

Steve Birge ([00:21:30](#)):

You know, I got a few friends in the crowd today, and I'm really, uh, humbled and touched that you came. I haven't done this in a long time, but this song is gonna let you know just how important it is to witness for the Lord that you love. And the Lord that loves you, because you never know. He was saying, grace over a Tuesday, blue plate, pass off, man in the next booth Set. Don't you watch tv? Don't you know that God's a myth? Hate to see you, waste your breath, ready? No use talking. Do go sit down, exist. The praying man said Amen. He looked up from his plate and said, may not talk to God right now, but there's going to come whether you're a farmer in the field praying for the rain, or you cursey Matt grave sight cause he called loved one's name. You can blame him. You can thank him. Either way, you're going to face him whether you believe in him or not. In the end, everybody talks to God. Everybody talks to God. Man in the booth kept quiet because he didn't have a comeback. He shrugged it off, paid his tab and shuffled out the door.

([00:23:51](#)):

But the praying man, he prayed for the one that drove away open. He would see the light before he got too late. But how was he know? He touched a non-believer soul who got that conversation to down the road. A you are a farmer in the field praying for the rain, or you curse him mad grave sight. Cause he called the loved one's name. You can thank him. You can blame him either way or to face him whether you believe in him or not. In the end, everybody talks to God. Everybody talks to God. We all talk to everybody talks to God.

Brian Hutchinson ([00:25:35](#)):

Well, if you aren't in an attitude of prayer, you are now bow with me. Father, we just, we dedicate this service to you, Lord. Already our hearts are on fire with just the music and our and the baptisms, Lord. And, and, and we all know, we, we just truly expect from you just a miracle Lord. And you're gonna move it through the message, through Pastor Brads, and we ask you to bless him and move through him so that our hearts and minds this morning in Jesus, they may ask, amen.

Branson Rogers ([00:26:03](#)):

Well Amen. It's a wonderful thing to start out with some kids singing. Isn't that wasn't that great. Amen. And then to see the baptisms this morning, and then to have our praise team to do a wonderful job, and then Brother Steve with that special song just doesn't get much better than that. Folks. It's good to be in the house of the Lord today. Amen. Amen. Last night, we had a fantastic night here. If you were not here, you really missed a blessing. We, um, had a 2023 rally in our church. Uh, all of our staff members gave, uh, a little excerpt about what their goals are for this coming year. And the biggest that we have as a church this year is, uh, out there in our lobby. And, uh, some of y'all have probably come in and looked at that. And if you weren't here last night, you said, what in the world is that?

([00:26:53](#)):

Well, we, uh, talked about last night that, uh, the Lord has led us to do something, um, to be the greatest thing that this church has ever done in 75 years plus of ministry. And it's, uh, we're called to do something that a lot of people are gonna say impossible. A lot of people are gonna say, um, it's not the time to do it. It's not the economic climate and all this kind of stuff. But you know what I've found out down through the years, and those of you that know the Lord, you've probably found this out too, that, uh, the only thing we need to understand in our life, if that God tells us to do it, it's gonna work. Amen. We may not be able to understand it. We may not be able to, to connect the dots, but the only thing we need to know is if God says it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen.

[\(00:27:41\):](#)

So we are going, we are in the preliminary stages now of being able to, uh, put down some plans and, uh, build a brand new gymnasium back here in the back section of our, uh, lot back here in the back. And, uh, it's gonna be exciting. It's gonna be really exciting, full court, basketball court, high school regulation, uh, gonna be able to open it up to all kinds of different things that we're gonna be doing. It's gonna take about two years to build. You'll hear more about it as we go along. But it is exciting to know what God's gonna do around here. I'll tell you, it is gonna be a, a game changer, a game changer for this community. We're gonna see so many people, uh, one to the Lord through this, uh, Jim, it's just gonna be amazing what God's gonna do. So you're a part of an exciting church.

[\(00:28:30\):](#)

Amen. We, uh, we don't, we're not sitting on the sidelines crossing our arms and waiting for Jesus to come back. The Lord wants us to go full steam ahead until he comes back. And that's what we're gonna do. Amen. All right. So getting in our message here this morning, we've been in a message now for the last couple of weeks, is, and the title of the message has basically been, are you a fan or are you a follower of Christ? There are a lot of fans in churches today, a lot of people that just hang out for what God can do for them. But it's a lot more than what God can do for you. It's what you can do for God. And there's a big difference between being a fan and being a follower. And this morning we're gonna talk about mainly just one verse.

[\(00:29:18\):](#)

We're gonna look at some other verses, but one verse in particular. And we're gonna start out with that here in just a moment. But it talks about what it means to be crucified with Christ. Look, if you will, at Galatians chapter two and verse 20, Galatians chapter two and verse 20 says, I have identified myself. What does that next word say? Completely, completely means all the way. A hundred percent. I'm all in. I'm not all out. I'm not halfway in, not halfway out. I am completely myself with him. Since I have received him as my Lord and Savior, I am identifying myself right here and right now with Jesus Christ. That's what you and I did when we got saved. When we asked Jesus Christ to come in to be our Lord and Savior, we said, I am identifying right now with Jesus Christ. I am accepting him as my Lord.

