



Coffee With The Pastor
Show 24: Brad Lynch



Announcer (00:00:00) - We've saved the seat just for you. There's always room at the table. It's coffee with the pastor. With your host, Andy McDaniel.

Andy McDaniel (00:00:10) - Welcome, everybody to coffee with the pastor. Happy New Year. Welcome to 2024. I pray that all of you have had a blessed Christmas, and we're off to a great start in this new year, as was last year. Will continue. I am your host, Pastor Andy McDaniel. I have currently the honor the privilege of pastoring the wonderful people of West Fayetteville Baptist Church right here in Fayetteville, North Carolina. For all the details about our ministry and the things that we're currently doing, head on over to WFAA, GBC, Dot net, or you can follow us on Facebook or YouTube and all those other kind of places. So, you know, it's always a joy and an honor. And I absolutely count it as that to be with you today. I appreciate your time. I appreciate your willingness to listen to us and give us a portion of your day.

Andy McDaniel (00:00:56) - Last year we had the thrill and again, I, I don't want to overuse the word honor, but it was an honor to begin this program. Coffee with the pastor. Um, every every episode allowed us to grow, uh, uh, familiar with each other. It allows us to grow to to on a spiritual height and all the different things. And I truly enjoyed each and every time that we were able to be together, every guest that came on, and they just brought something powerful to the conversation. And one of the things that we really strive toward, uh, friends, was keeping it real and talking about things that matter and think and things that impact all of our different lives. And so every guest that came on last year, uh, was able to bring something powerful to the conversation. One of those guests, uh, returns with us today to kick off the new season, Pastor Brad Lynch from Southview Baptist. A return to the show today. Welcome, my friend. Great to have you.

Andy McDaniel (00:01:50) - Good to be here, man. We just we loved having you before. And so, uh, so how's things with you, man? How's things going? How's life?

Brad Lynch (00:01:56) - Very good, very good. Just finished up the Christmas and New Year season, which is always crazy for churches. And everything's going on in family and traveling and spending time with everyone, so. But it was great.

Andy McDaniel (00:02:07) - That's awesome. That's awesome. Did you get anything special for Christmas?

Brad Lynch (00:02:11) - Uh, I got my family for Christmas. Yes. That's, uh, I acted as Santa Claus. I gave out the gifts.

Andy McDaniel (00:02:17) - Thank you. I love that, you know, a lot of people don't always realize the value of that, and I. And I really maybe even don't think that we do until we get a little older. Did we really appreciate the value of being able to, you know, whether it's, you know, have your mom and dad or have your kids or whatever the case, there's something really, really special about that.

Andy McDaniel (00:02:36) - We lose. I think we lose sometimes when we get caught up in all the, you know, all the commercial part and, you know, you got to have the gift and you got and then gifts are



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great. I love I love gifts as much as anybody. But but there's something special about that family time that just that means something. Absolutely.

Brad Lynch (00:02:51) - It really is. And so having all of our kids back home with us and, uh, and then getting a chance to travel down south and see our family a little bit, and that was really that was the, the highlight of, of the season for me.

Andy McDaniel (00:03:02) - Yes. Same here. You know, we had a blessing, um, being able to, to serve and minister and do the things here uh, over the, over the holiday season and all that stuff. And then, uh, we did Christmas here together, uh, my wife and my daughters at home. And then, uh, and then we were able to travel and go and visit our, our oldest daughter and her and her husband and our two grandsons, man.

Andy McDaniel (00:03:21) - And I tell you what, that was, uh, that that that lit up that was brighter than any Christmas tree that you can have. So. Well, pastor, I want to I want to spend a little time today as we come together for the first episode of coffee with the pastor in 2024, I want to look at the common salutation that's prevalent right now, which is Happy New Year. Okay, we hear that, and while it is certainly applicable, obviously it's an acknowledgement of the time and a well-wishing, if you will, of the turn of the calendar. It's a new year and we're wishing you well and happiness and all this other stuff. But can we can we discuss the reality of the fact that many don't always experience the literal sea of the happy or the new because of the hindrance of the old, they continue to drag it on along. I met someone in just this past week. It was on Monday. I mean, you know, it was the day, right? The whole new thing, uh, January 1st.

Andy McDaniel (00:04:21) - And I said, you know, Happy New Year, hope. You know, hope everything's telling us the same old, same old. But oftentimes we get caught in that. Scripture says in Colossians chapter one, beginning in verse 12, giving thanks to the father who enabled you to share in the saints inheritance in the light has rescued you from the domain of darkness and transferred you into the kingdom of the son he loves. So we look at two words they're enabled, meaning giving you the opportunity and rescued the ability to no longer be in harm's way alone and doesn't take the harm's way away. But he says, you're not by yourself. So, pastor, how do we how do we help those that are struggling to find the happy or the new to hear that comforting truth that. They can be delivered.

Brad Lynch (00:05:11) - That's such a great question. You know, I think the the scripture that I've been meditating on, uh, going through the new year is Philippians chapter three, where the apostle Paul says, okay, I haven't attained this yet, right? I'm not perfect.

Brad Lynch (00:05:25) - I haven't come to full Christ likeness yet. Um, but one thing I do forgetting what's behind and straining forward to what's ahead, I press on toward the goal for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. So I think, you know a couple of things that are so important. I think one, like the apostle Paul just humbly acknowledging the fact that we have not arrived and we all need to grow, right? We all need to grow. We all need to mature. We all have moving forward that we need to do, um, and then forgetting what lies behind. Yeah. Um, and that's forgetting the potential negative things from what's behind. Yes. Um, sin from the past that's been forgiven and washed under the blood of the lamb. That's



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that's not for us to carry along. That's been that's been, uh, completely taken care of. So we're not to continue to walk in that. And not only that, but forgetting the successes in the past. Right. We don't we don't live off yesterday's, uh, successes, but we we forget what's behind and we strain forward to what's ahead.

