

There is Hope Radio
Why Not Become a Christian-Part Six, Transcript
Follow up-Christianity is a Crutch
PreacherRichD

Welcome to There is Hope Radio, our radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures

PreacherRichD-This is your radio host PreacherRichD and I want to jump in here and let you know that the following is going to be a recording that Bobby and I did. It was to follow up on the topic of why some people don't accept Christ because they see the Bible, Christianity, Jesus, God, all those things as a crutch that people lean upon. We had already covered that topic and we talked about some of the benefits of quote the crutch but in this podcast it is actually a conversation that Bobby and I had that was more off the air and became very personal and I decided to go ahead and make this a public podcast. I think the things that we shared is helpful and it was all tied to the fact that I was talking about the fact that just because we accept Jesus, just because we become a Christian, doesn't mean that everything goes well and great for us. It doesn't mean we don't have troubles. Doesn't mean we have problems so if Jesus is just a crutch to help us to not have any problems or deal with problems then he's not a very good crutch. I actually need a wheelchair or might even need more than that to be able to deal with some issues in life and so it's more of myself sharing my own personal challenges at times and Bobby's reaction to what I was sharing. But it really is to try to help you understand that we don't ever say that because you accept Jesus Christ that life is going to be simple and easy you're no longer to have problems. In fact what I shared is in my own personal testimony when I came to Christ that there was more troubles more problems, not less problems. I don't know how anybody can survive some things that goes on in life at various times in our life without having the Holy Spirit working in our life and the love of God working in our life and I'm not ashamed to say "hey there's times I'm very thankful for quote that crutch." So hopefully this podcast will be of help to you.

PreacherRichD-12 steps, and AA, celebrate recovery all the 12 step programs, and it's acknowledged that there's a power greater than yourself and then then to turn your life over to that power greater than yourself. If it's 12 steps why is it there is two and three. There must be a reason why those two or three, you probably can't do the others without getting the two and three taken care of.

Bobby-That's exactly the point.

PreacherRichD-Isn't that why you see people not make it in a lot of 12 step programs because they're trying to do the rest of the steps and they haven't got two and three taken care of, which is you acknowledge there's a power greater and turn your life over to that power.

Bobbie-Yeah it's very interesting because it's I mean and that's why I struggle and I mean it's still I mean new situations come up for me and and it still can be confusing at times because I can take back that power at any given minute. When all of a sudden a new sit, a new

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trouble arises and then my first my first thought is like oh I know I'll go fix it and then I go run and jump into that and then I realized oh I was doing it on my own. Like didn't even consult God and so yeah that's the hard part but it takes a relationship in order to and that's what's hard to get when you're new. Your instincts scream like I mean if you've been if you've been running the show and doing it yourself and you've been such a survivor for 30, 40, 20 years then you think you've got this and then so the idea of turning it over to something bigger is really it's so foreign. And because you're when every ounce of your body screams you can do this like do it your way you know how to do it and you all of a sudden got to do something. Very different so it's a very interesting process to watch and most people you know I find in my experience nine out of ten people maybe more. Whoever's listening to us if they have not quote grabbed the crutch if they haven't grabbed it they have no idea what we're talking about and never will.

PreacherRichD-Right never will and always think that somehow we're deceived. But what happens is invariably there are those who have that mindset and God brings things into their life to bring them to a place that that's all they have, that they won't make it, they will not survive, they won't live another second without grabbing a higher power to enter into life, and of course we believe that higher power is Jesus Christ that he died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave so that we could live. Actually live in victory over sin and that we can't take the promises that God has for us. So what I want to do is I don't want people to think that what we're talking about is you end up accepting Jesus, you believe in God, you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, that everything is fine no more problems no more troubles.