[\(00:30:15\):](#)

I'm accepting him as my savior. It says I have been crucified with Christ. We're gonna talk about what that means in just a moment. And what does that mean? It talks about my ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I have your good opinion. In other words, it doesn't make any difference what your opinion is. It doesn't make any difference what other people's opinions are. The only opinion that you and I should care about is the opinion that Jesus has of us. The life you see me living is not my life, but it is lived by what? Faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. So what does it mean to be crucified with Christ? I'll give you a few things and then we'll begin our message. It's something that we willingly do. It's not something that Jesus forces us to do.

[\(00:31:13\):](#)

It's something that we willingly do. We willingly give our life to him. When you and I ask Jesus to come in to be our Lord and Savior, I have never seen in all my 45 years, anybody grabs somebody, put 'em in handcuffs last saw 'em around the neck and bring them down the aisle. <laugh>, I've never seen that. And that, and that wouldn't be free will if they did that, would it? All of us have received Jesus the same way we have given our heart and life to him freely. The Lord made us free moral beings. He didn't make us robots. And everybody that's ever been li ever lived, everybody that ever will be living is, has to make a decision in their life. And that is to either receive Jesus or to reject him. And where we spend eternity is based on whether we accept him as our Lord and Savior or deny him as our Lord and Savior.

[\(00:32:14\):](#)

So being crucified with Christ means that we willingly give our lives over to him. And we think about that because Jesus himself chose to be crucified. And when he chose to be crucified, he was not forced to go to the cross. Amen. He went to the cross because he loved you, and he loved me with an everlasting love. And when he was on that cross, he could have called 10,000 legions of angels to get him off that cross. But he didn't. Everybody was beneath that cross mocking him and said, if you're really Jesus, why don't you prove it? Why don't you come down from the cross? But aren't you glad he stayed on that cross? Amen. But he willingly went to the cross. Nobody forced him to do it. And like salvation, you accepted Jesus by your free will. Nobody twisted your arm.

[\(00:33:08\):](#)

Everybody must make a decision, either receive his savior or to reject him. So what does it mean to be crucified with him? It means that we totally surrender to what he wants us to do in our life. Back in high school, back a long time ago, I played football. I was also on the wrestling team and I, that time I was in the heavyweight division. All right. I'm not a, I'm not a featherweight like I am today, but I was in the heavyweight division and I won a lot of my matches by just absolutely sitting on the people. And uh, they, they weren't able to move. And that's how I, everybody said, what kind of move do you have? I said, I grab 'em and sit on 'em as fast as I can. But anyway, uh, I remember that when we were wrestling, sometimes people were very, very hard to get down and they were hard to pin.

[\(00:34:04\):](#)

Now, I grabbed him as fast as I could, or they tried to grab me and I threw him to the mat. And there was a referee that was there. And what he was looking for is he was looking for me to be able to pin the person down that I was wrestling. That person was not pinned until I had every part of his body down on that mat to the point that he couldn't move an inch. I mean, he kept squirming and squirming and squirming. I kept pressing and pressing and pressing till I got him to the point where he would say, all right, that's it. I can't move anymore. And then the referee would go like that, on the mat, you're pinned, you're out, you're done. In other words, I had to keep wrestling that person until that person had not had any way to move to get out of the hold that I had them in.

[\(00:34:59\):](#)

And I had to keep going. And it depended on the person. But some people, I had to keep going for a while until I got 'em there. That's the same way it is with Jesus. When we come to know him as Lord and Savior, yes, he becomes our heavenly Father. Amen. Nothing can separate us from that love. You can't lose your salvation. If you could lose your salvation, you would have to go back to the cross and you would have to die again. Anybody that tells you that you can lose your salvation, they are telling you something that's false and not according to the word of God. Amen. Amen. But just because we know him as Savior doesn't necessarily mean that we know him as Lord. What I mean is this. We know that we're on our way to heaven, but has God totally pinned all of our life down to the mat that we have surrendered everything about ourselves, our desires, our thinking, our will, our time?

[\(00:36:03\):](#)

Have we totally surrendered everything that we are to Him? And do you know something? If we haven't, he is still trying to pin you in me down. That's exactly what he wants to do. Why is it Pastor? Why is it so hard for us to do that? Because a lot of us are very strong-willed individuals. Amen. Amen. I've hung out with some of y'all. I know some people around here have told me about who you are. All right? You're very strong-willed. You're like a bucking bronco. You're like a wild stallion. You're like somebody. And when Jesus jumps on your life, you buck him. You're like a bucking bronco. You go all up and down. It's

very hard to tame you. Some of you have known Jesus for years, and he still hasn't tamed you yet you are still trying to ride your own horse. And listen, we, we need to understand this.

