

CONTINUE IN CHRIST

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Greeting: It is a great blessing for me to come to you. I am going to be ministering along the lines of remaining in Christ, a continuation in Jesus Christ, that we don't fall away from having a life where we know we are the people of God. We are the sons of God. We have been made righteous by Him where we know that righteousness is of Him, that we are in Christ, that Christ is in us, that it is not by our works but by His salvation work.

The message today is going to be simply encouraging you to stay in the message of God's grace. Stay and continue in Christ. Don't fall back into your own works.

Before we get into the message, I would just like to bring to your attention that you can join in our local zoom meeting that we have on Sunday mornings. If you want to join into a meeting that has a little bit of a different feel than a YouTube stream but where you feel you are part of the Service and you also gather with many other people, if you want to do that you are more than welcome. All the people put their cameras off and the audio off, but there is still a feeling there of church and I think that it is a little different the way I do it here. If you want to slot in there, please write to info@dynamicministries.com and request the zoom link for the Sunday services. We have an English Service next Sunday. This Sunday it was an African Service and we alternate that way. One Sunday, English and one Sunday Afrikaans. You will be informed which is which. If you want to join and be part of our internet Church, our zoom Church, please just email and we would love to send you the link. It is just an awesome experience. I enjoy it every Sunday.

And then secondly, if you would be so kind to just hit 'like' on YouTube while this live stream is going on or whenever you get it, but especially while it is live, you would help to tell YouTube that you need this content, you want this content, you want to hear this message. If you hit 'like', and then 'subscribe' and then the 'bell' button and then 'all', it will then inform you of all the messages that we put up. I put the videos up on a regular basis. Sometimes I put five short messages up in a week and it will let you know. It also helps YouTube to push this forward towards other people as well so that more people can get a hold of it. We don't have ads on our messages that pop up. YouTube really doesn't have an incentive to share this. They will share videos where they can make money. So, they are not going to make a lot of money out of us because there are no ads on it. But there is a way where you can say that you want this content. Please just hit that 'like' button right away so it will immediately tell other people that the algorithm knows who might be interested to watch this and suggest the video to them.

PRAYER: Father, thank You so much for Your love and Your kindness and Your goodness. Thank You for the grace that You show towards us. Thank You for the power of Your life, the brand new life that You have come to give us. Thank You that we can continue in the message of grace, the message of Your life. Thank You that You empowered me to preach this message powerfully today. Amen and amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

1John 2:

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

What is the right thing to do? The right thing is to believe in Jesus and from Jesus He will bring forth righteousness in your life. So, if Jesus is righteous and we are in Him and we do the right thing which is to continue in Him, we cannot continue in sin. The sin that he talks about is a life where you find justification by your own works. We cannot continue in that. We are not under the power of the flesh anymore. We've been crucified with Christ. The old things have passed away. Behold, everything has become new. We are a new creation. That is what John is alluding to her.

Now, he says here that we should continue in Him. Why would John say, **And now, dear children, continue in him**, if it wasn't possible for people to fall away from the message of grace? He encourages them to continue in Him, stay in the Good News. He would say that because there are many things in this world that are all competing for your attention. They are all competing for your 'mind time'. That is just the way it is. They're competing for your mind time. They are competing for your effort. They are competing for your energy. There are so many things in this world that need the life in you to exist.

One of the things we can think about is like the news media. It needs you. Without you it cannot exist. Without you it cannot make the millions it's making. It is competing for your mind time. It's competing for your thoughts. It's competing. It wants to tell you that there are things that you need to do in order to save yourself and your country and in a certain way bring some level of salvation to yourself. It's competing for that. That's what it wants. It needs you to live. If you are not there, it cannot exist anymore or it cannot exist in the affluence wherein it does. So, there is a system, a worldly system, the flesh that wants to live by its own power.

So, there is an encouragement here which says, "Continue in Him." The way that I do it is I make sure that, as God speaks to me, I yield to that message. You know, the Bible says in Acts, talking about certain Jews, "Those that refused to believe." There's a scripture that says that the people refused to believe. They understood, they knew, and

then they made a decision to say, "I'm not going to spend a lot of time with that. Rather, I am going to do other things." There's a choice.