PreacherRichD-Well the truth of the matter is that there are things that we go through as Christians. They always remind me it's not about me it's about him and that my strength. Really is him and I've had to have those reminders along the way. So I want to share right now. I'm just gonna be open as can be. I'm depressed. I'm struggling with who I am as a person and my identity in Christ and my identity and other things. I'm struggling with people challenging my integrity, and I know that in the midst of it God's the answer. The Bible says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me in Philippians 4:13 it says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I don't feel like His strength is there right now. Where's You, where's that strength God, I need that strength. It says in Isaiah 40:29 he gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Man right now I feel weary I feel weak I feel no strength at all. So the Bible must be a lie, it must not be true, so that crutch isn't working for me right now. If Jesus is a crutch, a Christian is a crutch, God's a crutch, I need a bigger crutch, I need a wheelchair, not a crutch, because it's not working for me. But I would say that a reason it isn't working for me is because one, it's not something you can work, you can't manipulate God to do what you want to do. And you can't change the fact you live in a broken fallen world, so there's gonna be things that come your way in a broken fallen world. And I would say that sometimes God quote doesn't show up, isn't there, that quote crutch isn't there, because He's doing something in you and so He's working something out in you, so He has to allow some of that suffering, allow some of that feeling weak and helpless and feeling like you you've lost control to get you back on track and really focus on He really is the only answer. Did all that make sense to you?

Bobbie-100%, absolutely. Just have me thinking. Yeah, why I maybe I don't know if it should be on air. I mean I'm curious to know you know that first I'm curious to know about the first year of your started becoming a Christian and what those struggles look like and is it the same struggles that you're going through now is that what you know.

PreacherRichD-No the struggles I had the first two years there was none the first two. Now you understand the difference though I first came to Christ out of logic, out of deep study ,realizing that there's no way that the Bible can be a fairy tale, there's just too much evidence of the legitimacy of the Bible. I mean I am the head guy, right, the knowledge guy ,and so I was absolutely convinced the Bible is true. Absolutely convinced that the Bible is true, that then I'm a sinner and I need a Savior. But do you see that I was convinced I'm a sinner because the Bible said so. I wasn't completely convinced I was that bad of a guy and so my first two years I think God gave me some grace to build my relationship with Him, and then wanted to take me to a place of hell to let me know how bad of a guy. Because if you ask me now how bad of a guy I am, and I've been a Christian, I don't know how many years, 40 years whatever, it is if you ask me I've been I would say I'm a miserable human being absolutely without Christ. I am a miserable rotten human being without Christ, and I would say I had to go through some stuff so that it wasn't head knowledg that I'm a sinner, but I was a sinner. But yet there was for my first two years, in my first two, now I'm not saying id did no go through troubles in my first two years .I went through some bad stuff my first two years, but my first two years is I came to Christ, almost immediately I'm going to a little church and they make me a youth leader. I don't even know what the Bible teaches and they're already making me a youth leader because they saw, they saw the hunger in me for God. So there's this deep hunger for God and they saw the gift, I think you Bobby you can knowledge, I'm a teacher, I'm gifted and able to share the Word of God and teach the Word of God ,and they saw that in me. And what that did is caused me to dig deeper in the Bible. It caused me to get closer to the Lord, and so I didn't want sin in my life. I didn't want to live in rebellion to God, and if that's how you are things probably go easy, right, if you're, if you're letting him live in you things go easier because he's in control not you. And that isn't always the case because he has to keep fine-tuning us but at that time that was the case. And yet my wife was cheating on me regular basis, phone calls saying your wife's good in bed, okay obviously things were happening in my life. I caught my wife with somebody in bed in the midst of that when I did that I just forgave them. I said to both of them I forgive you and I told her 'hey if you're still going to come home and be married and not cheat anymore come on home. I'm gonna forgive you and love on you." Now how could I do that. I can tell you that's a great crutch to have to not kill somebody because what I was going to do. When I saw her car at that guy's house at 2 o'clock in the morning I started to drive home to get my pistol and I don't know who I was gonna kill but somebody was going to be dead ,and right when I was driving to get my pistol, clear as can be the Holy Spirit says Christians don't kill people they forgive them. Now how in the world could I forgive them without the power of God. So you'll never, never tell me there is not a God. All right so that that was my journey at the beginning.