Brad Lynch (00:06:23) - There's there's more that the Lord has for you. He desires more for, uh, more for you in your life, uh, more of him in your life. And in order to accomplish that, there's a straining forward, he pushing forward that has to happen in order to accomplish that. Well, I love.

Andy McDaniel (00:06:38) - That because, you know, when we think about what and that's a powerful verse because it's a challenge to all of us. And, you know, and he's saying, you know, listen, the things that are before me are so much greater than anything that is behind me. Right? Like you said, whether it is a failure or a success. And I think that's important that someone hears that because oftentimes, um, we hear about the glory days.

Brad Lynch (00:07:06) - Right?

Andy McDaniel (00:07:06) - Oh, man. The good old days. And and it was so much better. Well, we we can we can get into that discussion. Sure. Yes. You know, we can say, okay. Yeah.

Andy McDaniel (00:07:14) - It was simpler times. It was this, it was that, you know, and and everything wasn't run by computers and all this other stuff. But what Paul is saying is don't get don't get trapped in there. And I'm sure you've seen this, I know I have, um, next month I'm beginning my 23rd year ministry, and, and there have been places that we have served or places that we know of that their heyday was 40 years ago. Yes. And they can't seem to grasp it again. Right. That God didn't die back 40 years ago. We still available right now, right. And as we as we look in this, he's saying, you know, comprehend that you've you've been rescued from that and transferred. You're no longer there. But the key word, though, pastor, is if yes, because if put the action on you. And so when we think one that can be delivered, I think it's important what you just said about about what Paul is saying, he's saying, listen, because Paul oftentimes talked about you kind of used sports or reference, you know, as a reference or races.

Brad Lynch (00:08:15) - Right?

Andy McDaniel (00:08:16) - And we think about a race in particular, like a, you know, where they pass the baton. What do they call that? I can't even remember the the relay. The relay. Yeah. That's it. And so, you know, that that person that you're reaching back to, they're reaching forward and they're passing it on so that you can keep going. And oftentimes we do get trapped into, as we just said here into the old I did this, I did that, okay. And that's what God is saying. Okay. I forgave you of that. You don't have to keep carrying that around anymore. But a lot of people, because I think of societal pressure and, and just not really grasping the enormity of the love of God, they can't seem to let that go. Um, how do we how do we speak to that one that is really struggling? Because letting go of things is very difficult. Uh, whether it's a trinket or a treasure, you know, but I just I just recently visited my mom and dad, and God bless him, I love him.



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Andy McDaniel (00:09:09) - Um, but, you know, there's trinkets and and junk there. I say crap, but but, but but on shelves that has been there since just 50 years ago when I was at home. And it's like, why that person that can't let stuff go? What do we say to them today? To say, listen, it's okay.

Brad Lynch (00:09:27) - Yes. That's, you know, just this morning, in fact, in my own personal quiet time, I was meditating on Matthew 1344, uh, which is a little parable that Jesus teaches. And it's my favorite parable of Jesus. Uh, it says that there was a man who was walking through a field, and he discovered a treasure. So he buried the treasure in that field, went and with joy sold everything he had and went and bought that field. Uh, and so the idea is, uh, that treasure was so glorious and amazing that the man was willing to give up everything else in his life in order to get that treasure. And the point of the parable is Jesus is the treasure.

Brad Lynch (00:10:07) - Amen. And so a lot of it comes down. To do. We understand how how glorious and amazing and beautiful Jesus is when we really see how much of a treasure he is. Not only do we give things up or we're willing to walk away from things, but Matthew 1344 says, we joyfully do because he's better. Jesus is just better. He's better than all the things, and it's so difficult. So, so for our kids, we have a wide range of of ages. For our kids. We have one in college, one in high school, one in middle school, and one in elementary school. So we're we're spread out. Uh, um, so that means I'm always tired and always broke and, um, I understand, but, uh, so the interesting thing, though, the fun thing about that is discipling our kids at the varying levels that they're in. Yeah. And so, um, the things so what I've noticed is the fact that for my kids, the fact that there are things they want to hold on to is the same regardless of their age, but the things that they want to hang on to change.

Brad Lynch (00:11:12) - And so same thing for us. We as we grow in the Lord, as we grow older, just in life, um, the things that we want to hold on to and cling to will be different. Um, but no matter what that thing is, even it could be a very, very good thing. Family, right? All very good things. Uh, understanding that Jesus really is just better. Amen. Jesus is just better than all of those things. And he is the worthy treasure that, uh, uh, loosening your grip when everything else in this world and and grabbing Ahold of him. Um, you know, the scripture says that it's a hope that will not disappoint.

Andy McDaniel (00:11:46) - Oh, man, I love I love that because that's exactly what Paul was talking about. He's saying, you know, listen, what's behind me is back there, and I'm not going to let it hold me in place to keep me or hinder me from what's ahead of me. And so when we look at the concept of a Happy New Year, we not only look at it from the emotional side of the word happy, but we have to grasp it.

Andy McDaniel (00:12:07) - And happy is just that. It is a fleeting emotion. Sure, you know, we can be happy today, not so happy tomorrow. We kind of up and down. But if we find our joy in Christ, what would you. What you just said, he's just better, right? You know, and but when we when we couple that with his own words, when he said, I give you my joy, that your joy might be full. Right? On the last broadcast of last year, we were talking about the Angel's announcement, which which I found to be profound. I mean, I've read it a thousand times, preached it a thousand times, but there was something this year or last year, I should say, I'm getting getting mixed up. We're too close. But, but, but there was something profound about it this time that God really revealed something to me of how personal that



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message was when the angel said, for unto you on this day is born a Savior. Man, when we start grasping that right that God has that message for me today, in the time that I need, that I have a Savior man, I mean that that's just mind blowing.