[\(00:37:03\):](#)

The quicker we get off our horse and allow him to ride our horse, the better off our life's gonna be. Amen. And we don't do that because we want to be in control. The way that you live your life is to die first and live pastor. That doesn't make any sense. What did you say? I said, the way to live your life is to die first and then live. What first is saying that we need to crucify ourself with Christ. We need to say, Lord, I want you to take control of all of my life. Not just part of my life, just three quarters of my life, but I want to give you all of my life because I am incapable of running my own life. Amen. And people in here, we all say, oh yeah. Amen. Amen. Amen. But listen, when we get down to the world, it's a different thing.

[\(00:37:59\):](#)

There are folks here that you are still trying to control all of your time. The time is your priority. No, your time is not your time. Your time is God's time. The talents and the abilities that he's given to you are not yours. They're his. They're his talents. They're his abilities. The decisions that you make in life are not yours to make. They're His to make through you. And if you're not consulting him about your decisions in life and your paths in life, that's why you and I get ourselves in a mess. Amen. There's not one single time that you and I have got ourself in a mess where he's been directing the show. You could connect every pitfall that you've had in life. You could connect every single quicksand moment that you've had in your life. You could connect every single exit that you've had your life to one thing.

[\(00:38:54\):](#)

And you know what it is? Your stinking strong will. Amen. You didn't, Hey, God didn't make those decisions for you. You made those decisions. You have nobody to blame but yourself. Amen. Christians are walking around and say, well, God, if he was a loving God, he wouldn't have done that to me. You got yourself in the most of trouble in yourself. Amen. Amen. Amen. He's just watching. He's just up there and he is shaking his head and putting his arms like this. And so why do you keep on trying to run your show? Aren't you tired of running a ditch? Yeah. Aren't you tired of being mired up that you can't go anywhere? No. The fastest way for us to live is for us to die. And I will tell you this, that is the hardest thing to do in the whole entire Christian life.

[\(00:39:42\):](#)

And that means learning to crucify our will, not our will, but his be done. And you know what? It means? That we give up what we want and we trust God to give us what is better. Foster we want the better or do we want the best this morning? Two different things completely. As much as we know this, it's the hardest thing in the world we'll ever do. Why? Because we can't see what God sees. Amen. Amen. Have any of y'all ever been to heaven? No. Have any of y'all been there at the cross when he died? No. I mean, are you not 2000 years old? No. Were you there when he rose from the grave? No. We accept all that. Pastor. Oh, pastor, I accept that by faith. Why? Hey, we weren't there. We accept that by faith. But when it comes to living a life that we're living, we don't have the faith to let him control our life.

[\(00:40:39\):](#)

Now, get this. We're sitting here this morning. If we know the Lord and we're trusting him to take care of us for a hundred billion trillion years from now, why is that? Because you're not gonna, you and I are gonna be around for a long time. Amen. A long time for the rest of time. So we're trusting him to take us to heaven. But yet, when it comes to our little old life, we don't trust him. You know why? We don't trust him? Because we cannot see around the corner. We want to connect all the dots. We say, wait a minute, I'm not gonna do that because I can't figure it out. Guess what? You can't figure out salvation.

But you did that. Getting quiet in here. You're trying to make your own decisions in life. Listen, why is it hard? Why is it hard to give the Lord everything?

[\(00:41:32\):](#)

Because you can't see around the corner, you don't know the whole plan. You don't fully understand what the next step needs to be. Let me tell you something folks. Sometime God only shows you one step at a time. Amen. He doesn't show you the whole plan. He doesn't call you and I to do something for him and say, Hey, why don't you come here for a minute. Come on into my office. I'm gonna roll out the blueprint of your life and I'm gonna show you what's gonna happen every step of the way for the next 50 years. If he did that, it wouldn't require very much faith for you and I would it. Amen. No. Being crucified with Christ means we give him everything that we've got. We trust him. We put our life in his hands and say, God, just as I'm trusting you for my eternity, I am trusting you to run every single aspect of my life.

[\(00:42:26\):](#)

I've said this before, but there is a bumper sticker that came out years ago that I totally hate. And so many Christians grabbed it and put it on their cars and trucks and whatever else it says, God is my co-pilot. I hate that bumper sticker. If you've got one, you need to rip it off your car. Okay? If you see one at the store, just go ahead and grab it and tear it up. And don't let anybody else put it on their cars. No, I'm just kidding. Don't do that. Ask the owner before you tear it up. But listen, listen, if he is your co-pilot this morning, you're in trouble. He's not my co-pilot. He's not your co-pilot, but not me. If he's sitting next to you and he's not on the controls of your life, you're in deep trouble. Amen. It'd be like me going up in a plane with Jimmy.

[\(00:43:13\):](#)

Jimmy flies all the time. I say, Jimmy, hold on a minute. Won't you sit over here and why don't I sit over here? Have you ever flown before, pastor? Nope. But I've watched Tom Cruise do it in Top Gun and uh, <laugh>. I know exactly what I need to do. And by the way, where are your machine guns and where are all the other things that I need around here? He wouldn't get on the plane with me. Why would he not get on the plane with me? Because he ain't stupid. Amen. And he wouldn't let me drive his flame cause I'm gonna wreck his plane. But that's what we do every day. We do. We wake up in the morning, we say, God, I wanna thank you for being my Lord and Savior. And by the way, I want you to feel honored to sit right beside me today.