PreacherRichD-Then we moved from Oregon to Alaska thinking it all will change and it didn't change. She cheated on me on the ferry as we're going to Alaska. Okay, not none of that's fun .I made her get an abortion before we're a Christian. I become a Christian I believe in the sanctity of life and then she got pregnant and then she got an abortion. That was

devastating to me because for me it was my redemption-is that I had my own child taken and now I have a child that can live, and the child was murdered. And now I look at it maybe wasn't even my own child. I don't know who knows what it was if she's cheating on me. But so that was my first couple years. So it was it was a lot of things going on, but God just gave me the strength to be able to go through that. Then I go to Bible college and get married again and that was just a hellish time of my life. A hellish time my life for a lot of different reasons, and a lot that God had to do a big work in me. A big big big work in me. There's a lot of changing he had to do on me because Rich could no longer be in control. He had to be in control.

Bobbie-So you started to take back and I mean and that's what led to this suicidal thoughts is that so? We, I think a lot of us can relate to the pink cloud or you know when we first find it's just like oh yeah and the relationship so strong and he has so much grace and we're just really feeling that. I mean I can say that like I remember. I think that's God's mercy keep us on track at first of course and but so eventually at least in my experience. I when I work with other addicts and alcoholics is like for instance right now there's a guy just he was rocking and rolling and he loved , he just saved my life because he had so much God in him it just oozed over onto me and I just thought like that I got to have that. This guy's a few months over it's just amazing you know as we progress he gets a job and then now he's faced with you know he's working a lot and what happens with a lot of us is that all of a sudden work becomes God. Then our girlfriend becomes God. Or something something gets in the way of that of that initial walk but the bottom line is that something happens. For whatever reason we start taking back control and it sounds to me like that that's what you're saying is that maybe in some areas you started to take some control over.

PreacherRichD-I would say that was part of it without realizing that that was part of it. But for me a lot of it was I saw how ugly of a human being I was yeah and so I saw how ugly the human being was so I thought if I just bite the bullet both the bootstraps cinch the belt I'm gonna get through this. And of course I didn't. And then I'm you know I'm winning people to Christ I'm sharing the gospel, while I'm go home and all of a sudden I'm in depression, suicidal. Then I go to work. I'm sharing at work I'm witnessing at work I'm helping people that are addicts at work. I'm helping Natives in Alaska. I'm you know working with some native people that you know have an addiction problem that literally live on the streets and freezing to death out in the cold. I'm touching their lives and yet my life's an absolute mess. And so part of that was for me I don't know some of that was take control but I think a lot of it was is for me it was if I just work harder if I can get an A in Christianity this suicidal stuff will go away. If I if I get if I get an A in performance then this stuff will go away. I'll be fixed. I'll be taken care and so that was the control, so yeah you're absolutely right, now that I talk yeah, I think control. I just had a different way of taking control. That way of taking control is if I just do the right things that everything's going to work out.

Bobbie-Yeah absolutely. I's some sort this has been my experience at least for myself when I get into trouble there's something that I've taken control over there's something where without even realizing it I have stopped turning that over I have stopped consulting the power. I have stopped asking Jesus. I have I have blocked Him out for some reason and the reasons are different and the circumstances are different but ultimately at the end I figure out oh okay that was just an area of my life that that I just was so unaware of that I wasn't

turning over to God. Geez let me let me use the crutch again and it's just it just rears itself up so often and especially when my relationship is distant. It's really hard to see that. It really is.

PreacherRichD-Yeah and I want to say and so then I go to the quote the crutch again. that people call it a crutch. The reason I say it's not a crutch because if it is a crutch it's not a very good one because we still reach dark moments. So yeah it is if it was just a crutch it was just some formula then the formula can work all the time. It's not a formula it's a relationship that here's the key if you have a crutch it means you have a broken leg and you need that crutch to walk. We can walk without being in a relationship with God but when we have that intimacy with God man that walk is so different. So that walk is when we feel weak.