There's something inside you that says, "I'm going to stick with this", or "I'm not going to stick with this." That is a power which we can live by which is not difficult. It is something that God has given us which every person does everyday effortlessly. It is part of our design.

He is basically saying here, "Listen. Continue in Jesus. As you continue in Jesus Christ, you will, in the day of the resurrection, will not stand ashamed." It is like a warning. There are things that will lure your mind. There are things that will get you enticed. There are things that want to grab ahold of you.

So here we are and the scripture clearly says here: ***And now, dear children, continue in him...*** So, it was possible for people to start to continue in something else and we, and this is what I want to encourage you, we are continuing in Jesus Christ. We are going to continue in the message of we are made by Him, the righteousness of God in Christ. We are going to continue that through the obedience of One, the many that were sinners are made righteous. We are going to continue with the message that Jesus was raised from the dead. We are going to continue with the message that He loves us and cares for us and our focus is going to be on that which is good and lovely and of good report. That is what we are going to think of all the time. It would be impossible not to think of something that is of a bad report. We hear bad reports all the time and, in the Church, bad reports would go through and people would hear of bad reports. But we are not going to have our lives based on that. It's almost as if a bad report comes in and as you feed on that you find that you feed more and feed more on that and you become more and more negative. After a while, you know that you are a Christian, you know that God loves you and it is something that you would say about yourself: "I am a Christian. I am loved by God." But your life is born from other things. Your life is born from negative things or the news media or whatever. I'm sure you know what I talk about.

So here we find that John is saying, "Continue in Jesus Christ!"

1John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! Isn't that absolutely beautiful! So, let us continue in Jesus Christ. Let us see the great love that He has lavished upon us! Let us not see our shortcomings. Let us not look at everything, the difficult things that there is in life... all the wrong things that that are in our countries and the next lie some politician has spoken. Listen man, your politician is going to take your time and if you are intrigued by the, "Wow, you know this politician lied again!" If you are going to be caught up in that, that's all you are going to be caught up in all the time because that happens all the time.

But let us look at what John says here. Let us continue in grace. Let us continue in Jesus Christ. ***See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be***

called children of God! What is he saying here? He says, "Listen, the great love that God has bestowed upon us is that we can be called the children of God."

If I meet somebody, a young person who needs a father figure in his life, and I say to this person, "Listen, you can call me your father if you want to. I will care for you. I will be good to you. You can call me your father or you can call yourself my son." Now that is something you just call yourself but there is something deeper. There's something in being the son. You know someone, especially people from Western Africa who like to call their preachers, "Daddy", can say, "Well, I call Bertie my father." I feel a little uncomfortable with it because of just the culture that I am in but in their culture they understand what they say. I do 'father' them in a certain sense. Like Paul said, "You have many teachers but not many fathers." So, I would follow certain people in this message just via the internet, teaching people the Gospel. But there is a difference between them and my children here at home. They call themselves my children and to a certain degree they are my children but there is also my children here, biologically my children. The one sense is almost a bit more powerful if you think along the lines of the flesh.

With that in mind, listen to what this verse says:

1John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! #And that is what we are! Isn't that absolutely beautiful We are called the children of God and that is what we are. We are that. It is not something we are going to become. We **are** the children of God!

What was understood, and I preached this many times and I've written in my books, is if you call yourself a child of God, you basically said that I am born of God as a human. I'm physically born of God! I owe my birth, not to my mother. It would be something like, in my case, Susan Brits, which is my Mom. She is not my Mom anymore because I have now been completely, physically reborn and God is now my Father. I'm not only called a child of God, I **am** a child of God. That is what this passage says. He puts a massive emphasis on that and let us continue in the mindset that I am a child of God. I am not going to allow anything else to become my father. That is what we also do. We should say that we are not going to allow this world, the systems of this world, the law or willpower

or what somebody did to me to become my father. All the time we are putting in our minds whatsoever is good, whatsoever is noble, whatsoever is of good report. These are the actions of Jesus Christ. The love that is lavished on us in declaring that we are His sons. We are called the sons and we are His sons.

1John 3:

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. It says that we are now the offspring of God and this eternal, immortal human that we will be in manifestation is not yet known. This means that it is not yet manifested but when Jesus appears, we shall appear with Him in glory and the real us will show.