[\(00:43:57\):](#)

Gimme the controls. I got it. And that's what we do. We, we drive our own plane. We drive our own car. You laugh. But folks, that's exactly what's happening because we don't understand where God's taking us. Listen, I don't understand where God's taking me. Sometimes. I don't understand where God's taken this church. I mean, we talked about building a a gymnasium. I can't connect the dots to that. There are people sitting here and said, well, that's the craziest thing I ever heard. Listen, I agree with it absolutely is. I talked to somebody the other day and they were saying, well, how much money is that gonna be? And I told 'em, they said, well, how are you gonna get that kind of money? I said, I have no idea <laugh>, but I know one thing. I know he owns a cattle in a thousand hills and I'm not worried about it.

[\(00:44:49\):](#)

Amen. If God says it's gonna be done, is gonna be done. And what God calls me to do in my life, I believe in him that he's able to get it done. And folks, what he calls you to do in your life, turn over everything to him. He says, listen, have I ever, ever let you down in your life? No. Never. He has not. There's not one single time that God has let you down. You've let yourself down. But he's never let you down. So why is he gonna start? Now let me tell you something. If somebody could give you a prescription and they said,

you know what? All you need to do is to take this pill every single day, and you're gonna have the most blessed, joyful life that you've ever had. I mean, you're gonna have a unbelievable life. Would you not take that pill?

(00:45:39):

Yes, sure you would. Sure you would. You would take it. Why? Because you want to live a joyful, happy life. It says it's a hundred percent guaranteed. Jesus is making you and I a hundred percent guarantee this morning, he said, listen, I hate to see you in ditches. I hate to see you on the side of the road. I hate to see you all gloom and doom and despair on me. I hate to see you in depression. I hate to see your life in this circumstance. Listen, why don't you just wake up and give me everything that you've got? Put your life in my hands. Talk to me. Let me know what's going on. Tell me you can't do it without me and let me handle your life. Amen. Hoax, listen. That means that we must surrender. We gotta surrender everything about us. And we gotta say, listen, I'm incapable of doing that.

(00:46:39):

Now let's start our message. All right? What does a cross mean? I want to give you a few things about the cross this morning. First of all, the cross is a symbol of humiliation. Look, if you will, at Luke chapter nine, verse 23, then he said to the crowd, which is Jesus, if any of you wants to be my follower, you must. He doesn't say you need to think about it. He says, you must give up your own way. What does that mean, folks? We've got to give our life over to the Lord. And why wouldn't we? I mean, when we came to know the Lord, we must know that our old life that we were living before we accepted Christ was nothing but gloom and doom. It was nothing but dead ends. And here we are with somebody on board in our life, giving us the power, giving us direction that'll never, ever fail us. And we don't consult him and we don't allow him to run the show. That sounds idiotic, doesn't it? Yeah, sure it does. As nice as sir he is, you ask Siri sometimes to take you somewhere like I did the other day.

(00:47:57):

She took me down the wrong road. And when I got to the end of the road, I said something to Siri. Why? Because I didn't appreciate what she did.

Audience (00:48:14):

<laugh>,

Branson Rogers (00:48:15):

She took me around a route and I wasted 10 minutes because she didn't know what she was doing.

(00:48:25):

How much time have I wasted my life Because I didn't know what I was doing? Amen. Some of us not minutes. Some of us, it's a months, and some of us is years. And we wish, say, I just wish I'd have asked God. Well, he does too. How do you think he feels? Here he is sitting there, Ray, to bless our socks off Ray, to give us an abundant life than he says he wants to give us. And we won't let him do it. That's crazy. That's nuts. Amen. Amen. All right. It says, we must give up our own way. We must take up our cross daily and follow me. You know, back in the day, crucifixion was a public statement of absolute humiliation. The people were stripped naked, they were mocked. And I would tell you the, at that particular time when that person was being crucified, they were the least of the least.

(00:49:22):

And they were, they were saying through the crucifixion that their life was absolutely nothing. And Jesus was treated exactly like this. He was treated. He was that way. He was stripped, he was mocked, he was

beaten. They put the nails through his hands and through his feet. And it was absolute humiliation. And following Jesus also means sometimes that we are going to be humiliated. Amen. Amen. We're gonna be humiliate. Humiliated. Why? Because people are gonna say that, Hey, you're absolutely crazy for doing what you're doing. But we must stay humble enough before him that we say, Lord, I'm incapable of running my life. I'm giving you everything that I've got. Number two, the cross is not only a symbol of humiliation, but it's also a symbol of suffering. Look at Luke chapter six, verse 22, what blessings await you when people hate you and excludes you and mock you and curse you as evil?

[\(00:50:27\):](#)

Cause you follow the son of man. And then second Timothy, chapter three, verse 12 says, yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Jesus, in Christ Jesus will what? You're gonna suffer persecution. Let me ask you this. When was the last time that you were, that you suffered for the Lord? When was the last time that you, uh, were up against a, somebody was asking you to make a business deal and you knew that that business deal was a little bit unethical and you had somebody tugging at you saying, sign the paperwork and get the job done. And you had somebody tugging on the other side and saying, listen, don't sign that because it's not a good representation of who you are as a Christian. And you didn't sign it. You know why you didn't sign it? You didn't sign it because you love Jesus more than being able to be a disgrace to him.

