you are on guard there is absolutely nothing that can stop you because the power of Jesus Christ is greater than any power in the world.

What that means when temptations come - Be On Guard. When you are attacked by Satan - Be On Guard. When you have to wrestle with principalities and powers - Be On Guard. When you have to fight against rulers of darkness in this present world and spiritual wickedness in high places - Be On Guard. When you come against negative circumstances - Be On Guard. When you find yourself facing depression - Be On Guard. When it looks like the whole world is turned upside down - Be On Guard. And know this one thing

--- There is no temptation that has ceased you that is not common to man, but God is faithful. And when you are tempted it will not be more than you can stand. And God will

always give a way of escape. Because God is working in you a perfect work. And all thing works together for God to those who love God and all called according to His purpose.

"Well," you say - "Pastor Walker, that sounds fantastic, I like the sound of that, but the problem is -- how do I really make it work?"

It is easy for the Apostle Paul to tell the Ephesian elders - Be On Your Guard, and remember that I warned you night and day with tears, with urgency. But how do I make it work in my own life?

Because what we find out is that things have a way of going awry.

You get it all together and get it just exactly where you want it and then suddenly it seems to fall apart.

JOKE

I heard the story told of an old man that was sitting in a park on a park bench just crying his eyes out. The policeman came by and saw the man in this distraught condition. He sat down beside him and said, "Sir, what is the matter with you?"

The man was so broken up he just couldn't talk. He said, "are you sick and are you suffering?" The old man about 75 or plus said, "No - I'm in good health for my age - really good health."

Said, "Well, is it because you have gone bankrupt, you've lost all your money?" He said, "No I've got a good retirement plan; everything is going good financially." "Well, is it because you are estranged from your children? Something wrong in your family?" "Oh no, children are really doing great; everything is going wonderful." "Well, is it your marriage, something wrong with your wife?" "Oh no, been married to a fifty year old and she loves me and she cares for me and she looks after me. Everything is wonderful. It is a happiest marriage you could think about."

Said, well then, what is your trouble?" He said, "I left the house just about an hour ago to go to the corner drug store and get a prescription and I came out of the drug store and I can't remember my address. That's the problem I have."

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We get it all together but you forget the most important part. You forget where you put it.

JOKE

We talk a lot about bad news and good news. It's like the man who came home from work one day and his wife looked t him and said, "Well, how was your day?" He said - "it was terrible. I had an awful day." She said, "well, something happened today. I've got good news and bad news." He said - "Well, give me the good news

first." She said, Well, the good news is that the airbags on our brand new car really work well. That's the good news that I have for you."

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Well, how do I live to be on guard? Well, that's exactly what the Apostle Paul was talking about here?

When you look at the word and you begin to see it the first thing he tells us is - looking at verse 19 and following down - he says first of all -

You've got to see the spiritual perspective.

The problem happens in our lives that we lose our ability to understand what God is doing when we lose the spiritual perspective.

We live in an age where everything tries to rob us of our spirituality. Everything in life is programmed to take away the divine. Everything in life is planned to take away the supernatural. Man has decided that he is the measure of all things. And the chief end of man is no longer to glorify God and serve Him forever, but to get what we can get on our own terms. And we are paying a big price for that.

We are what our perspectives are. The way we look at life; the way we look at truth; the way we look at values; the way we

look at morality; the way we look at people; the way we look at ourselves determines who we really are.

Now Paul says in verse 19 - that we have to have a spiritual perspective of God. He said -

I serve the Lord with great humility and with tears. Although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

The thing about the Apostle Paul, when he had been converted in Acts chapter 9 on the Road to Damascus, he had a spiritual perspective from that time on.

Too many Christians claim to be Christians but they maintain a secular perspective.

Paul says - "I serve the Lord with great humility" in spite of all the things that I had to put up with.

Our perspective of God is the beginning of knowing what God is doing today. And it is the beginning of learning to be on guard. The only way that you can have a spiritual radar to help you and to help me to find a way today is when we understand that there is only one absolute in this world and that absolute is the Word of the Living God that gives us a revelation of God made known in Christ and embodied in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And we are His temple and He must live in us. That's where it starts.

But the second thing that he tells us here if we are to have a spiritual perspective we have to have the perspective of the church.

You know that I've not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

He was talking about our perspective - the Church.

You see when we talk about being on guard and having a spiritual perspective it is how we see God and we can't know what God is doing unless we see Him as creator, sustainer, redeemer and Father, alive and living within us.

The second thing is our perspective of Church. We have to understand that the greatest thing happening today is what God is doing in the Church.