PreacherRichD-Well you know, I'm you know part of my the reason I'm kind of depressed is because I I'm looking and saying man at 70 years old I've been a Christian for years. I mean I should be better off than where I'm at and yet if I compare myself to others I'm further along all that stuff. But when you compare yourself to God you know, you realize, how far you, how much you fall short. And there's just a lot of things that have come at me at one time because God is doing something and so I don't see that. Then me trusting God is the crutch because honestly there's times I don't feel his presence whatsoever I don't feel his strength. Psalm 73:26 says *my flesh and my heart fail me but God is the strength of my heart my portion forever*. I can tell you sometimes my flesh and my heart fail me and it doesn't feel like God's the strength of my heart but at the end of the day what I always come to God is the strength. He is my strength and so the reality is He's there all the time with me and I need Him there with me all the time to walk in the path He has for me. And life is just better when I'm leaning upon Him instead of me. I would say if you want to do things on your own go ahead, you don't need a higher power than you if you're okay with you and that's working out fine for you then keep doing, and see how that works for you. It may work for you, and we'll close in a moment, why it don't work in eternity. But I would argue for most people, we read it in the news how many people have anything and everything and then things collapse on them and they take their life or they give up or you know divorce happens. You know, so there's a child that in a family passes away and then the couple fight against each other and then they get divorced after the loss of a child when they should be staying together supporting each other. Because I would just say that in life. life is just going to throw you some things that you cannot handle. That's why some people say they don't need a crutch because alcohol is their crutch, because drugs are their crutch, because their work is their crutch, because sex is their crutch, because foods are crutch. So when they say I don't need a crutch they're actually lying, they're not being honest to themselves or to others.

Bobby-That make sense. I have a question and since uh yeah this is the get real podcast you know so that's what I love that too and it dawn on me until I re-listened to it yesterday that that's and you're the get real preacher. I love that because it really is you. Always been you. But so it's one I should say that it's a comfort to me in someone and I mean it is to think that because you're somebody who I respect so much spiritually right? You're you're you're a wonderful ideal and example and you're a great vessel and I've seen you and I do I've seen things and I don't mean to blow smoke but so to see you struggle at 50 years 45, 44 years or 47 years, for you to say that you can be depressed today.

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Bobbie-So if you're depressed because of your identity would you say that that's an area in your life that right now you are at least for however long this little struggle has been passed, is that you would be a failure to be okay that would be a Rich design and a Rich ideal of what you should be, what you should look like in your walk with God down here on this earth. Because wouldn't by default if you were to use that crutch you would be completely okay with whatever it is right now. Because you know that God's involved.

PreacherRichD-That I would say that's that's that's right on. And so here, if you're going to use the crutch, here's the 'crutch' we use that 'crutch' just because you know for people that may be listening they call it that. It is that my identity is to be in Christ alone that's that's the 'crutch'. That my identity is in Christ alone. So my identity is in Jesus and so I see myself how Jesus sees me. I see myself as loved by Jesus. That I'm precious in the eyes of God. Then it doesn't matter what anybody else thinks about me and then if my identity is anything other than that it's going to fail me. So here I was going to get real. My whole issue is I'm a person and you know this about me Bobby. This isn't just bragging this is it's just who I am. It's who God made me. It's a gift that He gave me, would not be if it wasn't for Him. So it has nothing to do with me whatsoever. It's what he's put into me. I'm a person of integrity and a person of honesty. Now that doesn't mean I've never lied okay, doesn't mean I've never told a half truth. Because I've been a Christian, I'm obviously much better at integrity, honesty now as a Christian than I was before. But if my identity is I'm a person of integrity, let's get real come on that's why it's called let's get real, that is why called that let's get real show is because a person has integrity and honesty can be real because if you're not real you're fake and if you're fake you're a liar you're a deceiver. And to me it's black and white. Like that it's literally, I'm that black and white to me. If you're not real you're fake and if you're fake you're not walking integrity and honesty. And so everything I do I try to do that way and because that's my identity and I feel confident about that. But when you challenge, that you're challenging who I am as a person, well there's a problem because if my identity is in Christ and not on my integrity and honesty then you can challenge me, question my integrity, honesty, you can do whatever, don't matter, because I know who I am in Christ. And most of the time I've walked that way. You saw me in the sober house. It didn't matter what guy said about me, what they did in the end of the day I was confident what I was doing is the right thing to do to help people to become clean and sober. I did a lot of things wrong. Lot of mistakes, look back now could have done a lot of things different. But I think you know that if somebody said Rich is doing this for the money there was no money involved for me. If Rich is doing this for reputation I was not some big celebrity in Seattle by running clean and sober houses in Seattle. So what was it. It was because I care about the people.