This is a very, very powerful passage and what I would put before you is this: Take this passage, take this truth, and ask God to help you that you don't believe it just as something in the Bible but that it becomes absolutely real to you... absolutely real.

If we just use normal terms and let me put it right here on the ground where it is tangible and understandable: If we say, "I am a son of God" and you say, "I'm a South African" what is more powerful to you? That you are a child of God or that you are a South African or American, or some German, or Dutch? We so easily say, "I'm South African" and we identify fully with that. Our reality is shaped by that, our constitutions and our politics and everything around that, we are South Africans or we are Americans, that is who we are. But here it says, "Let's continue in Christ." It doesn't say, "Let's continue in our nationality." It says, "Let us continue in Christ." It's as if we can find that we can be busy with Christ and then we get a distraction where we want to continue, all of a sudden, just next to the track. We want to run in the same direction. It is if we are saying, "Yes, I am definitely on my way to eternal life." But it says that if you were running in, let's say, track number one and now you are running next to the track, you're not on the track anymore. You basically moved off the running field but you are still running. You are on the lawn running there and you are supposed to be in track number one or two where you are supposed to run.

In the very same way, as what people can get distracted about anything, we can be distracted as Christians if we are not careful. That is why there is a beautiful thing called the gathering of the brethren. That's why there's a beautiful thing where we, on a regular basis, listen to the messages and flood ourselves with it. My kids are out of the house. I tell them, "At least once every second week or so, slot into the message, the daily devotionals we send out. Listen to them. I mean you have to live in this world. You don't have a choice. We are in this world and as you go out, just to the supermarket, you see a billboard, you see an ad, people send things to you about politics, about these things. They are all things that take up your time and take thought space, thought time. And as we are then reminded of the Good News, we find that all these attempts and this competition that these things are into for our time and for our lives doesn't have that hold on us because of the power of the Gospel."

We need to understand we, as humans, we work through a lot of things, our brain, our heart, what we believe, programming, and so forth. So let us keep to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us not fall into the law. Let us not fall into some systems. Let us not fall into weird things. Let us just keep to the simple Gospel. Jesus died. He was buried. He was raised. He is Lord. I have, therefore, the hope of bodily eternal life, the Spirit that will raise me from the dead is now already in me and I am under the jurisdiction of Jesus which is higher than any name that can be named. It is higher than any power or principality and I am not talking about demons now. I am talking about heads of states. I'm talking about political parties. I'm talking about governments. I'm under a higher order than any of those things. Although I might live in one of those countries, I don't associate with that anymore. I relate to Jesus. I relate to God. I am a son of the Almighty God and I have eternal life. I am not running around frantically in the search of

life and trying to preserve things. I am under the eternal preservation of God where He comes and gives me life. That is what I think we need to understand here. It says: **See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! #And that is what we are!**

The point that I want to make is let this be real. Let this be real! Okay, should we make this real what is it going to take? It's going to take a sacrifice. Now many of us would not want to hear that word. Even when I say the word, sacrifice, it's like I want to cringe a bit because of what was made out of it when I was still just living under the old law system: You need to sacrifice your time. You need to sacrifice this. You need to sacrifice that and you need to be a living sacrifice. While you live, sacrifice all the time for the kingdom of God. Sacrifice your time. Sacrifice your effort. That scripture does not mean that when you read Romans 12:1-2 where it says to be a living sacrifice. It means something else and we are going to get a little bit into what that means.

First of all, the first one that I'm mentioning is, "Let us continue in Jesus. If we continue in Jesus there is a sacrifice that has to be made. This sacrifice that has to be made is actually something that is very easy. It is simply a way of belief. That is all that it is.

Romans 11:36 For from him(God) and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen#

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For from him and through him and for him are all things. It says because everything is from Him, if you want to have life you are going to have it through Him and if you live, you live towards Him. Since that is the case, listen to this:

Romans 12: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Now what is he saying here? I once preached through Romans and I didn't finish the whole thing. It became very complicated to share. I do understand but I find that it is difficult to take a large amount of people with you in going through especially into Romans 11 and 12 and so forth. But I am just going to give a quick summary and try to explain what is written there.

