

CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE
Colossians 3:1-4

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GREETINGS:It is a great blessing for me to, again, bring you the Gospel of the powerful grace of God.

Let us just pray together.... Father, I want to thank You so much for Your life! I want to thank You so much for the grace that you've come to bring us. The Gospel is all about the good that You have done for us, and Your kingdom that has come to this world. Thank You, Lord, that You speak powerfully through me today and I can bring the message of Your kingdom, the Gospel of Your Grace, to people, today. Thank You for the honor that I can have in sharing in Your passion and compassion towards people as I, myself, am awaiting the full manifestation of Your glory... even in my flesh, that which already belongs to us all. Thank You for Your love, oh, Lord. Amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE:Today we are continuing to speak from the third chapter of Philippians. The message is all about walking in perfection while we have imperfection. So, it is all about walking in perfection while we have imperfection.

In Christ we have been made complete. The fulness of God dwells in Jesus, **bodily**, and we are complete in Him... and we lack nothing! We have been perfected in Christ and yet, we find that this life that is ours and who we truly are, even bodily, is hidden. It is not seen openly. It's almost as if it is veiled. It is true... it is there, but it is not seen. In the very same way as what Jesus will manifest into this earth and the fullness of the Godhead. **bodily**, will be seen in this earth in the return of Jesus. In the very same way, who we really are, will be revealed and we will appear with Christ in glory! So, there is a perfection that we already have, yet, we are finding that it is hidden. It is hidden and what we do behold is our bodily limitations. We find our weaknesses. We find our pains, our fears, and all those kinds of things in this world. As we see that we can easily get confused about who we truly are.

I am looking at Paul here, and reading from Philippians 3, and how he, I wouldn't call it struggle, the way that he dealt with this imperfection and perfection. Paul clearly said, and we will still read it in next week's message, that Paul talks about him that have not apprehended yet. He has not yet taken a hold of what God has grabbed ahold of him for. Yet, we also see that everyone that is perfect, Paul says that he has the same mindset as what he has. So, Paul calls himself perfect yet, and he also says that he has not yet seen the full manifestation of what he has already received. We are going to look at that.

Philippians 3:

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. Last week we have seen that safety is found in the Gospel, in Jesus and believing the accurate, correct Gospel. Paul says that it is not difficult for him to repeat what he has preached to them because it is to their safety, defining safety in belief in the Gospel, in Jesus.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Then he goes on and he basically turned the tables on the Jews here where the Jews were readily and gloriously calling the Gentiles dogs and workers of evil. Paul comes and says, "Beware of dogs!" He was referring to the Jews that would go to the Gentile Churches and try, for political reasons, to get these Gentile churches to back their political motives and agendas, He calls these Jews, who go around and preach circumcision amongst the Gentiles, he calls them dogs and workers of evil. He said, "Beware of them!" What he was basically saying is, "Beware of their teaching! Beware of what they preach!"

They preached a mixture between the Law and Grace. They were preaching a fleshy message. A fleshy message was not about flesh but where in boldness and access to the kingdom of God was in the flesh or according to the flesh, which entailed the observance of the Law, if you be a Jew. They basically taught that Jesus is the Messiah of the Jews but the Gentiles were also allowed to have Jesus as Messiah, given that they are baptized and then circumcised and observe all the customs of the Jews and still honor them as the big nation through whom God is going to do everything.

I just want to say this: **The moment you say, "Our nation is God's gift to humanity", you are in trouble!** This is what you see here with the Jews. The moment you think like that, you are in the flesh and you are focusing on the flesh and you will see the fruit of the flesh in your life.

Paul basically says that we need to be aware of this wrong, false, doctrine, which is simply the teaching of the Law mixed with the Grace of God. That is all it is!

3 For we are the concision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

In this verse, Paul puts the emphasis on **Romans 2:29** where he says who the true Jew is. **But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.**

He basically repeats what he was saying in Romans or in Romans he repeats what he said in his letter to the Philippians, depending on which letter was written first. But what he is saying here is that we have no confidence in the flesh. We have no confidence in the Law. We are not confident that we will be partakers of the rulership of God because of our obedience to the Law... because of our good works.

