

Believe in Jesus

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Greetings It is such a great blessing for me to come to you today and bring the Gospel of God's grace to you once again. It is all about His influence and what He has come to give to us in the finished work of Jesus Christ. It is not about our works. It is about the work of God in us which works effectively to the bringing forth of the fruit of God, the very life of God, in our lives.

Prayer: Father, I want to thank You that we can gather together in Your name and we can gather in the name of Jesus and we can know that Jesus is Lord. He is the one that rules. He is our King. He is our Lord. He is our President. He is the only one to whom we bow our knee. He is also the one that has come to serve us and give us life.

Father, thank You that You speak powerfully through me today by the Holy Spirit. Thank You that I can bring a message of life that will set people free today, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen

Message: Today I would like to talk about Peter and what his view was on the kingdom of God while walking with Jesus on the earth. We are going to look at the famous passage in the Bible, the part where Peter denied the Lord three times. It was prophesied that he would deny the Lord three times. He basically said that he would lay down his life for Jesus. I'm going to take that and make it applicable to the here and now today. We are going to talk a little bit about how we are supposed to look at the kingdom of God in the light of our political situation what is going on in the world and what we should think of the kingdom of God in the light of our constitutions and all those kinds of things.

I trust that the message that I am going to teach today will be thought provoking and it might upset some folks. It might get you a bit "hot under the collar" but I believe this message is the truth and this is what brought freedom to my life. Our freedom is greater than the freedom that this world can offer. Our freedom cannot be touched. Our peace cannot be touched. It is in Jesus and Jesus Christ is Lord.

I am going to start off by reading **John 13:36-38** and then just explain the context there, what had to be going on in Peter's mind. Whenever you read the Bible you need to think of what would be going on in the minds of the people at that time. That is just called context. To contextually look at any passage in the Scripture is the correct way to look at it and from the true context we can see what God is saying to us today which is not part of the context of that passage. So, to have a message that is contextually accurate always gives context to the kingdom in the here and now.

So, we cannot just take the scripture and try to apply it directly to our lives today. We have to look at what it said in its context and that would be an application to our lives. What I mean by that is we cannot interpret the scripture in the light of our context. It has to be in the biblical context and that's what we are going to do here. We also have to look at what Jesus was thinking of what was going on in His mind when He answered Peter.

John 13:

36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, where do you go? Jesus answered him, Where I go, you cannot follow me now; but you shall follow me afterwards.

37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for your sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Will you lay down your life for my sake? Truly, I say to you, The cock shall not crow, till you have denied me three times.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.

Now that is a very, very profound thing to say in the context of what was going on. Jesus was saying to Peter, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now." We have always seen that as death, that Jesus was dying and Peter could not follow Him at that moment. Now, if we just think rationally about it, it cannot be true because if death was the context here, Peter would have been able to follow Him. Peter could have committed suicide and entered death, It would have been possible for Peter to follow Jesus into death. But I believe that Jesus was not talking about death. He was talking about the resurrection. He was talking about eternal, immortality in the body where He would be seated as a human at the right hand of God. And He said to Peter, "You cannot follow Me to that condition right now but there will be a day when you will follow Me." We all know that that day is still awaiting Peter, which is the day of the resurrection.

Now, what Peter had in mind here was to preserve Jesus. This is how I see it: He basically said, "Jesus, I think You are now going to die but I'm willing to lay down my life for Your sake. So, if You must die or if You are going to die, I want to just say that I am willing to give my life to protect You. I'm going to give my life to keep You alive." Peter was thinking that Jesus was in need of his life to keep His kingdom going in this world.

To make it practical into the here and now, that is what many of us think because we don't understand the kingdom. We don't understand what Jesus Christ has come to do... what God's objective was, what His dream was for humanity. So many times, we are willing to lay down our lives to 'keep Jesus going'. We want to keep Jesus going in our politics. We want to keep Jesus going in our country and we are saying that we are willing to lay down our lives to save Jesus. We want to lay down our lives, and this can be touchy but I want you to listen to what I want to say: We want to lay down our lives for our Constitutions because our Constitution is what we think is allowing Jesus to work in our country.