If you study Romans from chapter one, you will see that Paul basically comes and he cleverly speaks to the Gentiles. He speaks in a way that almost sounds a little bit anti-Semitic, a bit against the Jews. But what he is basically doing is he is setting up the Gentiles to be basically corrected and rebuked in chapter 11, where he said to them, "Look at these Jews how full of pride they were, how they just boast in their flesh and how they basically rejected Christ and how they are cast out, and all those kinds of things, because they boasted in their flesh." You kind of get the Gentiles that would read this, say, "Yeah, I told you so. Yes, look at these Jews man. They crucified Jesus. They are a bad bunch of people." And what happened was, in Rome, the Gentiles were discriminating against the Jews. They didn't really like them and there was antagonism

against the Jews and here Paul writes a letter, as a Jew, to these churches in Rome that had a lot of Gentiles in them but they were not really wanting to allow the Jews. They were pushing the Jews out the door.

He sets them up and tells them just basically how foolish these Jews were. Just in chapter 11, to come and tell them that these people that you are aiming at how foolish they are, you are talking about yourself because you are also now starting to boast in the flesh. You are starting to think, "We are Gentile flesh and they are Jewish flesh and God has rejected them so we qualify because we are Gentiles. And God has casted them out so that we can be grafted in so we must be more important than they." That is the setting.

Now, at the end of chapter 11, we basically get to where what I have just explained there. Then in chapter 12 he goes and says, "Therefore I want to tell you, because everything is from God and to God and through God, it's not about Jew or Gentile. It's about God bringing forth His church. Everything revolves around Him. Therefore, I ask you offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." So, in other words, these people were Jews. These people were Gentiles but what he was asking them is, "Would you please sacrifice that? Would you sacrifice your Jewishness, please? Would you sacrifice your Gentileness, please? Please sacrifice that. Yes, you are alive but you sacrifice that, meaning while you live as a Jew, you see Jew is are now living towards God and you are continuing in Jesus Christ. That is what is taking place.

Now, when we continue in Jesus, we live this sacrificial life. The sacrificial life is to say, "I don't boast in my flesh. I don't see myself as a Jew. I don't see myself as a Gentile anymore. I see myself as a new creation." But should you do a DNA test, you will find that you might be a Jew or a Gentile. You might find that you are a black, white, or whatever your ethnicity would be doesn't matter. What he says is, "Would you please sacrifice that?" That's what he is saying here: Therefore, because everything is unto Him and through Him and to Him, and not to any flesh: ***Romans 12: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy (In view of what is done in Jesus), to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (So when you sacrifice that and you live free from that telling you who you are, you are living pleasing to God.—this is your true and proper worship.***

What he is basically saying is, "Don't identify with the law. Don't identify with Jew or Gentile. None of that. That is the context wherein this is written. Should we take this and put it into today's context, we will be able to use it and apply it and it will perfectly fit in a little bit of a different scenario which I will still bring to you. Remember, the message is continuing in Jesus Christ. In this continuation, we as a people that are either Jew or Gentile will have to sacrifice that and then, while we live, we see it as dead. We have sacrificed it.

Romans 12:1 "...This is your true and proper worship."

dead. Or, while you are a Gentile, you see Gentile is dead. And should you do that, you

So true and proper worship would be to say, "I am not a Jew. I am not a Gentile. I have no righteousness in my flesh. I have nothing to boast according to the flesh... none of those things!! God is not going to bless me because I am of a certain group of people, of a certain nation. That means that the Jews had to say, "I am not blessed because I am a Jew."

They would have to say, "I sacrifice that. I lay that aside and I am righteous with the righteousness that is found in Jesus. Since everything is from God and through Him and to Him, it is because of God's mercy and His kindness that I can be saved. So, I sacrifice these privileges. I don't call myself that anymore so that I may gain Christ because that is our true and proper worship." That's how you worship God in a proper manner. You take the message that you are the child of God, the son of God, you take it literally. You take it as true, as real, now. And the other things, you say, "Well, I am also defined in this world within certain parameters, but I lay that down. I don't find my identity in that. I don't find, for instance, my identity in 'white'. Nor do I find my identity in South African, anymore. I've laid that down."