Andy McDaniel (00:13:11) - Yes, that God loves us that much. And when we begin to grasp it, it moves us out of the realm of mere emotional happiness, which is temporary. And Jesus says, I give unto you not like the world, right? And that's important that we get there. And then when we look at the concept of new, then obviously new, we relate that to something that's never been used and whatever the case. But but it also equates in this particular way of a new outlook which, which we cannot look forward if we're looking backward. Correct. It's not.

Brad Lynch (00:13:39) - Possible. Absolutely.

Andy McDaniel (00:13:40) - And in the concept of like a race or whatever, if we're constantly looking backward, we're not winning well.

Brad Lynch (00:13:46) - And think of it like this. Also thinking about driving in a car, um, there's a reason why the rear view mirror is significantly smaller than the windshield. Amen. Because you're supposed to spend way more time looking forward than looking back. If you try to drive forward looking in your rearview mirror, you're going to have a wreck.

Brad Lynch (00:14:05) - And for many people, uh, spiritually speaking, the reason that they're experiencing wrecks is because they're trying to drive forward looking in the rearview mirror. Absolutely. And God never designed it to work that way. You know? Look, leaving behind what's behind me, letting go of that and straining forward to what lies ahead. And and so you're absolutely right. You can only do that by making the conscious decision of God. I'm I, I'm turning my back on the past and I'm moving the the positive, the negative, the goods, the bads. Those may be good things, but but I'm not holding on to those things any longer. I'm moving forward to what becomes.

Andy McDaniel (00:14:45) - It becomes a tether. Uh, because oftentimes, even even like in the relay, the person that is receiving the baton is still looking forward. They're not looking back to see what is coming. They have their hand position. Yes. And that person behind them is looking forward to place it in the right place. And what Paul is referencing, and I and I love the fact that you brought this up.

Andy McDaniel (00:15:04) - You know, it's saying, listen, guys, this is the only way we're going to win this, the only way we're going to get to where God needs us to be. Because again, whether it's a church living in the glory days and we can't get there, or whether it's a person. I remember a friend of mine, he was doing an interview a couple of years ago for this documentary called The Good Old Days, and that was the title of it. And they asked him, they said, Bill, um, what can you tell us about the good old days? And I loved his response. He says they weren't all good. And he was honest. Yeah, I think sometimes and as we get older, we we are all guilty, probably of painting a picture of something way better than what it actually was. Right? You know? And again, that's not to be critical of anyone. But what happens though is it becomes a trap. And we begin to we begin to, to hold on to that and then we don't.



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Andy McDaniel (00:15:54) - Then we begin to watch life instead of live life. Yes, absolutely. And we don't we don't move forward in the way that God wants us to do. Because if Jesus indeed gave us life and it more abundantly, then we have to look at the word give or gave. That's a gift. What do we do with a gift? If we don't, we just come out of Christmas, right? If someone gave us a gift regardless of what it was socks, shirt, hat, or a box of candy, if we don't use that gift, if we don't put it into the to the the operation that it was created to do, then we didn't really receive that gift, right? We accepted it, yes, but we didn't receive it because. Because it didn't. It's not working right. I'm not cutting the board with that new SOB, and I'm over here wondering why I can't get it or whatever. I'm cold because I didn't put on the new jacket here. Here God is saying you've been offered the idea to be rescued.

Andy McDaniel (00:16:47) - You've been received. You've been transferred all the if and if is the pivotal word. And as we as we prepare for our first break, I want us to think about that, because sometimes the challenge of of letting go, sometimes the challenge of, well, it used to be this and that. Well, again, that's a good conversation. Sure. But if you stay there, um, many people and, and I'll say this and again, I don't want to I don't want to harm anyone, but but many people, I think somebody needs to hear this. Many people are alive but they're not living. Mhm. And and that holds true to the believer and the non-believer.

Brad Lynch (00:17:20) - Absolutely.

Andy McDaniel (00:17:21) - Yeah. Okay. Because if we remain, as Paul is saying looking behind, we're never seeing what's ahead of us.

Brad Lynch (00:17:28) - I would say that I've gone through seasons in my life where I would say that characterized me pretty well. It's like I was alive but not living, I was functioning, I was sort of floating through, but not really intentionally pursuing the Lord and pursuing just the life that he has for me.

Brad Lynch (00:17:45) - So I absolutely it's an.

Andy McDaniel (00:17:46) - Easy, easy trap. And many people I and I have to I mean, because we especially when we hit a stumbling block or we hit something that's difficult, a new challenge, we think, oh, so much better. You know, how many of our years ago or so much better? I mean, I hope, I hope that it's improved, but but in the in the invention and the and the birth of Facebook, one of the great hindrance of that for many people was trying to find the past. Oh, you know, I hadn't talked to Mary in 20 years. Well, you don't need to. You've got a wife, correct? Yes, but but people got trapped in that. Yes. Because. Oh, it was so much better about. Absolutely. You know, I absolutely had someone I had someone come for counseling a few years ago saying, you know, I'm thinking about getting back with my ex-wife. And I said, well, let's talk about those first two letters.

Andy McDaniel (00:18:38) - There was a reason that that happened. I'm all for reconciliation. But yes, but let's talk about what why are we revisiting the past? Because, again, like you said, sometimes it was great. Other times it wasn't right. But if it's Paul says in first Corinthians chapter six and verse 12, he said, everything is permissible, but I will be mastered by nothing. So, so I can do whatever I want. But, but, but what am I allowing to control me? What am I allowing to be my master and pastor? I believe you would agree. As we go into our first break, there's only one master and that's Jesus. Amen. And it's like that guy



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that buried the treasure in the field. He said, that's it. That's the greatest thing ever. And so we'll hold on to that and believe that with all of our heart. Then we begin to equate change. Then we begin to be able to experience not only just a happy, but also a new year, because the days ahead begin to look really, really good.