Bobbie-So this poses a thought and this is why because I relate to it so much and this is why when you say stuff sometimes like you don't know who you are or it's causing me depression or something and it's like I see that and I'm just like wow that's probably the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard in my life. Like one, how could you be confused because like you know one thing like you're the guy who right when I first got to Seattle my flight didn't get in until like 2 in the morning or something like that and you were right there to pick me up, and you didn't know me. You knew a little bit about Ed. I mean you didn't know me and you picked me up. You know we got into an argument and we were not on speaking terms when I left there and you know I ended up going to jail and who was there

to drive hours to come and get me. You know, and it's like you know I know the stories about you and Carmi. I'm leading somewhere here but I'm just trying to give a few examples and you know like you said you're a person who walks with integrity and you know, you know who you are in Christ. I mean it was just selflessness, a lot of selflessness, and as a selfish narcissist right like we don't do that on our own. So why would it ever matter, why would it ever matter what some person says about you. Like it's, like what you know, if you know you are a selfless person, you know that your person integrity and honesty, if you know a person that's serving God with the best that you know, how you also know that you're a basket case without him, then what does it matter what people think.

PreacherRichD-Right.

Bobbie-It's like because if you, if it's like you're asking one person and it's like he may have the most rotten opinion of you ever he may fully question your integrity and he may say you're doing this and you're doing this but then it's like you could come ask me the same question or you could come ask Ed the same question, or a countless number and it's like you want to focus on that. I mean, not that I don't mean, like you know what I'm saying it's just. It's very interesting what you do.

Bobbie--Well I would say literally, instead of literally looking at all the examples and bottom line is who you know you are, you know you're somebody who. You and I didn't talk for about a year just for no other reason other than time got away from us or whatever but you know I reach out and you answer the call and you and we have a great talk and we start like that's who you are like. I just like to me it's so funny because it's like I can't imagine a better example or for somebody to feel better about themselves than to know that they're that person who will take a call from an old friend and just try to be useful. Like I just in my eyes that is that type of person is that the very top of what Jesus was talking about. And all of the stuff that He said like. Then so all the other stuff is just so, it's so funny and comical when you put it into perspective, and it's like it's funny to hear that you struggle in identity, or you are struggling now with identity. And it's like I know I've seen your identity. Even like right off the bat when I was trying to wait for you to fall through the cracks, you know like trying to wait for you to reveal and you know show me that you're the deceiver and you just never have. Mistakes are fine, but you know you've never been deceitful or anything. So it's just an interesting. It's an interesting thing because to me if you were to ask me it's absurd to be honest.

PreacherRichD-The answer is it reveals the fact that all of us are broken no matter how many good traits we have no matter how positive things are there, were still broken vessels will be until we receive our glorified body, and that the other thing is all those good traits you talk about me I know there absolutely is because God in me. It's Him. Nobody knows that more than I do because I live it within me. That it's God and that the reality is I also know you take God out of the picture I could be the most vindictive, make you pay, kind of person that you can imagine.

PreacherRichD-So there's a couple of things. One is this not one person that's questioning my integrity it's several people and it's all foolishness. You would really think is absurd if you knew all the story. You would say Rich what in the world is wrong with you? You need to get

some medication or something because this is absolutely ridiculous. You know it'd be like 20 addicts all coming against me. They're all in the midst of using meth right at the moment and they're all saying I'm a lot better person than you. You let those 20 meth addicts that right now they're smoking meth and they're telling you that you're a rotten human being and you're actually depressed because they're saying that.