When you come together and we come together as the Church gathered, it is the most wonderful, marvelous, magnificent thing that is going on in the world today. There is no other gathering like the gathering of the people of God. And when God brings His people together He wants them to rehearse what He has done historically. He wants them to celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ is alive. And He wants them to be equipped to go back into

the world and proclaim - Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. And there is only one way to have a happy life, and that is on - Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. That's the only life.

So it is the way we look at the Church.

Now you see the world looks at the Church as an institution. The world looks at the Church as an organization. And as an institution and as an institution and an organization the Church fails. It is stratified. It is found in a sporadic kind of way. There are so many splinters organizationally and institutionally. It has not done a very good job organizationally and institutionally. Therefore, God has had to break down the walls of the organization and the institution.

And when He sends revival He is trying to bring around the true church. And the true church is made up of every believer whose been called out of the world into fellowship with Christ to know that Jesus Christ is Lord. And it transcends all the things that we see organizationally. When we get to heaven, I don't believe there is going to be niches for denominations. I think we are going to have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God who is in all - through all - above all and in all that we do because He is the only God and He is the only Christ and He is the only Spirit and that is the only Church.

Well praise God in this place.

Now if you get the tunnel vision of the secularistic world that try to gauge the church by televangelist who fail or persons who do wrong things then we will all agree there is a lot of hypocrites in the Church. And the reason there are hypocrites in the Church is because we are in the Church.

And I've seen very few people who were perfect. And the perfect people I've seen become imperfect talking about their perfection.

And you will never find a perfect organization. I mean we have enough documents at Mount Paran to make us a perfect organization. We write up all the documents, all the job descriptions, we have a manual of administrative procedures. But that ain't going to get nobody to heaven. How do you like that grammar?

And when you get the perspective of the Church you begin to see that this Church is made up of people. And God develops people. We develop the programs to help the people to become the people of God.

And that perspective of the Church is what keeps us on guard.

On one occasion I was coming from California, to Florida, by train. You talk about an idea of eternity. If you want to know

what eternity is like - go from Fresno, California to Orlando, Florida, by train on clergy fare.

Now most of you don't remember that but that was back in the good 'ole days. Five days on a train. You pray for God just to kill you and take you on. Anything to get out of the monotony and boredom of it all.

But about the third day - I had been going to the dining car everyday . At lunch this one man sat in the same place everyday. I would pass him. I would think to myself - he is a Christian. He would look at me and smile and I would look at him and smile. But neither one of us had courage enough to ask each other.

I would eat; He would eat; I would leave; He would leave.

Third day - I hate; He ate. He got up to leave and I got up and I said, "Sir are you by any chance a Christian? He said, "Man am I glad you ask because I was going to ask you the same thing. Are you a Christian?" I said, "Yes. I am a preacher." Well that discouraged him somewhat. I was in a totally different denomination - a Pentecostal group and he was a completely different denomination - and there were a lot of things we didn't agree on but there was a kinship there. I said, Man am I glad to see you.

We sat down and talked. He was a new Christian; only about three months. So I had the privilege of talking to him about many

of the doctrines of the Bible and many of the things that God had to offer.

I learned from him and he learned from me. For the next three days we studied together and the trip went fast.

You can gauge the church anyway you want to gauge the Church but the Church is where two or three people come together in the name of Jesus Christ and He is present with them and God works in spite of us.

Well, you have to have the perspective of the unbeliever.

Now - look at verse 21 - the perspective of God - I serve the Lord with humility. The perspective of the Church - I preach anything that would be helpful to you and I taught you publicly from house to house. And then the unbeliever - I've declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God and repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

Now if you are going to be on your guard you have to have some attitude about the unbeliever. He is not our enemy. Hello. The pagan is not our enemy. The people we minister to on the mission field; they are not our enemies. They are the people we love. Hello.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

The enemy most of the time is us. What did Pogo say? "We have found the enemy and it is us." That is not in the Bible.

But you see the unbeliever has to be our friend. The unbeliever is potential candidate to know Jesus Christ. Does anybody understand that?

Islam is not our enemy. It is an opportunity to win people to Jesus Christ. Hinduism is not our enemy. It is an opportunity to win people to Jesus Christ. Confusionism is not our enemy. It is an opportunity to win people for Christ. Buddhism is not our enemy. It is an opportunity to win people for Christ.

How do we look at the unbeliever? Paul said, I preach it to the Jews; I preach it to the Greeks; and tell them they had to repent to get into the kingdom of heaven.

Our job is to love people into the kingdom of heaven. And when we love them with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we plant the seeds and God does the watering and gives the increase and brings in the harvest and He is saying to us --- I want you to go plant the seeds; I'll take care of the rest.