Andy McDaniel (00:19:30) - Friends, we're going to take our first break. We'll be right back with you with a little more coffee with the pastor. Uh, welcome back, everybody, to coffee with the pastor. We're glad to be with you today. Thank you for listening. I want to thank Pastor Brad for joining with us today. We've started off talking about the understanding of the salutation, Happy New Year. And we spent the first portion talking about the the grasping of that and looking forward rather than simply behind. When we think of being set free, we think of being delivered. You know, we talked about that passage from Colossians where he says, we've been rescued from the power of darkness. When we think of being set free, we immediately think of of being in some type of bondage. You know, whether it is a literal physical thing, some type of tether or chain or rope or maybe in jail or handcuffs. I remember, you know, the days, of course, I've made it very, very known in my in my testimony and my story here at coffee with the pastor that I spent 13 years on the road as an officer.

Andy McDaniel (00:20:35) - So I put handcuffs on a lot of people. Um, and that was a, a minor improvement of their freedom. They were no longer free. But but what we need to understand is all of those things are temporary to some degree. But many people are in bondage inside their heart, inside their mind. They can't see beyond. Today. Therefore, the experiencing of a happy New Year is completely a moot point. Ain't going to happen. And and I've talked to people ever since the year has rolled over there. They're still there. There's still whether it's the same old, same old or whether it's, well, I'm, I'm still so depressed and, and I'm not knocking anybody that's have struggle with that because those things are real. Sure. But but Jesus it tells us in Scripture looked over the city and he wept. And he said, they're like, they're like sheep without a shepherd. Freedom, freedom. And this is what I want everybody here listening today. I want them to understand this.

Andy McDaniel (00:21:26) - We we get all patriotic about that word and we get all excited about that here. I want everybody to understand this freedom is more than just being able to say whatever you want to. Freedom is more than being able to go wherever you want to. Because if we're honest, those things are conditional depending on where you live and who's in charge. Right. You know, the people in North Korea don't have freedom. Correct? You know, okay, Jesus spoke of freedom. He oftentimes use that word. He said that you would know the truth, and the truth would make or set you free. All right. So, so and then further in that same chapter, he would say, speaking of himself, he would say, if you've been set free by the sun, you're really, really free. So, so, pastor, we look at, at this word freedom and we look at it for today and the bondage that life sometimes creates. How do we as pastors, as teachers and simply as believers, as followers of Christ? How do we help others to see this most impactful fact that our true freedom is found in Christ?

Brad Lynch (00:22:24) - You know, I think so, so many people, so many of us, the the, the prison that we find ourselves in a lot of times comes from wounds in our past.



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Brad Lynch (00:22:36) - Things that have happened to us, uh, that have caused us to be wounded in the heart. Um, so my, uh, oldest daughter used to run track in high school, and she was a hurdler, and, uh, she, uh, she was pretty good at it. And, uh, one race, her junior year of high school. Uh, she is out front. Uh, she is winning the race. She's coming to the end. She comes up on, uh, one of the last hurdles, uh, for a split moment, she kind of loses her concentration. She has bad form. Um, stumbles over the hurdle and has a pretty significant injury. Um, and so she is out for the rest of the season from the injury. Uh, uh, and and so for the next year, her senior year, even though she physically was healthy, uh, there was a mental block in her head where she couldn't jump over a hurdle. Yeah, it was just it was in her.

Brad Lynch (00:23:28) - So she completely switched events. She did. She she switched the long jump. She's like, I don't even wanna do it anymore. Um, it was a mental block in her head that something bad was going to happen when she jumped that hurdle. Um, now, for many of us, again, things happen in life that cause us to stumble and fall. Yep. Uh, and it can become this mental stronghold. Uh, that really does keep us in prison. So I think one of the things that helps us in coming out from that is acknowledging the wound, acknowledging the hurt, something that may have caused us to kind of be in this position, um, and, uh, and then seeing the, the, the goodness and the sovereignty of God, even in the midst of a difficult situation like that, um, coming through times and seasons for, for all of us, uh, Romans 12 says, we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Uh, so that means we're all going to have seasons in our life where we're in the rejoicing side and times we're in the weeping side.

Brad Lynch (00:24:24) - And so as we walk through that, it's okay. Do we trust the sovereignty of God in the midst of this situation? Uh, and do I trust again that Jesus is worthy of everything, even in the midst of this, so that as I am seeking to walk out of whatever prison might I might find myself in. Uh, what's going to lead me out of that prison isn't necessarily a change in circumstance. It's going to be a change in perspective and understanding that Jesus Christ is truly better. And my focus is on him and not the the potential hurdles that are around me.

Andy McDaniel (00:24:56) - I think you're right. You know, we we oftentimes whether it is a a bad experience or whatever, you know, we've all heard the different stories. And I remember one lady, um, I was, uh, in a park one morning, uh, with my two children, my two twin daughters, and they were probably three years old, and they were playing and swinging and whatever. And, uh, and the church that we pastored was, was, you know, was invisible.

Andy McDaniel (00:25:20) - You could see it from the park, a small little town. And, uh, I remember this lady. I just said good morning because she had she had a child about the same age as mine. I said, good morning. I hope you're doing well. Uh, you know, I'm Pastor Andy from over at so-and-so, and, you know, just. Hey, we got a great kids ministry left. I'd love to have you, you know, just just invite you. If you don't, if you don't have a church home, right? Certainly not Rob and sheep and and I'll never forget her response and and she said, well, uh, I don't go to church. That's okay. I said, that's fine. I said, I'm just just I'm just extending the offer. Sure. She said, well, no, I, I had a bad experience at church one time and I don't go back. And I said, well, I have a bad one every week, but I keep going.