[\(00:51:24\):](#)

Amen. You didn't sign it because you believe that even though you thought you would gain money from that business deal that was unethical, you trusted Jesus to be able to do the right thing and for him to be able to take care of your finances regardless of you signing that. Amen. Amen. God will bless it. He'll blessed it every time. What was the last time that you lost a friendship Because of you and your testimony with Jesus Christ or your walk with Jesus? You know there's some people in life that you just can't turn. Amen. Amen. There's some people in life as much as you try to help 'em, they're gonna wait you down. They're gonna get you depressed everywhere that you turn. And they're gonna try to pull you to places that you don't meet need to be going. Amen. Both physically and also mentally.

[\(00:52:12\):](#)

Folks, listen. You need to do the best you can for people that are around you. But some people just don't want help. It was like what I told you last week. I counsel people and they come in, they say, pastor, I need help. They don't want help. All they want somebody to do is just to agree with all the woes that they're going through. Because six months after I castle 'em, they want to talk to me again. They wanna talk to me about the same thing. They talked to me six months before. What does that tell me? It tells me that they don't want to change. Some people just wanna be grunts and bumps. Some people just want to be on the Titanic every single day of their life. And they're not happy unless they get crew members to ride the Titanic with them. Sometimes you have to lose friendships because of your godly stand.

[\(00:52:57\):](#)

When was the last time you suffer for the Lord? Somebody in your office wants to invite you to a party that you know is gonna be a drunken fest. There's gonna be a bunch of drugs, there's gonna be a lot of things there that you don't need to be a part of. And you say, no, I'm not gonna go. Or when was the last time you sacrificed your time for the Lord? When was the last time you volunteered to do something around here? Folks, lemme tell you something. If you're going to be a cross follower, if you're gonna be crucified with the Lord, it's gonna cost you something. If your Christianity isn't costing you something today, something's wrong with your Christianity. It's gonna cost you if you're really willing to live the life that he wants you to live. It's a symbol of suffering. Number three, it's a symbol of death.

(00:53:43):

Jesus plainly saying, he's plainly saying, listen, if you follow me, I'm gonna invite you to die to yourself. You know, there was a, uh, there was a man years ago. He's still, he's still around. Some of y'all might have known this fella. Um, some of the younger ones may not, but his name was Arthur. Bless it. Anybody remember him? Arthur Blessed was a man that was remarkably saved and he was a man that got a huge, uh, wooden cross. And he was a man that put that cross on his shoulder. And he was a man that he felt like the Lord wanted him to carry that cross, literally carry that cross all around the world. He is somebody that carried that cross. I looked it up this morning to 324 countries. He is somebody that walked over 43,340 miles with that cross on his shoulder.

(00:54:47):

He marched around with that cross from 1968 to 2022. I was in Lakeland back in the eighties and I was eating at a steak and shake. Amen. And I was having me multiple milkshakes if I remember correctly. But I looked out the window there on Memorial Boulevard and I saw a man carrying a cross down the sidewalk. And I looked and I said to Vicki, I said, honey, do you know who that man is right there? That man is Arthur Blessed. And yes, it was him and he was carrying that cross right down Memorial Boulevard in Lakeland. And he would carry that cross and people would, would ridicule him sometimes. But through his witness, he was able through the power of God to have so many people come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Can you imagine carrying a cross like that to 324 countries to walk over 43,000 miles?

(00:55:55):

Because he was saying through that statement that I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am so happy what Jesus has done through me through this cross. Amen. He was saying, this is crossed as a symbol of death, not only to Jesus that died on it, but also to me because y'all wanna know something. I am dying to the to myself every single day. We need to wake up in Gethsemane every single morning folks, when Jesus was in Gethsemane before the cross, what did he say? He bowed before the Father. And he says, listen, it's not my will that I want to do. It's your will. What can I do to, to make you happy? What can I do to glorify you? And God the father said to God the Son, you must go to the cross. Jesus was emptying himself there in the garden of Yosemite saying, there's only one plan that I care about in my life.

(00:57:00):

And that is to do the will of the Father. Every morning that you and I wake up ought to be a guest Sony moment for us. We need to say, Lord, this is a brand new day. Lord, this is my not my day to live. I don't know what is in front of me today, but I want you to make every single plan of my life today. I want you to make every single decision. Give me the wisdom to make every single decision that I need to make. I want you to guard and guide every single word of my mouth. I want you to guard every direction that my life. Can you imagine what that would do to our life? Because we would say, I am dying. Lord, I am dying every single moment of every single day. To you folks that would revolutionize to our life. It would transform our life. Amen. There was somebody Friday that was giving me, I'll say, heck, Vicky was with me. She's been with me long enough to know when my temperature arises

Branson Rogers (00:58:02):

<laugh>,

Branson Rogers (00:58:03):

She knows when I kind of grab my bottom lip with my tooth <laugh> like, eh, she kinda knows what's coming. This woman was absolutely a pain in not only my rear end, but a lot of others. She was bent on just absolutely ruining people's days. And even though she was wrong, I showed her in writing, she was wrong. She still told me that she was right.