TAPE TURNS OVER

So it is our view of the unbeliever.

I go around to Church Growth Conferences from time to time. They say how do you make a church grow? I say - fill it up with sinners.

You can't get people saved if nobody in the church needs to be saved.

The way some churches operate, sinners don't feel comfortable. Hello.

You want to make sinners feel comfortable. They want to say - man I feel good in this place. Then the Holy Spirit gets a hold of their hearts. We hear it over and over again. "I don't know what it is about your church. I went for the first time and I cried through the whole service. I went down to the altar; I got saved."

Well, what is that? That is not you. That is not me. That is not this choir as good as it is, the orchestra as good as it is. That is not even the preaching as good as it is. I'm speaking of David Cooper.

I mean it is the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who does the work. Because this is not a Rotary Club. It is not a Lion's Club. It is not a country club. It is a people of God coming together under the banner of Jesus Christ by the power of God to move.

You're not going to be able to get your same pew every time. I've been waiting a long time to get that in and I figure this is a good time.

But it is your attitude toward the unbeliever.

One of our members of the Church who has been a member for a long time - a faithful member - came up to me this morning after the 11:00 service and said, "This is a great day, a historic day for me." I said, "How come." He said, "I've been praying for my son to become a Christian for 19 years. Yesterday he was in a business transaction with a black lady in our business and she perceived he wasn't a Christian and said to him, 'you need to be a Christian and you need to be a Christian now.' She just jerked him up and prayed him through and he got saved right there on the spot."

It is your perspective of the unbeliever. Be on guard - - with your perspective toward God, toward the Church and toward the unbeliever.

Now - verses 22 on down - it talks about the perspective of faith.

Now compelled by the Spirit I am going to Jerusalem. Not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

Now this sounds like a really great trip he is taking. Paul you are going on a vacation to Jerusalem. Yes I am and I know that prison and hardships are facing me.

"However," now here is the key to it. This is faith.

I consider my life worth nothing to me if only
I may finish the race and complete the task
the Lord Jesus has given me.

Now what is my task? "The task of testifying to the gospel of
grace."

Now I know that none of you among whom I have
gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see
me again.

Now - that - this is a sad deal.

Therefore, I declare to you today that I am
innocent of the blood of all men. For I have
not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole
will of God. (The whole will of God.)

And Paul says, You have to see your spiritual perspective.

If you are going to be on guard what do you see God doing?
What do you see the Church is doing? What do you see is happening
in the life of unbelievers? What do you see is really happening in
your faith?

Paul the Apostle is the great epitome of all that faith is
about. He shows us the full meaning of everything that faith is.

You know when you get right down -- it means that faith is
knowing that it can be done.

I ran across this the other day about faith. It is a take off of Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

The writer of this says -

Faith is an inner conviction. Faith is an unshakable assurance. Faith is a profound knowing that comes before reality confirms it. Faith is the sense of destiny - it is possible; it is going to happen. Faith is knowing that you can do it.

The person that walks the walk of faith knows that he can solve his problem. He knows that he can detach himself from the awful habit. He knows he can extricate himself from his negative enslavements. The person who walks the walk of faith faces his projects affirming - I know I can do it - if God will help me - and I am sure God wants to help me.

A lot of people don't understand that. God wants to help you. Look over at your neighbor - say, God wants to help you whether you like it or not.

I know - that was real tough for some of you - you didn't even move a muscle. I looked at some of you and you just batted yhour

eyes, because you see your spiritual perspective has been eroded.
Hello.

The main thing about you is your spirit. The world says it is your body. The New Age says it is your soul. God says it is your spirit. And when your spirit is not in sync with God then your body and soul get all out of balance. You start one place. You start with the creative spark of divinity that was put in you when God said, I made all human life sacred; I made it in my own image; and unless that human life is sparked by me then you are never going to have a life.

I know I can do it when I am totally dedicated to him which I really am. I know I can do it after everything is in readiness. And I am trusting God to help me get my act together. I know I can do it only with the help of my Lord, he is my best friend. He wants me to succeed.

God doesn't want you to fail; He is not up there with a computer saying - John Doe down there, he has had life too good. Let's push the panic button - boom. That's not the way God operates.

I know I can do it with the help of my Lord;
He is my best friend. He wants me to succeed.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I know it is possible after all. Down deep in your heart you know it will work out. Unquenchable confidence keeps fueling your feelings that you are going to make it. Again and again. The person that succeeds did so because he or she didn't know it was impossible.