You might say, "But, Bertie, what does that have to do with me? I'm not following after the customs of Moses. I'm not thinking that I am a Jew. We have moved on from those things!" I agree. We don't find many Churches today and many Christians today still following after this error that was going on that Paul was addressing in Philippians. But what we do is we set up a different kind of set of laws. It is basically the same problem but a different jacket. You know, we would have in the churches things like, "We must have a prayer chain... We must fast... We must get certain things to come right before we can get a breakthrough in our nation." And personally, we think that if I can just live holy enough, long enough, then I would know that I am part of the Kingdom of God, and so forth.

When it comes to Law, what I have found is that I don't have to define Law. The person that hears the message when you say to him, "We don't live by the Law!", he will immediately, by the Holy Spirit, know in his heart what is law that he lives by where he is trying to get life by what he does.

:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has confidence I much more

:5 (I was) ***Circumcised the eighth day...*** we are now going to define what it means to be in the flesh. Many times, we think that in the flesh means when you drink, smoke a cigarette or didn't stop properly at the traffic light, or something like that. But that is not what Paul had in mind when he was talking about being in the flesh. What Paul had in mind when he was talking about being in the flesh, is defined in verses 5-7. It says that, this is what he meant by him being in the flesh. He had confidence in the fact that he was:

1. circumcised on the eight day
2. of the stock of Israel
3. of the tribe of Benjamin, meaning he's a Hebrew of the Hebrew's. Benjamin was the favorite child, even more than Joseph. And then, as touching to the Law, he was now in depth in the studies of the Law. He was a Pharisee and he was very zealous about what he believed and he went on saying, "I was so zealous about the Law that I persecuted the Church. As touching the righteousness of the Law, I was blameless." He was basically saying that the righteousness of the Law, meaning you have to be circumcised, you have to be a Jew, you have to follow after the customs of Moses. As pertaining to that, "I was blameless. I fully qualified according to what we thought the qualifications were for all the blessings of God."

But, listen to what he said in verse 7: ***But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for*** (because of) ***Christ***.

What Paul does in Philippians here is he is saying that there was a certain way where I looked at myself and that is not good. That was not unto life.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yes doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Before we get into the depth of this message, I want to just explain two or three points here. Paul says that to be in the flesh was to have confidence in the fact that he was circumcised, that he was a Hebrew, and then even a Hebrew of the Hebrews, and that he was following after the customs of Moses and following after the Law. That was what gave him his confidence that he would be part of the reign of the Messiah, that he will have what God has promised to the people. It was all in the flesh. He had no confidence in Christ. He had no confidence in God. He was just looking at, "Where am I in the light of what I am doing and who I am in the flesh, and thereby I will have confidence."

It's almost like when you fly somewhere. What gives you your confidence about the flight? You would say: 1. I have a ticket. 2. I have a passport. 3. I also have the reservation of the hotels where we are going to stay. They will want to know where I am going to stay in order to allow me in the country. Now we have confidence that we can go vacation. What is that confidence based on? That confidence is based on the fact that you have a ticket, you have a passport and you have proof of accommodation. That is your confidence.

In the very same way, Paul's confidence was on the fact that he was circumcised, meaning his parents put him as part of the Covenant of God. He is part of the right group of people, he is a Hebrew. And then he follows after the Law. That was his confidence that he had. You must imagine that he now also explains how serious he was about this. He was super patriotic about his nation, the Israelites. I am sure if you had flags like the Israel flag, it would have been at his house. It would have been everywhere. He was absolutely **for** his nation! He was loving his nation. He was for the Law. He was so much for the Law that he became of the sect called the Pharisees. He was so zealous about this, meaning he wanted this so bad, to be in power that he was even persecuting the Church. That means that he was really feeling that we need to see how this can stand in the earth. He was doing everything.

And remember, he was doing this for God as well. So, he was confident in the flesh and he knew that he would be the partaker of the kingdom of God. He was confident that he was the people of God and all those things. Then he says here that he even came to a greater knowledge. And on account of the excellency, the greatness, of what he came to know in Christ, he looked at what he was so patriotic about and he said, "That is dung! That is absolute dung. That is basically rubbish, man! That is useless. It is not to the satisfying of the flesh whatsoever! It is, "Touch not! Handle not!". But it cannot satisfy my flesh with life! My flesh is always desiring life. My flesh is always seeking for life but here we are now seeing that what I used to think was good is not that good anymore. There is something that is greater! There is something that is more." We are going to look at that in Colossians today.