In South Africa, we have freedom of religion. We have a democracy and that is the same for most of the countries in Europe as well as the Americas. Now, if we think that we need a Constitution to allow for Christianity, in order for Christianity to be alive and that we are willing to give our lives, we are willing to put everything on the line, so that we can have a good constitution, so that we can keep Christianity alive, we are in the very same mistake as what Peter was. We are thinking that we need to give our life to keep Christianity going. I've got news for you. We don't have to keep Christianity going! We don't have to keep the kingdom of God going in the earth. The kingdom of God is an ever-advancing kingdom. It means that the kingdom of God can never go backward. It means that it is not like a battle wherein some places Jesus wins and then He loses two battles and then He advances in this area. Then the kingdom becomes smaller and then bigger and then smaller and then bigger and so while God is getting us to get our act together, so that we can get the things going in our country, so that through constitutions and those kinds of things, we can basically keep the kingdom going and that's how God is advancing His kingdom. It doesn't work like that!

The kingdom of God is an ever-advancing kingdom. It means it never goes back... not one day! It is ever advancing. It is never going backwards. The kingdom of God is what keeps us alive. We don't have to try and keep the kingdom of God going through whatever we do. The kingdom of God is and has been inaugurated in the earth when Jesus Christ walked the earth and was raised from the dead. When Jesus was seated at the right hand of the Father, He was appointed as the one with all authority in heaven and on earth. And through Him, peace and joy and love and kindness and the very quality of God's life is poured out in those who believe upon Him. And Jesus is advancing His kingdom in the world. He is bringing forth who and what He is in this world.

We can find that as a part of the advancing of the kingdom, we will find people that are in political authority and those kinds of things, that do show the fruit of the kingdom in their lives. Yet, the very kingdom of God is not kept alive by the position they have. Therefore, we don't have to give our lives for something that we think allows the kingdom of God whereby we have life.

In the Roman kingdom it worked like this: Rome and Caesar worship was the highest form of worship of the day. In Rome, Caesar worship was the highest worship. Then there were different gods that Caesar and Rome allowed people to worship and that was for political peace. That's the only way. In other words, keep Caesar happy, keep Rome happy, for then they will allow Judaism, or they will allow whatever god you believe in, to be worshipped. Make sure that you keep the Roman government in such a way that they can allow for your god to exist. And that is what I find many of us think. We think that if we don't give our lives to keep our constitution of our country, then our kingdom, or the kingdom of God, will not have free rule, free reign, in our country. That is not true. As long as what anything, and this is a touchy subject but, as anything that demands your blood to stay alive, in other words, it needs your life to keep it alive, that system is in need of life and it cannot provide life. That means that no political party, that needs your vote, can provide anything to you that God has promised. This is what Peter tried to do: "Lord, I will lay down my life to keep You alive. I will lay down my life to keep You going."

Then Jesus said, "Peter, listen. Let Me tell you something. Where I'm going is not a geographical place. It is a condition. And the condition which I am going into now is bodily immortality." Jesus, in His mind, had to have the resurrection in mind. And Peter, you cannot follow Me there. I will prepare a place for you, a mansion." (We are going to look at what a mansion means.) "I'm going to prepare a place for you but you cannot follow Me now but, I will come back and then I will take you into that condition but you cannot follow Me now." In the very same way, I want to say this to you and I am saying this to myself, "There's nothing that I can do to make the kingdom of God advance in the world. I am kept by the kingdom of God. I am in the hands of Jesus. It's not as if Jesus is holding me and then we need to create the platform that keeps the hand of God in the earth to be effective. That's not how it works. The freedom that God has given us is so robust that we don't need the things of this world to have true freedom in our heart.