Andy McDaniel (00:25:57) - But but seriously though, we we we do, we let that hinder us. And which goes back to what we talked about before. Oftentimes we we, we get caught up in the well, it was this



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and it was that. It can never be better. But but then we go back to the windshield, rear view mirror circumstance. If we're looking through the windshield, we're looking ahead. The road ahead of us is clear. The rearview mirror. We can look up every now and and glance. Remember what was back there so we don't forget, right? But that rearview mirror, that that that windshield view is one that is clear. It is one that is, it is wider and open. And that's what the Lord is saying here. If you if you know the truth and he's speaking of himself, you're not talking about just words. He's talking about me. He said, if you know me, I'll set you free. I'll change your life. You mentioned your daughter. I think about when I was younger, I was probably, I don't know, eight, nine years old, maybe ten at the most.

Andy McDaniel (00:26:55) - And I almost drown. And it was a horrifying experience. Okay. Was it a church camp? Uh, I had never been in a lake before. Like to swim and stuff. It had always been in a controlled environment, swimming pool, whatever the case. And I don't know why, because I had been Red cross certified. I could swim all this. I do not know why. I still to this day don't know why 50 years later. But but. I found myself. We had to do this swim test. I dive off the dock into the. And I panicked because I kept going down and I kept. And it was so deep and I, you know, it was it just scared me. And I don't know why. And then, you know, vine started, you know, kind of wrapping around my leg because you're in the lake, you know, and it scared me to death. And I started I think I drank half that lake. I mean, it was awful.

Andy McDaniel (00:27:42) - And so I panicked and and and it scared me so bad that I was 40 years old before I ever got back in the water again.

Brad Lynch (00:27:50) - Wow.

Andy McDaniel (00:27:52) - It horrified me. It hindered me. And it was like that hurdle. I could not ever see me getting in that water again. Wow. I mean, outside of taking a shower, I mean, I would jokingly tell people if it gets deeper than the ankles, I'm throwing some out. I mean, I do not do water. I find myself at 40 years old. My wife and I had a a been gifted, a beautiful opportunity to go on a trip. And we're off the coast, the Gulf Coast, down in Mexico, down in and with the Riviera Maya. Down, down and down at beautiful, beautiful place. And what does my wife want to go do? Snorkel. I had she really did not know the fear that I had of water. I mean, I she kind of knew, but I never really sure, you know, and, uh, because we don't always know everything about each other.

Andy McDaniel (00:28:42) - Right. And so, so here. So I'm being the I'm being the good husband. And I don't want to ruin the trip. And so we get on this, on this catamaran and we're headed out two miles offshore. 300ft of water. My heart is about to bust. I mean, it is about to spring out of my chest, and I'm praying the whole time. God, please don't let me die out here and give me the wisdom, the strength. Something, something. So the instructors are giving you all the thing, and they're doing this and doing that, whatever. And, you know, we got on the lifejackets that's starting to permeate in my mind. You've got a life preserver and you're going to be okay, but I couldn't. I was so horrified at the idea of jumping in that water. And the reason I'm telling this story is because there's a lot of people that are hindered by something from before. Yes, that keeps us from seeing the New Year. Yes, friends, I, I with a prayer, find myself on this plank and I dive off into this water of which I'm absolutely horrified of horrified.



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Andy McDaniel (00:29:40) - I dive into the water. I find myself under the water. The life breath life vest brings me back up to the top of the water so I realize I'm not dead. I'm okay, and I'm floating. And Brad, I tell you, man, with that mask on, when I looked underneath that water and I saw. Like a whole new world. I'm not going to break into the song. But but but but but the colors and the coral and the fish and the sea turtle. I was mesmerized. And for the next 2.5 hours, all I did was swim. And it was incredible. And now, for the last 15 years, that's like one of the number one things that we go do. So we finally jumped the hurdle. Wow, God. God says, I have rescued you from the power of darkness. When we realize the importance and the impact of that statement and the and the power that God has, it says, I was reading in preparation for the show. There's a quote from an old time guy from back in the 1800s named Horace Greeley.

Andy McDaniel (00:30:43) - He was a politician, a publisher, all kinds of different stuff, a journalist. And he said this, he said, as he's observing the public, as he's observing people, he said, it is impossible. I think that word is important. He said it is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible reading people. Mhm. Why? Because Jesus said, you'll know the truth. Yes. And the truth will make you free. And it goes on in that quote and say the principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom. Wow. Now how cool is that? Wow. Now, we don't hear those kind of things today. But John 8:36 as we talked about while ago, if the sun sets you free, if is the keyword, you will really be free. This offer from Jesus is the answer. It is. It is that it is that buried treasure in the field that you spoke of. It is the answer for everybody seeking freedom. For all of those seeking a truly happy which meaning a relief, a peace, directions, all the different things new a forward outlook year.

Andy McDaniel (00:31:42) - So pastor, we hear this, but we're oftentimes, as we've been talking about, tripped up or hindered by the word if because if requires something of me. Yes. If is an action. If I do this, then this will happen if I do that. So if if the sun sets me free, this requires that I let him. So so so can you speak to that one today? That is, that is seeking freedom to that one. That is, that is asking for help that to understand, um, you know, what what was said back, you know, 50 years ago or more when Andre Crouch wrote the song Jesus is the answer for the world today. How do we how do we how do we talk to someone about that today?

Brad Lynch (00:32:28) - Wow. Well, you know, you mentioned that word if and I think that's so important because again, like you said, that does put something on us. And Philippians chapter two says, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. And that doesn't mean to earn your salvation in any way.

Brad Lynch (00:32:43) - Right? That's by grace through faith. But that that, that that word work out means to make something useful. Do something with this now. Right. So the idea is in that Scripture would go on to say, because it's God who is at work in you. So the idea is, I think, twofold. One, understanding who God is and what he's really done in you through Jesus Christ. He has made you new and so Happy New Year, right? He's made you new. The old things are gone. Behold, all things are new. Second Corinthians five. Absolutely right. And so he's made you new. He's forgiven you of your sin. He's filled you with his spirit. He's made you his child. Understand what God has placed in you. Second Peter chapter one says that everything you will ever need for all of life and godliness has already been placed



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in you through faith in Jesus. So the idea is everything is already been placed inside of you. Now Philippians chapter two. Let's take that and work it out.