Branson Rogers ([00:58:35](#)):

<laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([00:58:38](#)):

I was nice. I was trying to be nice. I was standing there in line. This woman was giving it to me. I showed her right on my cell phone and black and white. I am right. She read it. She says, no, you're not Vicky's kicking me

Branson Rogers ([00:58:59](#)):

<laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([00:59:01](#)):

She knows something's coming, but you know what? Right then and there I was thinking about what I was gonna be preaching this morning,

Branson Rogers ([00:59:10](#)):

<laugh>. Yay.

Branson Rogers ([00:59:11](#)):

I said, Lord, I give my tongue over to you,

([00:59:15](#)):

<laugh>. I want you to crucify my tongue because Lord, if you don't, if I don't give my tongue to you, I am going to give this a tongue lash. And she ain't ever forget. I wasn't gonna cuss her out, but I was tell, I would tell her as they say, I give her up the country <laugh>. Amen. You give somebody out up the country without cussing 'em out. All right? But I walked away from that. And I'm not saying I'm a, you know, just a great, great guy. But I sat down and I watched her and she kept giving everybody else up the country too. And then Vicky says, well, you got a survey card. Why don't you fill it out? And I said, I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna fill it out when I get home. I'm gonna tell her off. You know?

([00:59:57](#)):

And then I got home and I got, took the survey card over and I threw it in the garbage can and I didn't fill it out. She said, why didn't you fill it out? I said, because Jesus told me not to fill it out. I said, that woman right there, she's going through probably things in her life that I don't know anything about. And she may be on a lost on way to a lost eternity in hell. And if I send a comment card like that in there, she may lose her job or she may get demoted or all kinds of things might happen. I said, you know, I wouldn't be able to be a good representation of Jesus if I did that, even though I felt like I had the right. Jesus told me I didn't have the right. Amen. Jesus, love that lady unconditionally.

([01:00:42](#)):

I'm supposed to love her unconditionally too. But I'll tell you one thing, the only thing that held this pastor in check was knowing that I needed to be crucified with Christ. That's the only thing, those you've

had times in your life too, where they old person before you knew the Lord, man, you would've gone, Hmm, wouldn't you? Come on. Don't look so saintly to me. <laugh>, don't look so saintly to me. You cut people off on 19. I mean, you get right in front of him. As soon as you get in front of him, you do like this. Bye bye. Gives you great pleasure. Amen. Y'all gotta watch that on 19 Sometimes I'm behind you,

Audience ([01:01:26](#)):

<laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([01:01:28](#)):

You don't know it. It's amazing. It's amazing. I was trail, I was trailing somebody a couple of weeks ago. I'm not gonna say who they were, but I was trailing them. And uh, it was fun, really <laugh> to watch their driving habits really was. But sometimes you're behind me. Amen. I had somebody the other day that stopped one of the lights up here and uh, I saw the truck door open and I thought, Lord, have mercy. What in the world's going on? This fella jumped outta the truck and he started coming towards my truck. And man, I'm, I say, well, here's my pistol. It's right here. Okay, I'm ready. I'm ready to rock and roll. I don't know what I did to him, but as he got a little bit closer, I recognized who he was. I rolled down my window and he said, pastor, I saw you behind me and I just wanted to tell you that, uh, I need to get back in church.

([01:02:32](#)):

It's good to see you how you've been doing. I said, well, I'm doing a lot better now cuz all, all I saw a minute ago was your leg getting outta your truck. And I said, you see this right here? And he says, oh yeah. I said, I said, I said, I I'm really glad that you, you know, told me the right things there. You know, I didn't want no stama ground kind of thing going on, pastor on Bell Air blows somebody away. I said, just doesn't make for a really good PR commercial. Come to the point church, you know, <laugh>.

([01:03:07](#)):

But anyway, so the cross is a symbol of death. And that means that we give everything we have over to the Lord. The cross is also a symbol of, of listening. Jesus listened to the Father there in the garden of Yosemite. He went to the cross. He faithfully fulfilled the will of his father. We are supposed to do the same thing. Look at Luke chapter nine, verse 24. It says, if you try to hang on to your life, you'll lose him. Now what that means is this, if you try to hang on to the steering wheel of your car, you're gonna lose control. Right? Right, right. We're talking spiritually here, okay? We're not talking about Texan and driving. We're talking about spiritually. Okay? If you hold on to the steering wheel of your life, you're gonna lose it. You're gonna crash, you're gonna get in in a mess.