So that means that those things don't bother me much anymore because I have a new reality. It might, sometimes, seem a little difficult because I am still alive as a white man. I still live as a South African but I am now living as a South African, I'm living as a white man, but I have sacrificed that because I am beholding the mercy of God, the new creation and I now live in that manner. That is what he is saying.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world... Do not conform to the pattern of this world. This world's pattern calls me a South African but I am not going to conform to the pattern of this world although I am a South African, I have now sacrificed that and I live in the reality of the love and mercy and grace and kindness of God which has made everything new and I am a new creation. I'm a new creation while I still see the old thing and that is what it says in 1John 3 and this is why I try to explain this. While we are now the sons of God but while it does not yet appear, we have this hope that when He appears, we shall appear with Him in glory.

Then the scripture says in the next verse, in 1John chapter 3, that he who has this hope in Him, purifies himself even as Christ is pure. So, the way that you are going to purify yourself from the things of this world, the influences of this world, is by thinking the truth which is, you are a son of God. It might not yet appear. You must still appear as a Jew. You must still yet appear as a Gentile. You might still yet appear as a South African or appear as an American, but that is just an appearance. It is not the reality about you. You then sacrifice being South African, sacrifice being American, sacrifice being Malawian, sacrifice this and your identity is not in that because you are now a living sacrifice knowing that everything is by Him, from Him, and to Him.

So, my life now is lived towards the reality that I am a son of God although it doesn't yet appear. The hope that I have is that who I really am will manifest when Jesus appears one day and the reality is that I am now a son. It is not just a hearsay thing. It's not a Christian cliché. It is the reality and the truth and this is the message that I felt that God has laid upon my heart for you today. It burns upon my heart to tell you to just take this

very seriously and consider this as such a reality that you sacrifice all the other things saying, "Well, I am truly a child of God. I'm truly a son of God. I'm truly a new creation and that is how I see myself, my wife, my family, the other brothers and sisters in the Lord. That's how I see it.

It continues and says, **Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed...**In other words there are patterns of this world. What was the patterns of this world according to the Roman law here and the church in Rome? The patterns of the world was, "We are Jews. You are Gentiles." That is the pattern of the world. The pattern of the world is, "I am a South African. You are a Zimbabwean. You're a this, you're a that and now we conform to those patterns of separation where we become worldly, like the world, in our way of thinking. We become like the world in our way of understanding justice between us and God and so forth. But, it says, Let us not be conformed but we, in this life, can be transformed **by the renewing of your mind.**

He is basically saying that as we have the renewing of the mind which is the message of the recreation in Jesus that we are the sons of God. By having the mindset that I am a son of God, I am not a son of a nation. I'm not the son of any nation. Neither am I the son of any ideology on this earth, be it capitalistic, be it socialistic, be it communistic... it doesn't matter. I am not a son of any of that. I am a son of God. We take it so literally that we basically say what Jesus said when they said to Him, "Your mother, your father, your family, is looking for you." He said, "Who is my father? Who is my mother? But those who do My will. Who are My brethren?" He called God His Father. To Jesus, God was more the Father of Him than what Joseph would ever have been.

Let's take it the other way. To Jesus, God was more His Father than what Mary could ever have been His mother that gave birth to Him. He lived from that reality and He sacrificed the other logic He could have about Himself. So, Jesus had a new mindset and He was transformed by this new mindset and believing in this truth. And the power behind it is the reality and the truth of it where God is His Father. So, Jesus was the Son of God when He walked on the earth and He did not yet appear but, when God raised Him from the dead, He did appear as the Son of God in truth. In the very same way as what Jesus lived as Jesus, His life was more towards God than His physical family on this earth. You need to understand that Jesus, if He was born from Mary, there was a part of Mary in Him and He had physical brothers. Jesus had brothers. He had family but listen to what He says. He says, "Who's my mother? Who's my father? Who are these people?"

Now I am not saying that we should deny our families and push them away. That would be an absolutely crazy thing to do. The Bible says that he that cannot care for his own family, you know he's worse than a sinner. If you can, and you have the ability and that would also be in the mindset of the people, care for your people. Love your husbands, love your wives. Fathers, be good to your children. Children, be respectful to your parents. There is so much in the scriptures. It's not to say that we deny our families but

our identity is found in Christ. We are sons of God and then from there, we find life flow to different areas of our life.

