

# Walking on Sunshine

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S GLORIOUS  
JOURNEY TO FREEDOM



A SUMMER STROLL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



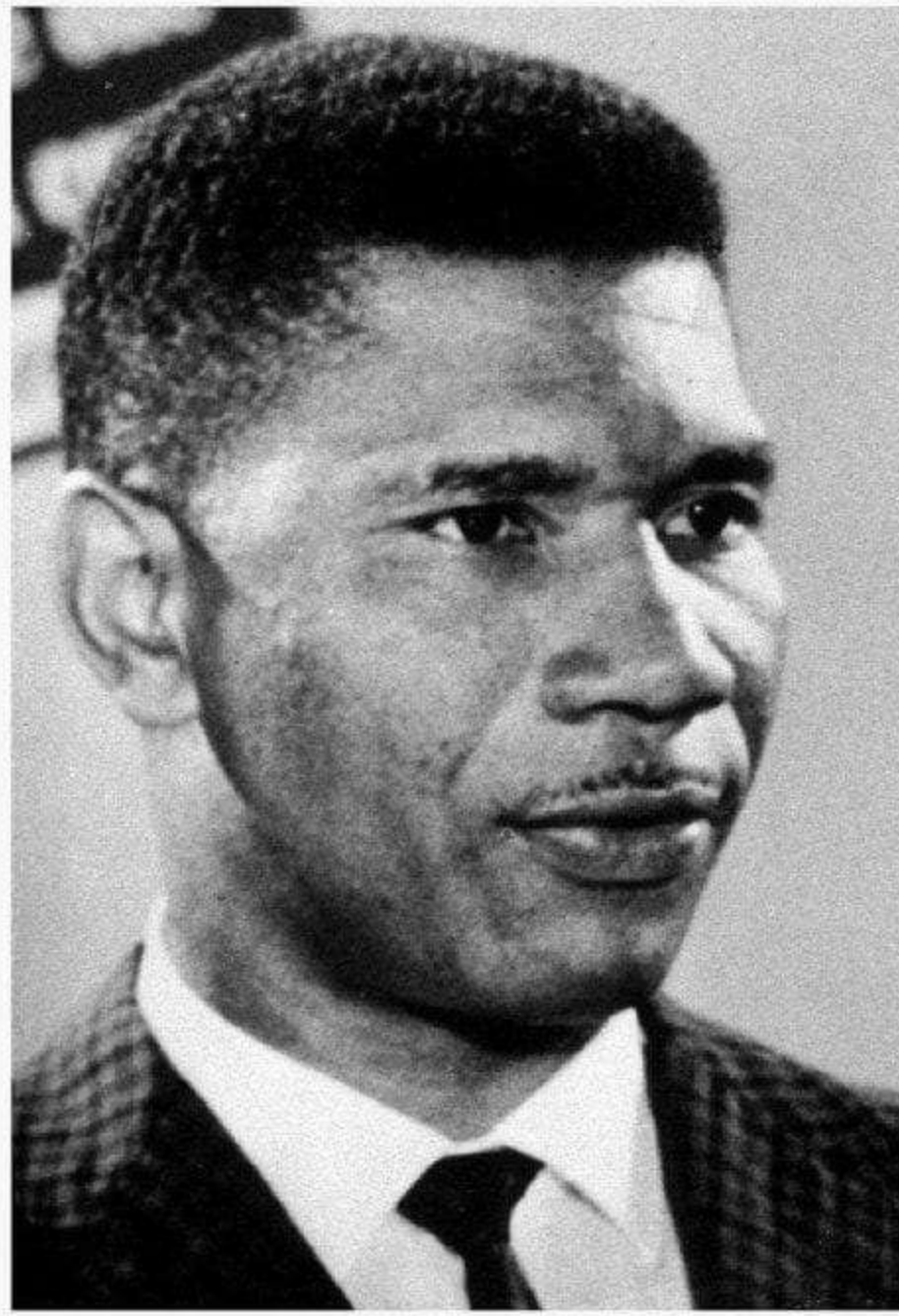










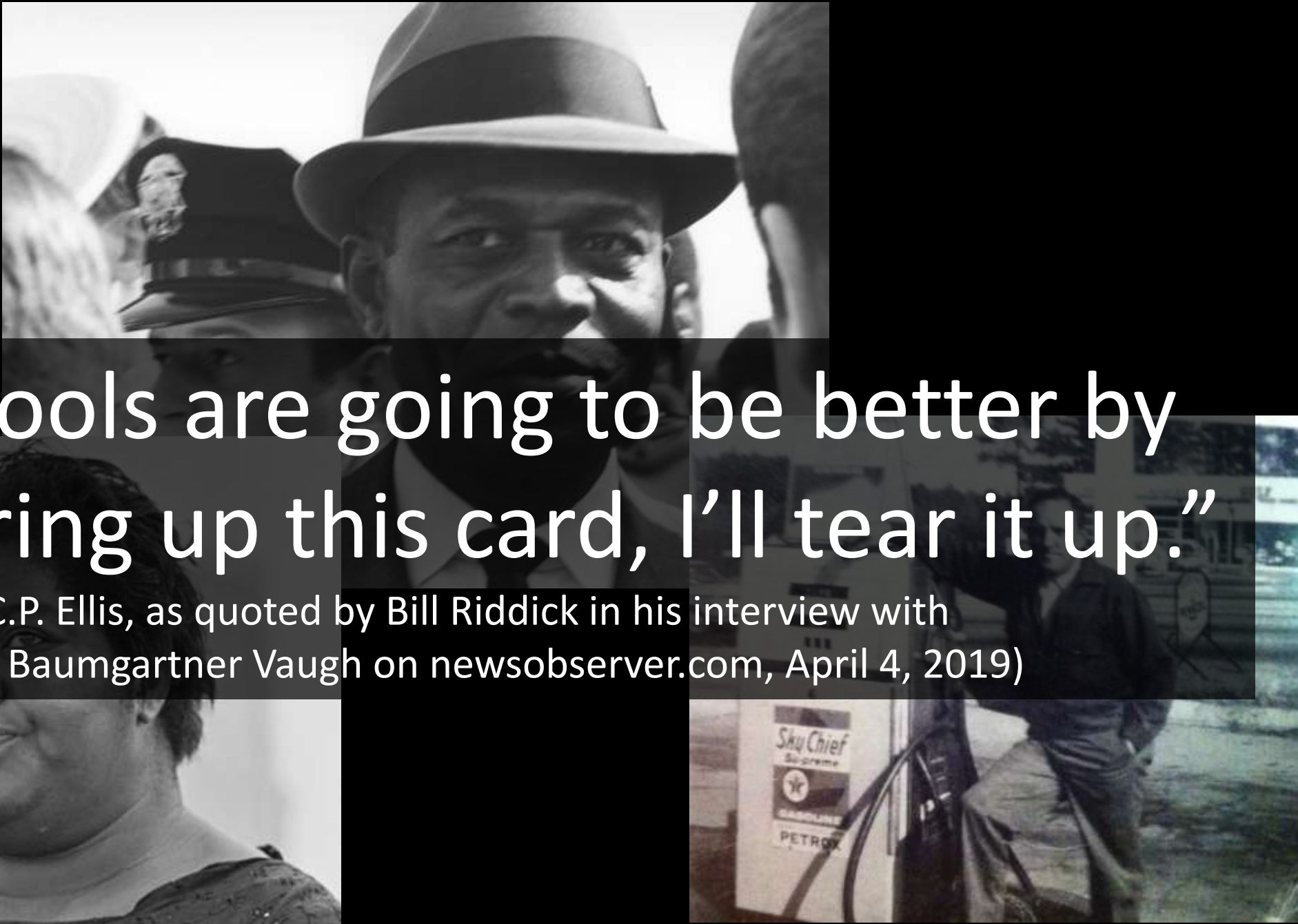












“If schools are going to be better by  
me tearing up this card, I’ll tear it up.”

(C.P. Ellis, as quoted by Bill Riddick in his interview with  
Dawn Baumgartner Vaughn on [newsobserver.com](http://newsobserver.com), April 4, 2019)







# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS

ACTS 15  
JUNE 30, 2019



# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Matthew 23:8: “You have one teacher, and you are all brothers.”

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# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



John 5:24 (ESV): “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 26:16-18 (ESV): “Rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, **17** delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles - to whom I am sending you **18** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Galatians 3:28 (ESV): “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 15:1-6 (ESV): “But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ **2** And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question....”



# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...**3** So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. **4** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them....”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.’ 6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



John 6:40 (ESV): “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS





# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Genesis 17:9-10 (ESV): “And God said to Abraham, ‘As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. **10** This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.’”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Romans 2:28-29 (ESV): “For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. **29** But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Romans 10:4 (ESV): “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 15:7-11 (ESV): “And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,...”



# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...**9** and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. **10** Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? **11** But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

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# Main Point



THE CHURCH SHOULD WORK TOWARD  
INTEGRATION, NOT  
ASSIMILATION.

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV): “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”



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Ephesians 2:11-15 (NIV): “Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (which is done in the body by human hands) - **12** remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world....”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...**13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.”

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# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 15:12-20 (ESV): “And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. **13** After they finished speaking, James replied, ‘Brothers, listen to me. **14** Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name....”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...**15** And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, **16** “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, **17** that the remnant of mankind, may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things...”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...**18** known from of old.” **19** Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, **20** but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 15:19 (NIV): “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Acts 16:30-31 (ESV): “Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ **31** And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.’”



# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Galatians 5:1-6 (ESV): “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **2** Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. **3** I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law....”

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



“...4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

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# APPLICATION



DON'T

CONFORM TO CHRISTIANITY;

CONFORM TO CHRIST.

# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



1 Corinthians 1:11-13 (ESV): “For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. **12** What I mean is that each one of you says, ‘I follow Paul,’ or ‘I follow Apollos,’ or ‘I follow Cephas,’ or ‘I follow Christ.’ **13** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”



# MERRY BAND OF MISFITS



Romans 8:29 (ESV): “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

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1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV): “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

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NEXT TIME: ACTS CHAPTER SIXTEEN