([01:04:07](#)):

And there's so many people here today, you could raise your hand and you say, pastor, that is absolutely correct, pastor. I tried to make this decision. I made it on my own. I didn't have peace about it from the Lord, but I made it anyway because I thought that I knew better. Some people have had relationships go south because you didn't listen to Jesus. Amen. Amen. Ladies said the other day, well, I'm a part, I'm a part of Christian Mingle. Well, what is that? Christian mingle. You get on the web and you mingle with other people that won't mingle. I said, well, I said, what? I said, why, why are you doing that? And they said, well, because I want to find the right mate. I said, well, there's a better way and it's a lot cheaper and uh, you know, it's a hundred percent full of proof. And they said, well, what kind of sight is that? I said, it's called the heaven sight <laugh>.

([01:05:03](#)):

What that means is you just give your desires to God. Ask him to pick out the right man or the right woman. And I guess what? He's bating a thousand. He's never, he's never messed up. Amen. Amen. God told me the other day, he said, pastor, I wish I'd have less asked God. I mean, I, you don't know the woman I was married to. Good gracious. Woo. He said she, she became a witch. And I said, well, did you ask Jesus about it? And he said, well, no, I married her anyway. Cause I thought she was pretty. But boy, she went downhill fast. But listen,

Branson Rogers ([01:05:34](#)):

Listen.

Branson Rogers ([01:05:35](#)):

And some of you women, you know, I'll tell you something, women, you listen to this pastor, just because they look like Patrick Swayze today don't mean they're gonna look that way years from now, okay? They're gonna start sagging

Branson Rogers ([01:05:48](#)):

<laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([01:05:49](#)):

There's six packs gonna be a Chester drawer and the whole time <laugh>,

([01:05:53](#)):

It's gonna happen. Okay? So you gotta make sure that that God's calling all the shots. Amen? It's a symbol of listening. Are you listening this morning to what Jesus is telling you? Listen, you don't have a better idea. He's got the best ideas. He says, I want you to listen. He says, if you try to hang onto your life, you're gonna lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. The best thing you and I can do today is give Jesus Christ the steering wheel of our life. And to be crucified with him enough that we trust Him enough to handle every single aspect of our life. How are you supposed to be the best parent? Some of y'all don't know how to be the best parent. You know why? Because you're trying to parent and you're not letting Jesus parent. Amen. Amen. I mean, when I first had a kid, I didn't know how, how to parent, you know, I didn't understand it. Somebody told me that I was supposed to give my kid strained peas. Who in their right mind gives your kid strained peas? <laugh>. I put myself in the, my kids, uh, man. And I thought to myself, would I want strained peas or would I want sweet peaches?

([01:07:05](#)):

<laugh>. So when Vicky wasn't looking around, I'd give him sweet peaches as she said. Why is it all the time that, that he eats really good with you and he don't eat good with me? I said, I have no idea honey. I, I, I just don't know. But what our son was vividly trying to say is, I don't want the stink and strain peds. You ever looked at a par, you ever looked at a bar, a jar of them things kinda looks like something you ate, if you know what I'm saying.

Branson Rogers ([01:07:37](#)):

<laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([01:07:38](#)):

But I had to listen. We had to listen cuz we'd never raised kids before. We didn't know what they were. You know the first kid that you have, you know it's a trial and error thing, <laugh>, you get better each

time. And by the time you finish in having kids, you kind of got it down. The first one says to you, why didn't you know that when you were raising me? Cause that was a trial and error. But I was listening to God. Yes, sure you were

Branson Rogers ([01:08:05](#)):

<laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([01:08:06](#)):

No. Look, we need to listen to God because he knows the right way and wrong way. Pastor is that job for me. I'm praying for God to give me a job. Listen, if it's God's will, you've already got the job. Amen. You already got your name on the door. Nobody can keep you from that job if it's God's job for you. Amen. Amen. But the Lord says, be patient, be still and know that I'm God, wait for God. Don't get ahead of God. Wait for God. Amen. He never makes a wrong decision. If you don't have peace in your heart, it ain't God. Amen. Amen. Listen to what God is telling you. Clean out your ears. That's why God gave you two of 'em, <laugh>. And he only gave you one mouth. Thank God for some of y'all <laugh>.

([01:08:54](#)):

I can only imagine some folks around here having two mouths. I don't know what we would do, <laugh>. Lastly, the cross is a symbol of choice. Jesus hung on the cross by choice. It wasn't the nails that hung him. It wasn't the wasn't just, you know the people that said, if you get down, I'm gonna, I'm gonna give it to you. No, he hung on that cross because it was his choice. We Jesus, and I want you to listen to this and I'm done. Jesus will let you and I hang on to our life and run our life and run the show as long as we want to be in control. He does that because he wants us to know the difference between us running our own life and trusting him and have faith in Him enough. We give him all of our life again. Some of us are very, very, very hardheaded.

([01:10:02](#)):

We know what I'm trying to share with you. You know it's true as some of y'all are saying [inaudible] out loud. But when it comes down to living it, you still want to take your life back. False. Why would you and I ever want to do that when he says, if you just acknowledge me in all of your ways, you let me direct your paths, I am gonna give you a blessed and joyful life. That doesn't mean that everything's gonna always go right, but it does mean that we will always be in the center of God's will for our life. Folks, you don't want to be out of the center of God's will for your life. You want to be right in the middle of what God wants for you. He wants the best for you. He doesn't want little stuff over here. No. He wants the absolute best for you.