Let's make it practical in the here and now: If we are saying that our freedom as Christians, if we say that we don't have freedom anymore because we must wear a mask, then you are also saying that my freedom is taken away by the legislation as pertaining to masks. That means that your freedom is subject to the ruling government and not above it. The freedom that God has given me is that I can be happy, full of joy, and have excessive joy and the life of God, no matter an open face or a mask. Some may be very upset by hearing this because, 'You are not going to take my freedom away by telling me that I must wear a mask!'

Listen! If you understand the kingdom of God, a mask can never take away your freedom. It cannot take away your joy. It cannot take away your peace if you wear it or you don't wear it. It might be a little bit more comfortable not wearing a mask. And if you ask me, I would say, "Man, I don't want to wear a mask and if you ask my opinion about masks, I would just say, "Well, my opinion is you don't have to wear a mask." That's my opinion. But that is not the government's opinion and I'm forced to wear a mask. What am I going to do? I am now going to say, "They took my freedom away!" And now you've immediately redefined your freedom as a Christian. And now you live as if you don't have any freedom anymore and it speaks to the depth of your heart where you feel, "I don't have freedom!" And you feel so upset and now you are going to give your life for freedom... the freedom not to wear a mask.

But I want to tell you that as a Christian your freedom is more robust than a mask or not a mask. You can have an equally big smile. Maybe somebody cannot see the smile but they can see from the wrinkles around your eyes that you are smiling because of the eternal life that you know that you possess because of Jesus Christ. Why do you want to take everything that God has given us... our definitions of freedom, of peace, of joy and life, because we are not part of this world but we are part of a different world, and now define it inside the systems of this world. It's not needed.

I once met a man who is truly free in so many areas of his life. Many of you know this story that I've told many times. I went to the southern parts of Malawi. If you look at a map, it has a small, narrow, piece of the country just going down into Mozambique and both sides of Malawi. It is basically hugged by Mozambique. We went into that very mountainous area there, a very poor area. There was no electricity, no running water, no proper toilets... none of that... poverty... forgotten by the government... just not cared for. There was a preacher that heard the Good News message and it impacted his life. He was happy every day. I never saw him not happy. He was flooded with joy... flooded with generosity and all those things.

He built himself a house with an iron sheet roof and he was upgrading from the typical mud hut with a thatched roof, to this much better house. The house was not very big. It was a small house of two rooms. That's all. We came there and he showed us his house that he's building and we saw that he needed about four iron sheets to finish the roof. He could only buy two iron sheets a month with the money that he made by fishing. He invited us to come and eat a meal at his house. So, we went to that house, two or three days later after he showed us the house. There was no concrete floor. It was just sand but he had a table there and he had chairs for ten people because the team was about 9 or 10 people. We were all there and we were eating. As we just started to eat, I looked up and I saw that all the iron sheets weren't there anymore. There were maybe two or three left. What this guy did was he went and sold his roof to give us a meal!

Now, his democratic system wasn't as democratic as what it was supposed to be. The government forgot him. He didn't have running water. His kids didn't have proper schooling. He had none of those things. His life was everything that we fear. His life was in that. He didn't have proper money. He didn't have roads. He had nothing. Yet, that man, his freedom and his joy was so robust that none of those things could stop the life of God that manifests in him to shine forth and impact all of us. When I looked at what that man did, I want to tell you if you tell him that he must wear a mask, he's not going to say, "You've taken my freedom away!" He's not going to say that! You cannot take his freedom away for his freedom is born from God!