PreacherRichD-But you can't trust in your merits, we can't trust in our goodness, we can't trust in our good deeds, we can't trust in anything else but in Christ. And that identity has to be in Him because if it isn't the devil is going to try to get at us every way possible. So the truth of the matter is I look at this and you know and remember we talked about James 1:2, to consider all joy my brethren you encounter various trials tribulations because it's the perfecting of your character. Ultimately in the midst of this it sounds stupid but I have 'crutch' to lean upon. It sounds stupid but in the midst of this, discouraged, depressed, looking at me at the flaws I have, and all these different things, is I consider it joy that this is happening right and because that means that God is working on me, he's molding me, he's shaping me, he's making things go away that needs to go, he's doing whatever he has to do.

PreacherRichD-And I look at the people, and the people are not my enemy, they may see me as an enemy, or they may say they disdain me, they hate me, they're jealous of me, whatever it is, what's going on with them, that's a whole other story. With all of that God's using that to mold me, and shape me, and change me, so it would be foolish for me to get mad at them. I'm not saying I don't get mad, and I'm not saying, I've already said it is affecting me, but at the end of the day it's passing through God's hands, so if I want to be mad at somebody I need to be mad at God. And I just think it's stupid to be mad at God if he's doing something to make you a better person. Why would you be mad at the person that's trying to help you be a better human being on this earth. That you can be a person that can help more people by being real Because this whole broadcast could be used against me. Come on Facebook somebody take this. They don't like me. They turn around and post all this stuff and put it on the air. But see they can't, they can't harm me. They can do things that can affect me, you know emotionally and some other things, but at the end of the day they can't harm me because my identity at the end of the day is in Christ.

And I would say the difference for me and you Bobby. We're both struggling, as you struggle more because I would say one, I think you need more of an encounter with the love of God. I think you need more of your identity is in in God. It isn't in anything else. I think I've just happened to learn the lesson. One I've been a Christian ten times longer and so I've learned the lesson. The other thing is I think you brought in some baggage I didn't have and I brought on baggage that you don't have and God works with all of us differently. And I will say I got on the zero turn mower mowing at a hundred degree weather. Who wants to mow at 100 degree weather. But I said I just need to be out. I need to be out of the house because I'll just lay in the bed and be depressed. I'll turn around and I'll have all these reasons why. I'll be totally honest another reason. This is my wife's birthday today. In the past all my suicidal stuff, of my depression, was whenever there was a holiday, whenever there's a special event going on. So it only makes sense if I feel like my integrity is being questioned God's trying to work some things out of me. That the enemy would come in and find out if one of those weapons that has worked in the past, and try to use it on me to see if I am sober and alert. I'm aware of that.

Bobby-All right. And all that being said, and the reason why I just thought that this would be so interesting to talk about is because we'll be able to see you know, 10 podcasts from now 20 podcasts, 50 podcasts from now, what the actual crutch of God looked like.

Bobby- You can be going through it. You can be depressed. You can be doing all this stuff. But you're still here doing this with me. You're still doing the show. You still didn't lie in bed, which is a lot, because a lot of us do that at times, right? When we're depressed. Then so we'll get to see what God looks like, you know 10 podcast we'll probably get to see the difference. In all maybe well, maybe we should revisit this and remind ourselves to talk about this in six months from now or three months from now.