8 Yes, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency (the higher) of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord

That word, knowledge also means acknowledgement. It doesn't just mean knowledge. It also talks about to know and to acknowledge it. So, there is a knowledge of God. There's something greater that has now come... the knowledge that has come in the resurrection of Jesus.

That knowledge in the resurrection about man and about how everything works, got him to the place where his passion for the Jewish people and their customs, his confidence that he was a Jew, his confidence that he was circumcised, in his confidence in the fact that the writings of Moses was given to the Jewish people, and all of that, was all drained! It was all just gone! All of a sudden, he had no confidence in any of that whatsoever!

So, what knowledge did Paul get that would cause him to basically abandon his passion for Judaism? What caused him to say, "Well, it's not about the feasts! It's not about the temple! We don't care about the temple anymore. We don't care about the protection of the temple whatsoever! We don't even care whatsoever about the city Jerusalem. I would even go so far as to say, "There is no Jew. There is not Gentile, whatsoever! Everything has become new! We are part of a new kingdom! These old things are done away with!"

If you read on here, it says, "I don't even want to be associated with that way of thinking, lest I will not be a partaker in the resurrection of Jesus!" Paul was so radical about grace that it was almost the same Paul that was so radical about the Law, persecuting the Church, now just living in new knowledge. He was very radical! He said, "I count all those things but dung that I may win Christ!" Let's read verse 8 again:

Yes doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

That, for Paul, was a major thing to say! For the Jews it was a major thing to say! He would have been seen as a sellout. He would have been seen as somebody that has abandoned his own people. He would have been seen as somebody that was just crazy! If a person has given his daughter to be married to someone like Paul, while he was a Pharisee, they would have been very proud! But, if a person like Paul and the repentance that he partook of, would come and say these things, you know, say, "Well, I've come to new knowledge!", a father who has given his daughter to someone like Paul would cancel the marriage contract and say, "We don't want to be associated. You can't marry my daughter anymore!" Those are the kinds of very radical things. You can be killed, by your own people, for saying these things. It says here that the reason why I did that is ***that I may win Christ.***

So, when you get rid of the Law, what do you gain? You gain Christ! What does that mean? When we were under the Law, we were under the power of the flesh or people are under the power of the flesh, which Paul describes in Romans chapter 7. He says, "When I try to obey the Law, I find that the good that I want to do, I cannot do it. But the bad that I didn't want to do, that I do."

He continues and says, "I've come to greater knowledge... the knowledge of Christ. As I came to the greater knowledge, the knowledge that excels what I used to know, I count the knowledge that I had, just as absolute rubbish... dung... excrement! That's what I count it as! It's not allowed in my house! I don't want anything to do with it. I don't want to be associated with that! I have a higher knowledge now!"

The reason why he says he now looks at it that way is that he may gain Christ. Christ means Jesus and the power where He rules in our lives bringing forth holiness. So, what he says is, "I counted, I knew about Christ. It was greater knowledge than what I used to know. I got rid of the other knowledge so that I may, basically, stand under the power of the rulership of Jesus!" That's what he was saying.

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith (faithfulness) of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

He says, "I don't want to stand and have any confidence in the fact that I was circumcised, that I am a Jew." I want to just say this again. Some people say, "Bertie, you hammer on this!" I say this in love for the Church and in love for the Jews! Don't go and say that the Jews can have confidence that God will have something special for the Jews in the end. Then I'm going to ask you, "What is the reason for your confidence that you will have something special in the end?" Then you will say, "Because I'm a Jew!" I'm going to say, "You'll find your confidence in the flesh, my friend, and it's not going to work! You are in trouble!" It's the same as the Church. "I've got confidence because I am part of a certain Church group or I'm part of a church with thousands of people and we pray together and we stand together and those kinds of things! Or, we have confidence in our vote and or involvement politically."

I just want to say this as well. You cannot have confidence that the future of a nation will be good if you go and vote. I'm sorry that I hammer on this all the time. I basically mention this in every service but I need to say this because I see and I, regularly, get messages of people saying, "You know, if you don't vote, you are not a true Christian!" That is absolute rubbish and your confidence is in something that you cannot have any confidence in. You need to come to the higher knowledge. You need to come to a knowledge that excels that, where you will say, "I cannot have any confidence in that. There is no confidence for the surety of any nation inside if we vote or don't vote. The only confidence that you can have for a sure future should be Jesus!"