If you want to say, "Well, it's going to be more comfortable to not wear a mask and you think it is not healthy and you want to raise your voice towards that, that's fine. But, let us not do it from a perspective as if the freedom that Christ has given us is taken away. Let us still be overjoyed with the joy of God and deal with these little things... these little, minute, little speck, is politics, man! It's just nothing. It's absolutely nothing! We don't have to keep our government and our constitutions going to give a helping hand to Jesus! We don't have to do that! His kingdom is an ever-advancing kingdom that can never end! And we, going to Jesus, saying to Him, "Jesus, we will lay down our lives for Your sake", Jesus is telling you, "Listen, where I am and the condition I am now, you cannot receive it right now. You will receive it in the day that I return." But, as for now, in the context of the New Testament, we can have the Spirit of that life and so experience the first fruit of that life in the here and now. That means that we will have enough of the life that is promised us to have an abundant life here.

And that abundant life is seen in the poor man in Malawi which is so abundant that he was an example of the life of God to us who had much more than him. Church, the problem is, what we have done, and I'm just speaking truthfully to you ... we have taken our culture and we have evangelized our culture. We brought our culture into Christianity and we think that Christianity will preserve our culture and so that we can have life. That is not the truth. The life that God has come to provide for us is more robust than anything of this world.

You know, I've spoken to you last week about my son having the operation. We thought we were going to pick him up on the Sunday but we didn't. We got him on the Monday. The operation that he had was about a two hour operation. The doctor said that the appendix mass they removed was the biggest that he had ever seen. He sat my son and me down on Thursday when they removed the drain. He said to me, "Sir, I just want to be honest with you. What happened to your son, what most people that that happens to don't survive it."

I first want to say that my son is okay and is doing very well. He's almost back to normal and I am very grateful for that. When I prayed for my son, the robust peace and joy and life, the foundation from where I could pray, sounded like this: My wife and I and our younger son gathered here in my studio and we prayed. This was my prayer: I said, "Lord, I want to come to You like Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego came. I know that You can heal my son. But I just want to say that, if for some reason I am not seeing healing manifest in him, I will not be able to stop to believe in You and have life from You. For my life is not found in does my son survive an operation or not." At that time we didn't know what was going on. The Sonar just showed a growth eight by eight centimeters. We didn't know what it was. The first thing that comes to your mind is that maybe this is a cancer. We didn't know what it is and the message of death comes to you. When the message of death came to me, this was the power of the kingdom of God that even if my son, my firstborn son, would die, it cannot rob me from what God has given in Jesus for he shall be saved in this sense that he shall also, even if he bodily dies, be raised from the dead.

And so shall I, if Jesus comes in my life and my son has died, he will be raised first and then I will be changed and we shall inherit the mansion from heaven which is an immortal, glorified, body. So, if my son had to die, that cannot take away my peace, the peace that was born from God, how can a mask or what a president, I almost want to say, 'stupid political leaders,' who have their life born from the things of this world, how can their stupidity and arrogance and all those kind of things, be any source from where I get my life, if I am presented with something that is so much greater.

Church, we cannot say that Jesus is Lord but live as if He is not Lord. He's either Lord or He is not Lord. He IS Lord! He is not Lord of heaven and then the presidents and the governments are now the lords of this world, having a little drop of the kingdom of God being dropped into this system. That's not how it works. The kingdom of God is something that is greater than the things of this world. The governments of this world is only here to provide a framework of legislation as pertaining to how our roads work, schooling and those kinds of things.

It is like a speck of nothing in the light of what God has given us because we have seen in this world and countries like Malawi, in Zambia, in places like North Korea, China, all those places... we have seen Christians that are flooded with a peace and a joy that is greater than everything we hope for in our Western systems and they have none of what we fight for and bleed for and are willing to go to war for.

Jesus said it very clearly. **John 18:**

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Are you the King of the Jews?