([01:11:00](#)):

And the only way that you and I can experience that is that when we give him everything that we've got, we turn it over to him and we allow him to do what only he can do. The fastest way for us to live is for us to die. And if you are living outside of that this morning, if you are trying to handle any kind of issues and things in your life, your decisions, your thoughts, whatever it might be, you need to give those things over to the Lord because he wants you to live this morning. And if you're here today and you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, I'll tell you why you don't. You don't know him because you're not sick and tired of trying to run your life. You're trying to run your life. And you know what? If you're honest with it, every road that you've been on has been a dead end and it'll keep being a dead end, there'll be nothing.

([01:11:56](#)):

You'll satisfy your life except for Jesus. Why is that? Because we all have that God-sized hole in our heart that nothing can feel except for Jesus. Going to heaven is your choice. Going to hell is also your choice. Amen. You and I are gonna spend eternity wherever we make our decision to be. As Steve was saying in his song, we're all gonna face Jesus one day, every single one of us. You know, think about this. It's an amazing thing to think about Everybody that's ever been born, everybody that ever will be born, all of us here, we have an appointment, we have an appointment with Jesus Christ. It's an appointment you cannot break. In fact, he's not gonna even ask you to confirm it your reservation because you're gonna make that reservation regardless of what you say. You're gonna be there. You're gonna be one-on-one with Jesus Christ.

[\(01:12:53\):](#)

I will be too. I'm not gonna have Vicky beside me, I'm not gonna have any of you beside me. It's gonna be me and God one-on-one. He's gonna call my name and I'm gonna report to him front and center and he's gonna look at me and he's gonna say, Branson, do you really know me as your Lord and Savior? And I'm gonna say yes. And he says, yes, that's right, because your name is written in the S book of life, you receive me as your Lord and as my Lord, as your Lord and Savior when you are a little boy, eight years old, but also Branson, what have you done for me in your life? What have you done with the talents and the abilities of things that that I've given you? I'm gonna have to go one-on-one with Jesus. You here today, you also are gonna go one-on-one.

[\(01:13:40\):](#)

I don't believe it, pastor. Well, you need to read your Bible one-on-one, no help, one-on-one. Amen. First question, he's gonna ask you, do you truly know me as your Lord and Savior? Are you, were you just a fan of me or were you really a follower? Folks, I pray that all of us can say, I wasn't just a fan, I was a follower. I truly know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I pray that'll be your answer day because if it's not, the Bible's very plain. He says, I'm gonna look at you and I'm gonna say to you, depart from me because I've never ever known you. Good works aren't gonna get you there. The only thing that's gonna get you there is that you know that you know that you know that you've asked Jesus to come in to be your Lord, be your savior. And here's another part of it. What are you doing today with the gifts and the talents and things that God has given to you? What difference are you making in somebody else's life today eternally because of the gifts and talents that God has given to you? You, as I shared with somebody the other day, I said, you are the only Bible that somebody is reading. If somebody doesn't know the Lord, you're the only Bible they're reading.

[\(01:15:05\):](#)

You know why a lot of people aren't in church today is because when they read the Bible that some Christians say that they believe they don't see truth, they don't see a great example of Jesus Christ at all. They're a fake folks. Be that example before your family and friends that need Jesus as Lord and Savior. How does that happen? Crucifying your life every single moment of every single day. Let's stand please. Our heads are bow. Thank you so much for watching our live broadcast this morning. I certainly hope that you enjoyed the service. I want to ask you the most important question anybody could ever ask you if you were standing before Jesus right now, and if he was to ask you, why should I let you come into my heaven? What would be your answer? You know, some people would say, well, hey, I'm a member of a church.

[\(01:15:54\):](#)

Or other people would say, well, you know, I'd do good for other people. I follow the golden rule. All those things are good, but that is not the correct answer. There's only one answer that will ever get you and I into heaven, and that answer is this. I believe that Jesus went to the cross and he died on the

cross for my sins. I've asked him to come in to forgive me on my sins and I have claimed him as my Lord and Savior. If you've never made that decision, I would like for you to bow your head right now and I would like for you to repeat these words after me. Dear Jesus, I love you this morning and I want to thank you for going to the cross and paying for my sins. I want to ask you right now to forgive me of all of my sins, and I want to claim you as my Lord and as my Savior.

[\(01:16:45\)](#):

Thank you Lord for saving my soul. Thank you Lord for making me home. If you have prayed that prayer along with me here this morning, you've made the greatest decision that you've ever made in your whole entire life on the authority of that decision you just made. When the Lord comes back one day or if you should pass away, your reservation's made in heaven, your name has been written in the lambs book of life, you're eternally secure in him. I would like to rejoice with you if you made that decision. I would like if you would to do me a favor, go to our website, [www the main point.org](http://www.themainpoint.org). Please send me a personal message and let me know that you have received Jesus. I would love to rejoice with you and if I can help you in any way going forward or this church can help you in any way, please let us know. Thank you again for watching. I hope again that you enjoyed the service and God bless you and you be encouraged today.