Paul says, "I count all these other things dung for the excellency of the knowledge that there is in Jesus... for this absolute beautiful knowledge that I have!" We are going to talk about that today.

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith (faithfulness) of Christ...

The only confidence that we can have is the confidence that Jesus is faithful and through His faithfulness, I shall be a partaker of His life.

Now it talks about this righteousness of God that he wants to be a partaker of where it is not his own righteousness.

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...

So, Paul says, "I want to know the power of the resurrection. I want to know what **Ephesians 1:19** talks about... the power that raised Christ from the dead... that works in me. The way that I know that is I first got the knowledge of the resurrection (We are going to talk about that from Colossians now) and after I came to that knowledge, I then abandoned and left the other confidences that I have had!"

I remember in South Africa, before I got saved, I had great confidence in our military power. We were the most powerful army in Africa and I had great confidence in the country. We've had great confidence in our systems. We had great confidence in all those kinds of things. We just wanted to give ourselves for the systems in which we have confidence because we were confident that those systems were going to work. Then it all fell apart! But I can say this: I now have no confidence in any system that is of this world! I've got no confidence in that, whatsoever! I don't have confidence in anything... not in my vote... not in a president... nothing! I have absolutely no confidence whatsoever in that, neither in my involvement, although I am involved, I don't have any confidence in that. The only confidence that I do have is in the superior knowledge that I've gained in knowing the message of grace... the message of how much He loves us... The message of how much He cares for us... the message of how He values us and how He has given Himself to secure us forever more.

I want to tell you this: It's going to take much more than what any of the systems of this world can offer to fix the world! There's only one way wherein this world can be fixed and that is that they need to receive Jesus, become born again, receive glorified bodies in the day of the Lord and so rule with Him! That's the only way that this world is going to be fixed and knowing that and aiming at that and believing that truth is what will bring forth a change in our lives.

9 And (I want) be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith (faithfulness) of Christ...

So, what confidence do we have? Our confidence is in how faithful Jesus is.

***9 This is the righteousness which is of God by faith
10 that I may know him...***

He says here, "I have come to a new knowledge. I count the old knowledge, the Law, the circumcision, my patriotism to Israel, my patriotism to the temple, to the city that we are the people of God... all those things I count that but dung that I may win Christ."

Now I will explain what it means to win Christ: to stand under the power of the resurrection which will work in those who believe upon Him, who then, also, count all

these things but absolute loss and rubbish unto giving life at all not even temporarily. It just can't work.

Then it goes on and he says here what this is.

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection.

Then he says, "I also do this that I may know what it would feel like to suffer the way He suffered as people were ridiculing, mocking, his logic, because Paul came with an answer to the problems of the world. He came with an answer to every political issue there is. He came with an answer on how to see the world be made new and he said that it is to believe on Jesus, be born from Him, and to be led by His Spirit." That was the answer and that is what he brought forth.

When he went to the Areopagus, when he gave his defense of the Gospel, he stood up there and he boldly proclaimed the Gospel. When he was standing there, he said to all the judges, "Listen! Stop worshipping these idols that you are worshipping. God has blessed you while you were busy with idol worship, but it wasn't the idols. It was God! God was giving it to you! Stop putting your confidence in these things. Repent from your sins which would be the wrong beliefs that you had. There is one man, the true Ruler, the true King, the true Lord. He is Jesus who will return and judge the world and by Him you will either have eternal life or not, and in Him the whole world will be preserved." That is what he preached in front of leaders. That's what he presented to kings. That's what he presented to Agrippa when he had the opportunity to make a political impact. What did he do? He preached the Gospel! He believed on Jesus and declared Jesus as Lord in the hope that Agrippa himself would be saved. Isn't that awesome!

Paul knew that the only answer is to believe in Jesus and he knew that if Jesus is Lord, those who believe upon Him, be they in any office or authority, that Jesus would guide every person in his heart on what to do. That is how it is! That is why Paul was pushing his only agenda which was the Gospel. Hallelujah!