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of yourself, or did others tell you that of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you unto me: what have you done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world (Although the kingdom is now manifesting in this world but it is not of this world.): **if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from here.**

So, if you fight for something, this is what Jesus says: "Whatever you fight for that needs your life to keep it going, whatever you fight for means you've defined it as a worldly kingdom and there's no life from it. Know that. I am not saying that you cannot fight for things. I am not saying that you cannot fight for some form of justice in your school system and in your government and those kinds of things. But, as long as what you know that that is the world's system and that Jesus is not, that is not the kingdom of God. That's all. The problem that I see is that we try to amalgamate these things and make the system of this world the God infused system where it is almost as if God cannot live without a certain political party and that cannot work like that. That will destroy you! That will make you want to be upset to the depth of your core. You will be shaken in the depth of your belief if some things go on politically that you don't think should be.

Peter came and he thought that he should fight for Jesus. But, Jesus said, "Because My kingdom is not of this world, My disciples are not fighting. I am not of this world where I fight with people. I've come to take over." That is the thing. He is not fighting with any person for a position. He's above all power. He's above all authorities. He's above all these things and that is what He has come to bring forth.

When Jesus corrected people, this is what He said, He said, "Let not your heart be troubled."

What is a troubled heart? A troubled heart is a heart that believes that you need to fight to keep the kingdom of God going. Jesus is not in need of any vote to keep His kingdom going. I want to tell you that Jesus' kingdom is giving you life. If it wasn't for the kingdom of God, there would not be any existence of anything. That is how it works and we are born of that kingdom and what we should do as Christians is to have our focus on the right kingdom... have our focus on Jesus and not be consumed by what is going on in this world. Glory to God!

I don't care what's happening with the corona thing. I'm just saying straight out...my mind says this: Naturally I would want a good economy. I would want jobs to be there. I wouldn't want any person to die of the coronavirus and all those kinds of things. But we know that we have people that manage these things at the moment and we see some things we agree with and some things we don't agree with. But that is not the source, I am not of that and neither are you... neither is Jesus! And the peace that He has come to give us is that even, I'm using an example from my own life, when I go and pray, I didn't pray, "Lord, Jesus, I claim this... I claim that!" I just said, "I just want to declare this: The peace that I have is more robust than how long my son lives. It's greater! We shall be raised!

Church, there needs to come a place, a time in our lives, where we see a life born from the reality of what God has done in Christ. I think that we have taken the kingdom of heaven and we've only made it heavenly and in heaven and that it has no place in the earth. The earth is about politics and all these rulers and police and this and whatever... black lives matter... what this life matters... whatever life matters. I want to say this: The only life that matters is eternal life! That's the only life that matters because if your life is not eternal, what does it matter. You are dust and will return back to dust. What matters is if you can live forever. That's what truly matters. We can get caught up in all these kinds of things and shootings and riots and whatever. We have had that in South Africa for many years. After a while, watching those things, you can watch it and watch it and all it brings you is sadness and despair and doubt. It is a place, it's a thing, that wants to lead you into a place of temptation and all those kinds of things.

Let's have our focus on the Resurrected Jesus and what He tells us and what He gives us. Jesus comes and He tells Peter, "Peter, don't let your heart be troubled. A troubled heart is a heart that thinks on what he needs to give to keep the kingdom of God going. He says, "You believe that God is an eternal God. You believe in Him but also believe in Me. You believe that there is a good God in heaven that has no beginning and no end, no death, and all of that. You believe that but I also want you to believe in Me. I go to my Father to prepare a place for you." What is that place? That place is in eternal life, eternal security. That is what He is talking about.

Jesus said, "I go to My Father to prepare a place for you. In My Father's house there are many mansions. Just look at what that mansion is.

2 Corinthians 5:

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God (This is now the tabernacle of heaven), an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in this tabernacle (this house) do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

So, what is the mansion that God has prepared for us, in Jesus? It is bodily eternal life! That is what He has promised. So now He says, "I am going to My Father. Don't let your heart be troubled! You want to preserve your own life. Listen, you believe that God is a God of eternal life but believe in Me that I can go to the Father and that I can prepare a place for you where you can be eternally secured, bodily, where you will be preserved and that this whole world will be preserved. You believe in God but believe also in Me. If it was not possible for Me to give you this eternal life, I would have told you. But I now go to My Father to prepare a place for you in bodily immortality. If it wasn't so, I would have told you but I will come to you again (talking about the return of Jesus Christ) and then I will receive you to Myself." That means that when Jesus returns, He will receive us to who and what He is... bodily. And so, He will live with us in eternal glory as well as in the glory this whole of the cosmos will be drawn into that. And that's where we find our life! That's where we find our peace.