When I came to pastor this church in 1960 at 28 years of age, most people said, He is going to fail. And I decided I'd fail. So I got an ulcer worrying about failing and I sat down on enight in pain and said, You know this is stupid. God didn't send me here to fail. He sent me here to succeed. Next Sunday was Communion Sunday.

So they brought the Communion up to the platform. We were still over at Hemphill at that time. I took the bread and the cup and one of the elders who was serving the Communion came up to me and said, "God wants me to pray for you." I said, "Great." That's all I need now is for some elder to mess up my hair. In those days you just didn't get the victory till you got your hair messed up. That was step one. - In the name of Jesus.

Then I got to go preach.

But this was a man of great wisdom. He understood the pastor's pride. So he laid his hand on my shoulder. Said, "In the name of Jesus" - some people think God is deaf, and the louder I holler the more spiritual I am. Quietly - "In the name of Jesus heal our pastor and make him whole." And to my surprise a spirit of warmth went through my body and the knot in my stomach disappeared and I felt good. My hair wasn't messed up.

I went back to the doctor that week and said, I think I'm well. I'm not going to sleep sitting up anymore; I'm not going to take any medicine. I think I'll go eat some tacos.

From that day to this - never another trace of ulcer. Hallelujah.

See you don't gauge your worth like the world gauges yhour worth. You don't gauge your worth by the things the world gauges by. It is not a question of success or failure in worldly terms. It is a question of success or failure in spiritual terms.

I'm half way through this message and the other half will keep because I just feel led of the Lord right now to pray with some of you tonight. To pray that the Lord is going to help you get this spiritual perspective.

The second this Paul would say in this message and the next verses down through 38 would be to set spiritual priorities. But we will do that another Sunday night.

Because right now I want you to see God. I want you to see the Church. I want you to see the unbeliever. I want you to see faith.

I want you to allow faith to spring up. It is not impossible. It is not impossible. It is not impossible. And it is not impossible for these missionaries. They have to get discouraged sometimes. It is tough working with Islamic people. It is tough working with agnostics and atheists who have no background of historicity of the Bible or the Holy Spirit of the Church. It is tough one on one without choirs, without buildings, without dynamics, without believers. It is tough. It is tough to go out on the street and minister day in and day out.

The only way you can do that is be on guard and to be on guard you got to see the spiritual perspective. You got to see God. You got to see the Church. You got to see the unbeliever. But most of all you got to see faith. The impossible becomes the possible. God does the work in spite of us.

I remember when the Lord began to bless us here and we began to jam this building out and people parked everywhere -- hung from the tress and everything else. The whole city got upset. It wasn't quite as bad as Ephesus but we were just a step or two away.

I was coming over here one Sunday night when my father was going to preach that Sunday night. I said, Dad I don't know who

will be there. You know just give your testimony. The place filled up with people and the Holy Spirit moved and we were seeing the blessings of the Lord as we moved forward to give us a great harvest that we now enjoy. And it was an act of faith.

There was a fulfillment of a vision.

You see the church is not made just to fill your needs. We hope it fills your needs; we hope your needs get met as a part of the congregation. But the church is put together for you to catch the vision. So that you can go into the world and proclaim that vision, proclaim that vision.

I remember one of our elders who was a little upset because the hippies had sat in his seat. He had a hard time accepting all the ethnic groups. Blacks are coming. Hispanics are coming. He said, I grew up in Mississippi. I'm having a nervous breakdown. I said, "It is going to be alright."

You call this wisdom or meanness - either one. When we would have black people come to the altar or hispanics I would motion for him to go pray for them. That was in front of the whole congregation and he'd go and pray for them. Pretty soon he found out - you know these are human beings. They love God. They are co-equal with me. We are all of the same blood. You all still here?

Still here?

I started preaching sermons on it. Got some resistance. But we had a delegation come up from a church in Alabama to see what was making us grow? So I assigned him to lead them around and tell him. They were coming around a corner and I happened to be in one of the Sunday school rooms that morning just checking on something and I heard him talking.

I had a shouting camp meeting that Sunday morning. They said, you know we notice you have a lot of blacks and hispanics and ethnic people and hippies. Those hippies dress funny. They said, "You allow them in your church?" He said, "Oh yes. We allow everybody in our church. We think the church should be open to all people because we think all people are equal in the sight of God. And everybody is important to God and that is why we are growing because God has done a work in our lives." And he turned around and said, "God did a greater work in my life. You are from Alabama but I was from Mississippi. What do you think God has done for me?"

Is anybody here getting the point? Anybody here getting the point?

The Holy Spirit has done the rest.

That is why all these flags are up here. It would be a dull world if we all looked alike. It would be very sad if we looked like some people.

Paul says, "Be on your guard."

CLOSING PRAYER