Brad Lynch (00:33:37) - Let's do something with it right? The only way gold is useful is if it's mined out of the ground and use only oil is useful, as if it's pumped out of the ground and used. And so these this, this powerful treasure has been placed in you, in Christ. Now we have to through, um, what, you know, uh, the, the, the the brilliant ancients. Uh, of yesteryear would call the the ordinary means of grace, right? Just Bible reading and prayer and being involved in your local church and having godly people that can speak into your life, these very simple things that we do, um, that, uh, pulls out, mines out and makes useful the gift that God has placed in us in Jesus. So now we're able to work out that salvation and and experience the newness that we've been given through faith in Christ.

Andy McDaniel (00:34:27) - I think that's so important because, again, it is it is when we go back to that, to that word, if, you know, we find it all throughout Scripture.

Andy McDaniel (00:34:34) - If my people, if you do this, if you don't know and someone known so and a lot of people miss that and it's not to, to, to, uh, question someone's intellect, we're talking about we, we become so commonplace and so comfortable in, uh, whether it's traditional ritual or this that I've heard that it's like the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. Yes. Two completely different things. Correct. You know, I. I heard an interview recently with an atheist and he said, I believe in Jesus. Hmm. He said he was a he was a live person, a historical figure. And this and then a good guy said, I don't believe in any of the deity stuff or the resurrection or any of that kind of stuff, he said, but I absolutely. Okay, so, so, so there's someone that knows about, yes, Jesus, but doesn't know Jesus. Therefore he's not able to implement any of the giftings of Jesus because Jesus says, If the son has set you free, then you are really free.

Andy McDaniel (00:35:33) - Well, this person is not because they don't know Jesus. They don't know the truth. And I think that we we've become we've become almost disconnected from the understanding of the truth, not a truth. Right? The truth because those two words change the entire meaning. You know, if we've been given a truth, that's a version, right? You know, it's kind of like, you know, and again, uh, just reality. If you read, if you've ever had the opportunity to read the Bible that you would be given from the Jehovah Witness. Um, okay. The differentials are minor.

Brad Lynch (00:36:08) - Yes, but.

Andy McDaniel (00:36:09) - But, but but it changes everything. Absolutely. John. Chapter one. Yes. And the word was, you know, the word was God, the word, you know, but it says the word was a god, right? One letter. Yes. It changes everything. Right. Okay. So, so the, the the ability to be set free and the ability to coming to know Christ and the freedom that we find in that is, is about the differentials and knowing him and knowing about him.

Andy McDaniel (00:36:32) - Because when we know him, then as he said, you'll know the truth. But later in John 14 he says, I am the truth, right? And not only is he the truth, he's the way. Yes, he's the life. He's every example. Like you said from first Peter, he is everything that we need, and he's given us everything that we need, which goes back to creation. We were created in the image of God. Yes. And so therefore



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we were equipped. He gave us all the tools. Yes, but it's just like tools in the shed. If we don't use them, they just sit there and draw dust.

Brad Lynch (00:37:05) - Correct.

Andy McDaniel (00:37:06) - And I think a lot of times, you know, we're in this new year, uh, lots of people have made resolutions. Okay, I'm going to do this and I'm going to do that. And, you know, by next week they well, well, that's too hard. They said there's more gym membership sold in the first week of January and cancelled by the first week of February than any time of the year.

Andy McDaniel (00:37:26) - Well, I, I, I use the analogy a lot of times. There's a lot of difference in going in the gym and by the gym. Yeah, right. You know, well, there's a lot of difference in knowing Jesus and knowing about Jesus. And and friends, we want to encourage you as we come up on our second break. This. This is this is important. What we're talking about. This is not just two pastors trying to to see who can, you know, quote the most scripture or tell you the most pastoral thing or whatever. This is real because I see and I know Pastor Brad, I know you do too. I see people hurting, you know, and that includes and I and I think this is important to mention because this was part of the premise of of coffee with the pastor. There's a lot of people in ministry hurting, too.

Brad Lynch (00:38:07) - Absolutely. Yes.

Andy McDaniel (00:38:08) - You know, on average over the last five years or more, 1500 pastors a month, a month quit the ministry.

Andy McDaniel (00:38:17) - Yes. And go back to secular world.

Brad Lynch (00:38:19) - Yes. Uh, I saw a stat recently that said 75% of pastors would do something else if they could, but they feel like they can't now, even if even if that stat is a little inflated, even if it's less than they say it's 50%, that's half of people serving in ministry would do something else. But my goodness, I'm already this far in. I'm already this close to retirement, so a lot of discouragement.

Andy McDaniel (00:38:42) - Absolutely. And I think it's because we, we've allowed uh, and we being obviously a grouping but, but but seriously, we've allowed and infiltration to hinder the truth and we've started listening to a truth. And those two, those two things are massively different. Absolutely. And when we begin to understand what Jesus was teaching, he said, the command of Jesus was very simple. He said, follow me. That was singular. And I think that's really, really important, especially today. Because again, if we look at the the windshield rearview mirror analogy, we've got a thousand different distractions around us, okay? Every kind of shiny object that there is to distract you from the the front view, the windshield.

Andy McDaniel (00:39:34) - So you're turning left, you're turning right. And before long, you know, you're calling Morgan and Morgan because you got a rear end, you know, or whoever your whoever your people that you're calling. And it's like, okay, I was distracted, I wasn't looking. And I think a lot of discouragement, a lot of people that are struggling. And we'll pick back up on this when we come back after the break or because we're looking in the wrong direction. Yeah. And again, that is not to not to criticize or hurt someone, but rather cause a pause moment, say, okay, my my foot is hurting because



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there's something in my shoe. I need to stop long enough to see what that is. Friends, we'll be right back. Uh, with the last segment of coffee with the pastor. Thank you for joining us today.