I've looked at friends of mine in these times going through very difficult times in their businesses and all those kinds of things. Yet, in all these times I could see that, cognitively, they have some stress internally, but, in their heart, nothing could remove the peace of God from them. And that is where life is. We have our eyes fixed on Jesus. We cannot have our life born from the things of this world. It is born from Him.

Now you may say, "That not where I am at the moment. What can I do to have my life sorted out? This is it: ***Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me.***

What do you need to do? Go and ask Jesus, "Jesus, what have You come to bring me? What have You come to give me? Show me how You are the King and the Ruler."

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: Say this with me: "The government shall be upon His shoulder." Why do you think that God put this in the Bible? Why was Isaiah inspired to write this? Why did this make the canon? Why did it make our Bible... for what reason? This was prophesied. Jesus has come to fulfil that. It says that the government shall be upon his shoulder. Now the question is, "On whose shoulder is the government?" It is on Jesus' shoulder!

"So, Bertie, do you want to tell me that you want to just live like a kind of, 'mind over matter'? You just want to say that Jesus is Lord and because Jesus is Lord, you are now just going to continue in the bliss of thinking that Jesus is Lord, and have a life born from Him?" Yes, amen, that is what I am saying! That is what Paul was saying. That's what all those people were saying. Go and read Acts around verse 18 and there you will see that they took Paul and those people and they threw them in jail because they said that they are preaching another King. That was what he was preaching and yet he was saying that that kingdom is not **of** this world but it is **in** this world and it is taken over.

You need to understand that the people of Jesus' time, like when Herod heard about the king that was to be born, he wanted to kill the babies because he knew that the Kingdom would take over his kingdom. And that was exactly what the apostles were preaching and we, as Christians, have a life born from that Kingdom in the here and now. You may ask, "Does that mean that I'm not allowed to vote or any of those things?" Listen, what I am saying is that if you want to vote, go and vote. Do it this way: You can have peace until voting day without even being bothered about anything that is said. You already know what party you are going to vote for anyway. Just be honest with yourself and then if you are not sure about the party you can right there, go to the place where you need to vote and you pray to God what you must do and you feel what it tells you in your heart and you do it. And from election to election you just have your heart flooded with the kingdom of God and what He is saying to you and I tell you that now you will have peace. You will have peace and you will, politically, make a much bigger influence because you will have a life that is born from God. You will love like nobody else. You will be more generous than nobody else. You will have the kingdom of God flow from you and impact your society and the people right around you.

You might ask, "Should I then not be informed?" Listen... this week they had a jail break in town. Do you know what happened? When that jailbreak happened, I immediately had people contacting me, "Bertie, 69 people broke out of jail. We made the BBC news right here in our town." They were running from the shops just a few street blocks from me and when I needed to know that I knew that it wasn't as if I had to watch the news right from Eastern Europe, all over Europe, the Americas, the southern tip of Brazil and all of Africa to make sure that I am informed. Maybe you just need to know what's in your neighborhood for yourself. We carry the problems of the whole world. We carry the everything in our minds because there's too much information out there that we are addicted to.