Colossians 3:

1 (It says here that we who are Christians now) ***If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.***

If we are risen with Christ... So, Paul comes and says, "I died as a Jew. I want my own countrymen to be saved but I am not coming as a Jew anymore. I will become like a Jew, for the Jew, but I am not a Jew anymore. He's now renounced those hidden things. He's renounced that. He is now a new person. **2Corinthians 5:17** says, For those who are in Christ, everything has become new. We are a new creation!

A few weeks ago, in one of my teachings, I spoke about that. He is talking about a regeneration. Peter talks about that. There's a regeneration, a washing of regeneration. What washes you is the knowledge that you are regenerated... and that includes your physical body. He made everything new! It is not the Law! It is not your works! It's none

of those things! He has come and says, "All life is in Me!" In Christ, God has given that all things consist. He is the Word about all things. In Him all things consist! In Him, things in heaven, things in earth, under the earth, everything finds its stand in Him.

According to Him, everything is measured by God. There is no other way! It is **only** by Him! That's what Paul says and he says that the old way, and the man that I was, has died and so have you. You are not a Gentile anymore. You are not a Jew anymore. You are a new creation. The new creation that you have might not be revealed or manifested but you have been newly created. You are new. You have been recreated.

1 If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

Now what does that mean? That word, seek, in Hebrew means worship... worship God and what is done in Christ in heaven. The word, seek, also means to be of a certain inclination or habit.

Let it be your habit or let it be your inclination to just think on the things that are above.

When he talks about the things that are above, he is not talking about things that don't exist in the material or physically. Jesus exists materially. He exists physically but, physically, He is not far from us. He is with us. He has never left us. He's right here with us. We even see that when He appeared to the people in Emmaus. One moment He was there and the next moment He wasn't there. It wasn't as if He was coming and going. It was just an appearing and then that appearing ended at that moment. So, in the very same way, the physical Jesus is in a different form of glory. That is what He is and that Jesus is what we behold. We are beholding and we are setting our affection and we are having our inclination to continually think of the Glorified Man at the right hand of God who is the Ruler of heaven and earth to whom all power has been given. The fact that He has conquered sin and death and that He has promised that He will set the world right. What he means by 'setting the world right', is that He will see that the fullness of the Godhead would manifest bodily in the earth, that the earth would be glorified and that He is the solution to all the world's problems... this Man, Jesus!

When this answer came to Paul, he said, "Well, when I realized this, all I do is my agenda is just to push this truth, that this truth be preached, that people believe it. As they believe upon that truth, we will find God solving the problems of this world... not where we cleverly try to and analyze how God's going to solve and try to re-implement that system and all those kinds of things.

I live in a normal country and I'm a grown-up man. I know how things work. A President can sign something in today, it becomes a law. This is what you must do for the next President to stop it. It's just like building on the sand, wasting your time. That's what it is. But what God has signed in, in Jesus, is forever! It can never change. It's signed in

with eternal value... eternal power. And whatsoever we minister, whatsoever we preach, whatsoever we declare, Paul's way of doing. We see Paul just as a preacher. He wasn't just a preacher! He was an example to all of us on what God has come to do in individuals. He brought us the plan. Look at Jesus. How did Jesus bring life to the world? He went about preaching the kingdom of God, telling people to repent. He was telling them that they should believe upon the Father, that the whole way of doing is changing, that Jesus will be raised from the dead on the third day, healing sick people, proving, doing everything in His power to show that there's a new kingdom that they wouldn't put any confidence in any other. That is what he was saying.

1 If you then be risen with Christ (Let it become our habit, let it become our inclination to be minded of the things above), **seek those things which are above, where Christ** (When we talk about Christ, the power of the resurrection) **sits on the right hand of God.**

Paul is saying, "I forget the fact that I was a Jew. I forget this whole passion that I had for Judaism and the Law and circumcision. He calls it the affairs of this world. "I forget that, that I may win Christ!" Isn't that a perfect example of how to be seeking that which is above! How did Paul seek what is above? "I want to know the power of His resurrection. The only way that I know the power of His resurrection is that I will not be found with my own righteousness, but that I will be found with the equitable deed of God which is Jesus, which is the faithfulness of Jesus. I want to stand boldly in the faithfulness of Christ and I find no value in any other thing!"