Andy McDaniel (00:40:14) - We'll be back in just a moment.

Andy McDaniel (00:40:25) - Welcome back everybody. It is so great to be with you today for the first coffee of the pastor of 2024.

Andy McDaniel (00:40:32) - And I am just honored to have my friend, Pastor Brad Lynch here with us today as we're having this great, great discussion about understanding, Happy New Year, understanding freedom that comes in Christ. And, you know, we talked about, uh, so many different components, and we were talking about the power of F and the action that comes from that. And we were talking about, uh, in this last segment, you know, the old song Jesus is the answer for the world today. That's great. It's an anthem. It's it's all but but really that that's the truth. And again, it goes back to the truth, not a truth. And many we were talking about discouragement as we left in the last segment. Um, pastors are walking away and and sadly, sadly, many of those who have professed to be believers are walking away, uh, the growing the growing, uh, pattern of atheist agnostic today of former believers deconstructing. Yes, it is awful. Paul spoke of a great falling away.

Andy McDaniel (00:41:28) - Many people misunderstood that. To think that's the world going to hell. Well, there, that's already there. That's not. That's not the world. Yeah, that's the church. And it's sad because I've heard some interviews from people who said, well, I used to, I used to.

Brad Lynch (00:41:42) - Believe, oh man.

Andy McDaniel (00:41:43) - Yeah. And it's like, well, what, what what happened, what happened?

Brad Lynch (00:41:47) - And even if people that don't go all that way, but I've talked to so many people who say, well, I used to be really on fire for the Lord. Don't get me wrong, I'm still a Christian, but I used to be. And so now there was may may technically call themselves Christians, but for all intents and purposes they fallen away.

Andy McDaniel (00:42:02) - That's right. And when we think about we have we have to we have to ask the question why? What happened? Something you and I were talking about off air. And I think this is vital. The Great Commission. All right.

Andy McDaniel (00:42:15) - I absolutely believe, like you said, um, you know, missions and all the things we can, but if we really look at the context of what he's saying, that's personal. It is your walk with me. Follow me. How are you doing that? Because he said, teach them to obey. Teach them to observe that which I have taught you. Yes. Okay. So if if the sun has set me free and says I'm really free, okay. If I know the truth and the truth is set me free. If I'm walking in that, if I am following him, then my obedience or my observation of that from another view that's visible. Um, and so I think what we can equate, many that are falling away, walking away, deconstructing all these different things like that, they don't they're not seeing Jesus anymore. They've heard about it. Right. But hearing hearing is only as good as the source that you're hearing it from. Right? You know, many people laughed and many people made it a comic fodder or whatever over the last 4 or 5 years, you know, fake news.



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Andy McDaniel (00:43:18) - Okay. And not to get political here, but that's actually a true statement, because a lot of the things that we hear is not real. Right? And Jesus is saying, okay, I don't want you to tell them, I want you to show them. And he said, teach them to observe. Teach them to obey that which I have taught you. Well, what did Jesus teach? Love God and love one another. And he said, and hang everything on these two commands, not suggestions. Right? We missed that, pastor. How do we get people to? And now we're talking to the believer. Now we're talking to the pastor that's discouraged the believers. This discourage the one that maybe is in the process of transitioning out. And that's a whole nother strange word. But but let's, let's the one that is leaving because I don't see Jesus anymore. What is our responsibility as those who still do, to understand that word, obey or observe and say, I've got to show people Jesus because the fruit of the spirit is visible, love is visible, joy is visible.

Andy McDaniel (00:44:17) - Happy New Year. That's visible. How do we see that. Mhm.

Brad Lynch (00:44:21) - Wow. Well I think one for those of us who are seeking to continue to walk in the Lord. Um, first thing I think going back to, to what we're saying with Philippians chapter three, the apostle Paul saying, um, um, I have not already attained this. Right. And so I think one is all of us taking an honest look in the mirror and saying, okay, where are the areas that I need to grow in in the Lord? Right. We all have them. Absolutely. We're the areas I need to grow in. Where am I not being patient? Where am I not showing love? Where am I not being gracious and kind? Who do I personally need to forgive? Right. All of those things. And so I think if we look first at ourselves and say, okay, Lord, I'm desiring to continue to pursue you, I'm desiring to grow in you. Where do I need to, uh, to confess and repent and turn and grow? If we first seek to do that, and as we're doing that, then we're going to have more to be able to show, more to be able to teach.

Brad Lynch (00:45:16) - Right. And so, um, uh, you know, it's like with our kids, um, they, uh, so much of what our kids pick up from us is. Not intentional teaching. It's just things that they just see and notice.

Andy McDaniel (00:45:28) - They're watching absolutely, 100%.

Brad Lynch (00:45:30) - We're all making disciples. So so I think first is this understand every person who is alive is in some way, shape or form making a disciple of someone else. Absolutely. The question is, who are you making them a disciple of? Yes. All right. Um, you, Jesus. Good things, bad things, whatever. Right? We're all someone is watching. Someone is following, whether it be a child, an employee or whatever. Absolutely. And so understanding one, I have things that I need to grow in to. Um. I do have people watching me, right. I do have people who are seeking to learn from me in one way shape or another. And so understanding the responsibility that's placed on us through the Great Commission, uh, teaching others to, to to observe, to obey, to do all that Christ has told us, commanded us, uh, understanding the responsibility that we have there and that, um, you know, like I tell.

Brad Lynch (00:46:25) - Well, husbands with a wife, um, the fact that you are the head of your wife is not up for debate or discussion. The question is, do you stink at it? Yeah. And so it's not. Well, I wish my husband was the head of our home. No, no, he is. He just might stink at it. And so and so. Same thing. We're making disciples. Just the question is, are are you making the right kind of disciple? Absolutely. And so being honest about that and going, okay, I need to introspectively really look at myself and go,



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okay, where do I need to grow in in my pursuit of the Lord so that I can more effectively show and model and teach others to do likewise?