PreacherRichD-Yeah, and here's the story. When people say the God the Bible, Jesus all this stuff's a crutch. It's a fairy tale. I don't think what me and you talk about on these podcasts is fairy tales. This isn't a Cinderella story. It all turns out good. No, sometimes things don't all turn out good. Sometimes tomorrow's worse. Tomorrow may be worse than today for me. Well, I mean it may be worse than today. And how can I laugh about that. Right? That's about as stupid as can be. Well, I can laugh about it because one the devil's a liar. too my identity is in Christ. Three, as long as I want to cooperate with God, he's gonna mold and shape me so that I'm more mature. So I'm more a reflection of Christ. So I have more love, so I have more compassion. So, when somebody says to me "hey, somebody's really calling me a liar", "you know, my boss is saying I stole this tool and I didn't and it's just devastating me" I can tell him Hey, "I know what it's like to be devastated and be accused of something." I can tell you that I know this. "I didn't lash out at anybody." "I didn't go and make anybody pay a price for what they have done to me, or tried to bully them. Any of that stuff? So if your boss accuses you of stealing a tool and you didn't do it. The worst thing you can do is to turn around and yell and scream at your boss and walk out the job and quit. Because you just let them enemy one win. But you can turn around and show integrity and the boss says, "you know the way this guy behaves there's no way. Quilty people always act guilty, right? And this guy don't act guilty. This guy does act mad hurt upset, but he doesn't act guilty.

PreacherRichD-And here's the thing I know God in the end. Here's the greatest news and then we'll wrap up. The greatest news is God's my advocate and if He's my advocate, He knows the truth. He covers my rear, you know, He takes care of it He proves that the lies aren't true.

PreacherRichD-So there's guys that said stuff in our sober houses that spread rumors about me. Some pretty ugly stuff. I didn't know some of them, you weren't there I mean. One guy spread a rumor that I was a child molester. So he's got everybody, he's trying to, try I don't think he got anybody probably, but he tried to get everybody convinced that Rich Dover is a child molester. One of the worst things you could say because guess what with guys in jail, guys in prison, they can take any crime except what, a child molester. So I have a sober house full of guys that come in and out of jail and everything else, and the guy running the program is called a child molester. That's one of the best ways to try to get me taken out, to try to get, they have no credibility, to actually cause me harm potentially. All it takes is some guy to get high that's in the house and think he's got to take out the child molester. And so

how come I didn't respond to that? Because I'm not child molester, don't need to respond to it.

PreacherRichD-So why can't I do that in other stuff? Well, because God's still working on me. I knew I was going to go through this. He's been preparing me and that's nothing. Bobby I would say for you is be prepared for those darts, because I would say I knew that for the last couple months. I knew things were kind of stirring up in such a way in the fact that we're doing more ministries. So the devil don't like us doing more ministry. We're getting more favor with people in areas of ministry. The devil doesn't like that. I knew that as I'm transitioning out of something to something else that the devil would like to disrupt some trouble there. So I knew there would be things of some sort and I knew kind of how they probably would go. I know this somebody has integrity. People don't like people that have integrity and honesty. People who strive for that find people who are dishonest try to take out people with integrity because people with integrity expose dishonest people. And so I kind of knew all that so I was prepared kind of what's going on.

PreacherRichD-And then I just knew God was saying Richard. It's time to go another level and the only way most of us go another level is He has to stir up a little thing. Yet I don't know God let's the devil stir up a few things and God just sits back and says, okay "go for it devil", you know the job story. The whole job story. Okay devil go ahead and you can do some things, you can't take his life, you can do some things but I know him. I know I know what he'll do in the end. God says, "I know that He loves me. I know that He'll trust me in the end. I know that He'll know that I'm his strength in the end. And I also know he maybe will struggle along the way before he gets there. And that's every one of us, that's every Christian's journey, and some just don't do very good at it, and some do really bad at it, and they don't have a mindset of being a warrior against the evil. And don't have a mindset that I'm going to fight the good fight of faith. And when a fight comes they give up because they haven't had a lot of success in it, and others have more success in going to battle. Come on there's men of war that they've had so much success in battle that the battle doesn't threaten them like a newcomer and that's where God wants us to be at.

PreacherRichD-So as we close on the topic of a crutch Bobby ,just kind of sum up on Jesus, God a crutch. We're thankful that we have God in our life. We're thankful that Jesus our Lord and Savior We're thankful that we have the Holy Spirit our life, right?

Bobby-Very thankful get that crutch. We'll take it and We'll use it.