Church, what happens practically in our minds is we need a kick every time. We need that 'feel good' hormone, serotonin, in your brain. We need a serotonin dose every now and then. That's what we need. And when we watch a video of three or four minutes of a shocking thing, it releases, all the time, a feel-good hormone in our life. Then we don't get that feel good anymore from a good business deal we've done or any of those kinds of things and we get addicted to these things. And it's always running in that and we don't have peace in our hearts. It's a very good thing to maybe delete your YouTube app and watch a Sunday message or something. You will not die! You have the Spirit of God! He's the One that will give you life. He's the One that will give you peace. The Bible says that you will have the Holy Ghost and HE will guide you in all truth! That's what the Scripture says.

Isaiah 9:

6 and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Giving peace in the midst of turmoil!

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it...

So, what did He do? Did He just come and tell us about it? No! Jesus has come to order and to establish His kingdom in this world. How will it take place? It will take place by people having renewed hearts. The problem today is not who is leading the country. The problem is unrenewed hearts. That's the problem! Our answer doesn't land on Airforce One. That's not the answer! The answer is people believing that Jesus is the Lord. And then, as they believe upon Him, that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and that it gives them the hope of bodily immortality, the spirit of that life will be poured out in those people and from there, Jesus governs in this world and brings forth life in those. That's how it works and that is how He establishes) **with judgment and with justice** (The Scripture says this talks about 2,000 years ago when Jesus was raised from the dead) **from henceforth even for ever**. How will this manifest? **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this** (This means that you rest! He will perform... and you believe! That's all! Glory to God!!!).

"Bertie, that sounds that you are so heavenly minded that you will be no earthly good!" Let me tell you this: The more heavenly minded you are, the more earthly good you will be by the power of heaven and not the power of the things of this world... in the rulerships of this world. It is by grace. It is not by our works. That is how this manifests.

Malachi 4:

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun (the ball of fire in the sky) **of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.**

This passage where it says that the proud, those who do things proudly and wickedly, shall be burned up, was fulfilled in **Matthew 9** where the woman who was diseased with the issue of blood.

20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment (the wings of His garment):

21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. That is the format of **Malachi 4** where it says that there is healing in His wings. The sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings. This woman says, "Let me touch the wings of His garment and I shall be made whole." And we find that the kingdom of God has been inaugurated by Jesus Christ. We are under the power of the Resurrection from where our peace and our joy come. This has already started and Matthew recorded that as the fulfillment of Malachi 4. The sun of righteousness is shining over you, my friend. Let us not be full of pride thinking that God needs us to do things! Let us, rather, be humble and say, "Of ourselves we can do nothing but we believe upon Him!" So shall we have life! Glory to God!

Church, I have come to the end of my message. Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you where you can have eternal security." I spoke to a preacher, an old man, who preached in my church. When he was leaving, Helena and I were standing at his car near our house. And as the guy was to drive away, I said to him, "Now, be safe. Drive safely." He said to me, "Young man, let me tell you this: "If I come or go, I am always safe!" By that he meant, "If I live or die, I am safe!" Now, that's another way of living. And that guy always seemed happy because he has found the security in the eternal life, that God has given him. I think the problem is that we have made eternal life as something that is in heaven which we would attain when we die. Eternal life is contained inside, physically, at the right hand of God and that eternal life is the hope of this whole world so that we as humans and this earth has its hope of eternal preservation by Him. Should we, as Christians, believe that, we will not be bothered by man's futile efforts wherein it tries to preserve the world. And politics and all these things would have its rightful place but it would be a very small place down there in the corner that does not have the power to touch our peace and our joy and all those kinds of things. Glory to God!

My message summarized is this: Jesus is Lord and there is no end to the growth and His kingdom that's ever expanding and manifesting in this world. And you and I are of that kingdom! Let's keep our eyes on Jesus Christ...

Father, thank You so much for Your grace and Your mercy. Thank You so much for Your kindness. Thank You for the love that You have given us and thank You that today we can sit as believers and know that You have come to give us peace... True peace... True joy that is greater than this world can offer. Thank You that what we have is eternal... amen and amen

(Follow me on Facebook as I will give you regular messages there, encouraging you in this message. Know this: God loves you forever!)