Andy McDaniel (00:46:59) - Well, I agree, I mean, that's why it says in the book of James, don't look in the mirror and walk away from God who you just saw. Yes, because that's what's there, right? And that's what everybody else is seeing.

Andy McDaniel (00:47:10) - Right. And so we're not talking about our physical shortcomings, whatever they might be or our cosmetic shortcomings. Okay. We can all argue over whether those are good or not, but but the point of it is, and I think we as believers and those that are trying to emulate what Christ has asked us is, do people see Jesus? Yeah. A friend of mine who's passed on and going to be with the Lord, but his whole ministry was built around the phrase, and I'm sure he didn't he didn't coin it, but somebody did. But his whole thing was built around beat Jesus with skin on him. That's good. You know, let people see him in you because that's what he said, right? Teach them to observe. Teach them to see visible. Because again, as we've said, you know many people and it's not to knock anybody but people, countless numbers of people, uh, whether it on a format like this or on television or any other way are telling people about Jesus.

Andy McDaniel (00:48:00) - Yes, they're talking about spiritual matters of the but it's not lived out right. Somebody sees it. Yes. And after a while it's like, okay, let's get silly for just a minute. It's like people that for the last 150 years have been telling people about Bigfoot, right? Nobody showed him to nobody.

Brad Lynch (00:48:20) - At some point, we should be able to see something. Yeah.

Andy McDaniel (00:48:22) - You know, beyond the fuzzy.

Brad Lynch (00:48:23) - Just a crazy grainy photo. Yes. So it's like if we're.

Andy McDaniel (00:48:26) - Telling people about Jesus, but we're not showing people Jesus, it falls short. Yes. In other words, the touchdown will not be scored. It will stop at the one yard line every single time. Yes. And the goal is to win the game. The goal is like Paul said, like you said earlier in the first segment, look ahead. That's where we're going. And if we're not, if our if our goal is not to win, right, then why are we in the race? Yes.

Andy McDaniel (00:48:54) - It doesn't matter if it's first place. You know, you may be the guy that's limping across to the last one. You know, you're you're in the Boston Marathon and there's 50,000 people there. Only there's only one person going to be one. Correct? Okay. But that's not what he's asking for. He said the least of these will be the first of these. It's about understanding, um, walking and breathing and showing people Christ. Yes. And I think as we go into this new year, folks, what we want to encourage you with is this. And Jesus is the answer, not a question. If you know him, know him more. You know, it's like it's like our relationships with our spouses or our best friends or whoever, whoever's in your life that's significant. As the years go by, you have a stronger affection toward them, whether it's an intimate one or whether it's just a closeness that a bond that can't be broken. You know, that's what we're supposed to do with Jesus.



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Andy McDaniel (00:49:49) - He came. He rescued us from the power of darkness. Or as we said earlier in the angel's proclamation, for unto you born this day a savior. Okay, so what does that God's proclamation to us saying, I see that you're in need of saving. Therefore I'm sending you a savior right on the day that you need him. He's here. So the offering is there. Just like all the gifts that we received. The offering was there. They were under the tree. They were presented from someone that cares about us enough to give us something. Whatever it may have been. Will we receive the gift that God has given us? And if you do. And. You put it to use? I believe as soon as I'm sitting here talking into this microphone, it'll change your life and you will be able to experience not only just a happy, but you will be able to absolutely see a new year ahead of you, leaving that which is behind, looking forward to that which is ahead, which is a high call of God.

Andy McDaniel (00:50:42) - Amen. Amen, folks, it has been awesome to be back with you here in 2024. Again, we want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. We pray that everything that we've said today has been a blessing to you and really, really been life impacting. It is awesome to be back and to kick this new year off with my dear friend, Pastor Brad. Um, I want to just take a minute and let everybody know about, you know, Southview, what's happening over there, how they can come and visit with you, check you out online, all those different things. Sure.

Brad Lynch (00:51:07) - Uh, Southview Baptist Church, we're over in Hope Mills. Uh, we're, uh, you can find us at Southview Bbc.com, uh, services Sunday morning, 930 and 11. Uh, we'd love to see you.

Andy McDaniel (00:51:19) - Absolutely. Well, I encourage all of you if you're over on that side of town, go see Pastor Brad. I know without a question you'll be blessed. Well, I want to thank pastor for joining us today.

Andy McDaniel (00:51:28) - I want to thank all of you for joining us today. Uh, we are grateful for your time. We're grateful for your prayers, your support, and we're looking forward to a banner year of coffee with the pastor as we kick off 2024 and look forward to being with you each and every Monday, Lord willing. To all of our fellow pastors that are out there, we spoke about this earlier in the show, um, keep Jesus a center of everything that you're doing. I know, as I said, I'm entering into my 23rd year, that that's a long time for some a short time for our brothers that are out there. They've been doing for 50 years. Okay, but but but for those that are just getting started or for those that have really hit that wall, I know it's difficult. We've all had those moments. I've quit every Monday for the last 23 years. Okay. It's real. But Jesus is still good. God is still good. Nothing has changed. And if he says, I have rescued you from the power of darkness that does not have a time stamp, that does not have an expiration date.

Andy McDaniel (00:52:25) - Hang on and hold on and keep looking through that windshield. Look up every now and then in the rearview mirror to remind you what's there, but keep going forward. Friends, that does it for us today. I am your host, pastor Andy, this is coffee with the pastor where Jesus is good all the way to the last drop.

Announcer (00:52:44) - You've been listening to coffee with the pastor, with your host, Andy McDaniel. Connect and learn more when you visit the podcast page at Christian 105.7. Com and join us each week for coffee with the pastor on Christian 105.7.



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