You know, we might say, "Bertie, how are we relevant in everyday life when it comes to Christianity?" I think if you are relevant, you believe as Paul believed, as we read today and we preach this. This is the answer. This is the answer to everything. This is the answer to, literally, everything! This is it!

Now, I can go into examples, which I don't think I need to do now. But this is the answer: You believe upon Jesus. Have a life born from Him and the Spirit will direct your life every day. And as that happens, you just know that this is the only answer... and share that with others. That is enough! It's like, "Okay, but we just now believe in Jesus." We can't just pray for people just to become born again or hope that they become born again. How will the world change? In the meantime, we must do something. Whatever you do in the meantime is not going to work as good as what you just shared the Gospel and God working in people has no eternal value anyway. You might say, "But, Bertie, you know we've got difficult questions as pertaining to these matters." It might be difficult and we might not have all the answers in answering how it would be but, I can tell you the answer, at the end of the day, would be the only lasting solution is believing in Jesus, resting in Him, understanding the Gospel... what it means.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things of above, then shall you also appear with him in glory.

Affection also means to be sentimental about what is above and not of the things of the earth or what is produced from this world.

3 For you are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God.

The word, hid, there means too high to conceal; to be hidden; to escape notice; to be concealed; that it is not becoming known

So, what he is saying is, "Listen, the fact that we believe upon Jesus and we're not seeing the full manifestation..." Now, many people ask me, and I've asked this question myself: Why are we not seeing this whole world now, coming right, because the Gospel is being preached? The life is concealed. It doesn't mean that it is not there. It is just not seen. But it is there and we know it's there. We've got experiential knowledge that it's there. We already see that life that is concealed leaking through and it is starting to show in our eyes.... Starting to show in our actions. We find love, peace, joy... those kinds of ... generosity and kindness. We start to see the first signs of this concealed hidden kingdom that will fully manifest.

3 For you are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God.

That basically means Paul was saying, "The Jew is dead. Our patriotism towards the temple and the law and all of that is already dead. The life I now live is not I who live. It is Christ who is living in me. It might not look like it. It might say, "You're just a normal person following certain principles. He says, "I am not! It is Christ who lives in me. But who I really am will be revealed."

Let me explain it to you this way: If we can come to the knowledge that there is an eternal, immortal, human seated at the right hand of God and that we are in Him and we, bodily, possess the very same as He is but it is concealed, we cannot see it, but it is so. It can be likened to the effect, if you can know that, it would have a great effect on you today. If you know that, it would have a great effect on you today. It would be the same effect as what somebody that has only a hundred dollars until the end of the month. He doesn't know how he is going to make it. But somebody has put 10 million into his bank account. Now he knows, he's got 10 million in his bank account but it is only released in a year from now. You will find that this poor man, who doesn't know how he's going to make the end of the month, will be happy. The money is not revealed. The true life, the true riches there, that ten million, or hundred million, whatever it would be, is not seen. You cannot draw the money and show it but you can already show a life that is born from that truth. It would be things like joy and kindness. You can even find from the hundred dollars he has now, he is generous and he gives because his life is now born from a hope that is to manifest in a year.

In the very same way, the truth that we have eternal life in Jesus, puts us in a place where we don't live by the Law anymore. We don't have any sentiment to the things of this world. We are not entangled in the affairs of this world anymore. We are now living as a people who have eternal life bodily. It is ours. We are living as a people who know that it is their God's responsibility to bring that life to them and not their own. They find their righteousness and their confidence in the equity of character of the one who has promised them that He will bring this life to them. We now live as those people.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you are dead (I must die to self. I must die to self. Listen, the way you die to self is by knowing that you are dead.), **and your life is hid**(concealed) **with Christ in God.**

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear (When he shouldn't be hid anymore), **then shall you also appear with him in glory.**

It would be like somebody putting a hundred million into your account and it will only be released ten years from now. You will find, now, I might look like every person in the street. I might not have a lot but you'll find that I have much more joy than the average person that struggles. You'll find that I have a hope inside me. You find that I have a generosity inside me. Then when the hundred million is revealed, which is my riches, (I'm only using worldly terms and worldly logic here and not the spiritual logic), then I will appear, who I really am as a millionaire will appear, and you will see that riches. In the very same way, we have already died in Christ! Jew and Gentile have died. Human methods that existed prior to the resurrection of Jesus whereby countries were governed as the hope of life for them... We died to that! "But, Bertie...."