PreacherRichD-Yeah, and we want to use it all the time. Not just some of the time. We get in trouble when we're trying to not use it, when we're trying to do it on our own. So we would say that unless you unless you taste it, you don't know. It's good. You know, I love peaches. Some people have never tried a peach because it has a fuzzy surface to it and they have no idea what it tastes like inside. And I would say that some people have an image of what God is like but they've never seen what God's truly like. They have an image of who he is, but they have no idea who he is and so they've never been able to experience Him in their life. I would just share with those who are listening is What's the worst that can happen Bobby? You said this in the last podcast. You want to say it again? What's that worse? What's the worst thing that can happen if you jump in and try God all the way? What's the worst that can happen?

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Bobby-It doesn't work

PreacherRichD-And if it doesn't work, it just means you stay where you're at, right?

Bobby-Yeah.

PreacherRichD-I would just say that In spite of everything we said how great it is to have God in our life and how He helps us, gives us the strength to go through, we can go through, that we can talk about the struggles, the troubles and be real about them We don't have to be fake. Not Christianize and say it's all smooth and great. We can be real and say hey life is the pits at times. I still love God and I still believe God is real and he's still there and he is my strength even when I don't feel like it. All that stuff is important.

PreacherRichD-But the bottom line there is a crutch. The crutch is that you cannot get to heaven and have eternal life where there is peace, where there is no more war. There's no more sickness. There's no more disease. There's no more anger. There's nothing but love. That the only way you're going to get to heaven is through quote the crutch Jesus. That the only way you can get to heaven is for Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior. The only way that happens is to do what the second, third steps of the twelve steps are. It is you're gonna have to acknowledge that there's a power greater than you, and turn yourself over to that power, and if you're determined to get to heaven by your good works, you're gonna fail miserably. If you're going to try to get to heaven by someone you know, because aunt Susie knows Jesus, you're not going to get to heaven. If you think you're going to get to heaven By how much you've donated and supported some ministry, that's not going to get you to heaven. The only way you're going to get to heaven is with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. And amazingly some people make this so hard, but it's so simple.

PreacherRichD-Here's all it is. I I'm a sinner. I fall short. I make a lot of bad choices. I make a lot of mistakes. I might be a good person overall, but there's a lot more bad than good in my life. And when we just come to a place to say I'm a broken human being, and I confess I'm a broken human being, and I need a Savior to deliver me from me being a broken human being, and I no longer want to be a broken human being, I want to repent. I want to turn away from it. So whatever it is that binds you up, you just say, this has got me bound up. I want to get set free from this. I know that the only way I can get free from this is I need a Savior. Accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, and he needs to be Lord not just your Savior. He needs to be in control, not you. You can start out with him as Savior, but you won't last long, unless He takes charge. He needs to be in charge of your life and that means 24/7 and we just shared sometimes we don't let him be in charge 24/7. But that needs to be our heart and our desire ,and if that's your heart and desire to say I'm just messed up and I need a Savior and I want Him to take control. I'm not doing so good at this, then an amazing thing happens. God's Spirit will enter into your life, into your hear,t and there'll be a transformation that takes place, and you'll have no doubt. It may take a while before you know what's going on, but you will have no doubt that you truly are born again. There will be no question in your mind that something is taking place in you. And that is God entering into your life and bringing the transformation in your life, and then your life can change. But you don't accept Jesus so that you can have a good life. You accept Jesus because you're a sinner that needs a Savior. Out of that God can bring a good life, or He may let you have a

bad life. He may allow you to be suffering that you're persecuted and He calls you to go into Iran and die for Jesus. But it won't matter because you'll have eternal life and that's what's important. So I just challenge you come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

PreacherRichD-Well, Bobby, thank you for being on the air. Thank you for all the things that you shared. Thank you for your vulnerability I think one of the reasons you and I connect so well is because you're willing to be on a radio show and just spill your guts and somehow you don't care what people think, so I think your identity must be in Christ.

Bobby-That's the only reason why I don't care, but thank you all for tuning in. Hopefully this is of help to you. Hope it's an encouragement to you. I hope you it gets you thinking

PreacherRichD-Thank you for tuning in to There is Hope Radio.

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