I believe in Jesus. Call me a fool but I believe in Jesus! I believe in the resurrection power of Christ and you and I have both died! We need to awaken to the fact that we, as full humans, are full possessors of the Godhead, bodily, and that we come short in nothing! It is just the time wherein what we are, that time has not come where it shall be revealed. But we who know this have a life born from this hope. I was reborn from this hope that will take place. I find no confidence in my flesh. Therefore, my flesh doesn't produce all the sins anymore because I have no confidence in it. I've only got confidence in the resurrected Jesus! And that is who you are my friend! That is what you are. That is the power that God has come to give us. I'm not going to be ashamed of this Gospel!

You might ask, "What is walking in the flesh today?" Walking in the flesh is anything that is outside of belief in Jesus and only in Him is true spiritual, eternal life. We can define it as Paul. You can define it as any confidence you have for a stable future that is outside of Jesus doing it, you are living in the flesh and it shall produce the fruit of the flesh. You might say, "Bertie, this sounds like condemnation. It sounds like judgment." This is the judgment of God. The judgment of God is that God is of the opinion that without Him you can have no confidence that you will live forever. The only confidence is to have confidence in Him, to believe Him and He has proven His power to bless us in the resurrection.

I want to end off by going to **Philippians 3** again. Paul says,

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has something that he may trust in the flesh, I am more:

5 I was circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

I've come to the conclusion after I've made the calculations, I counted all things but loss because of the excellency of the knowledge that there is in Jesus Christ.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.I counted them as something that will cause me not to partake in what God has done for me.

8 Yes doubtless, and I count all things but loss for (I came to a higher knowledge) the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord(That now rules over sin and death): for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ (stand under the power of the resurrection.)

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Can you see the passion of our beloved Paul. He says, "I'm not going to fool around with things that can cause me not to share in the life of God. He says, "I'm not ashamed to repeat myself because it is beneficial and safe. I want to give myself as an example. I counted all these things that some of you are now rewriting to the Philippians, through these Judaizers, are starting to count valuable as some of you are being circumcised. I count those things dung. But I'm the person who got you into Christ. I'm the one who preached to you in the beginning. I'm the one that loves you as a father. I'm the one that doesn't want anything from you. I'm the one that didn't come here to gain anything from you. I came here to give to you. These people want something from you, man."

What they literally want, if you study the historic sense, they wanted their vote. That's what they wanted. Go and study it out for yourself. See who these Judaizers were, who these Pharisees were. See the political agenda they had. He says, "This is what they want from you but what I want for you is that you share in the life of God. Let me give myself as an example. I counted all those things but loss for the excellency of Christ and I keep it that way if I might attain to the resurrection of the dead." Can you see how carefully he is not to go back to the Law and rules and regulations, the customs of Moses, flirting with the enemy. It doesn't go there. It's got no confidence in the flesh

whatsoever. His confidence is only in Christ. And we might say, "Yes, but we as well, let's take all of our actions and bring it in subjection to what God says... everything."

Thank you that I could serve you with this message. I trust that it is food for thought, challenging to the heart, puts you in a place where you can say, "Man, this is something that causes me to think, ponder upon, go and chew on, think about, pray about. You know, as you just think about, that is prayer. That is communication with God. Have your heart open to God answering the difficult questions that arise in your heart and you'll see and experience the voice of God in the inner man.

I end off with this: Not everything that we read in the Bible, not every letter we read, might be plain and simple. There are some things that might sound more complicated and might be more complicated. If you read a letter that was written to people almost 2,000 years ago, there are some complicated things that we need to go through in order to understand that. But, after we have gone through all the complications and we have seen what the person has truly said, this is what it boils down to: Jesus is Lord. If you believe upon Him, that He is truly, physically Lord of the physical earth, that He was bodily raised and promises you eternal life bodily, as a full human, if you believe upon that and that is your hope, and that is true for you and you've made that your truth, you are saved. You've received the Spirit of salvation and you've reached the depths of the Gospel and you have a life born from full understanding. That is what it is. That's how simple it is but some things might sound a bit more complicated. Although once we get to the message that is communicated, we find that Jesus is Lord and by Him we are saved free from our works.

Thank you that I could serve you today. God bless...