I want to just touch quickly on this passage again and then we are going to move on.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world...

If you look at the world, if you look at the news media, if you look at what they say, what they do, how they mock, they do all those kinds of things. Their identity is so much in their nationality and all those kinds of things. Let us not be conformed to that. Let us not conform to that. That's not who we are. We are the children of God.

You know, if I look at South Africa, if I look at our constitution and what we would like in other countries also talk about the founding fathers and how they found this constitution in South Africa the way it is now, I'm not born of them. They are not my father. I will not call them father. I only call One Father and that is God. I will call my earthly father, father, but the way I call him father is not the way I call God my Father. I know that from my heavenly Father, through my heavenly Father and to Him, all things consist. In Him everything consists. My whole, my getting up, laying down, everything consists in Him and I've, therefore, sacrificed. I'm a living sacrifice and so have many of you, for many years, already been living sacrifices without even knowing it in understanding it in the context where it is written here

I'm going to end off with this. It is just a practical every day example of Paul and how he did this. ***Philippians 3:***

1 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. He reminds them again. Let us continue in Jesus. How do you continue? You are going to remind somebody again and that is what I do through this ministry. I'm going to remind you.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. He is basically referring to the Judaizers that came and told these Gentiles that they must be circumcised.

3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. He is saying, "Listen, I have reason for great confidence in the flesh." You know, he is a Jew and he's all those kinds of things, but ***we are the true circumcision.*** We are the true nation of God." Let's make it real today and what I want to get at. We are the nation of God who don't have a passport of a certain country. Our blessing is not in that. We don't measure our blessing in that. We measure our blessing if we know we were blessed. We are the circumcision who boast in Christ Jesus. We whosay, "We know the One that was raised from the dead. Hallelujah!" It says, "We have our confidence in Him." ***If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:***

5 circumcised on the eighth day(We are talking about a living sacrifice now. So, Paul says that he, at that moment, where he is, he can, you've got reason to be confident,), **of the people of Israel**(I'm an Israelite, the nationality), **of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews**(Benjamin was a Hebrew of Hebrews, the favored one.); **in regard to the law, a Pharisee**(In other words, "I am for the law.");

6 as for zeal, persecuting the church(I mean I was very serious about this because I have that, basically, already 'under the belt.'"); **as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.**

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

So, what he says what was gained to me I now consider as loss. My identity is not in that anymore. And he says here, "I am an Israelite of the Israelites." So he says, "I am a true Israelite." He says that he doesn't even see himself as an Israelite anymore although he is an Israelite. He is living in his flesh. He is an Israelite but he has now sacrificed that. He is now a living sacrifice because of the mercy that he beholds in Jesus Christ and he doesn't have, therefore, this whole thing about Israel, and all of that, dictate to him anymore. Paul would be very safe in believing this way because, should the people come that wanted to recruit soldiers for a rebellion against Rome, he would not have been able to go because he didn't see himself anymore as, "Well, I'm an Israelite that is oppressed by Rome because I am a living sacrifice. I've sacrificed that. I now relate to God. I am not oppressed. I'm the free! I'm the free for the scripture says that whosoever the Lord Jesus has set free is free indeed.

So, Paul, and the people of that day, who were oppressed by Rome, while they were oppressed because they were living sacrifice and they see who they are in Christ. They lived as Jews up to a certain time but now they are continuing in Jesus. Because they live like that, they couldn't be touched and manipulated and controlled by the things of this world. They cannot. They cannot! This is a very, very powerful way of living! It sets you free. It gets your mind to the things of God. The systems that compete for your thought time will not get a lot of time anymore because in reality, it becomes an absolute reality to you that you are a Christian.

Some would say, "Bertie, you know, aren't you first a Christian and secondly you are a South African?" No! I'm first a Christian... Second, a Christian, Third, a Christian., Fourth a Christian.... Fifth, a Christian, in every area wherein I could ever boast, whatever you want to give that place, I've sacrificed that. I am a child of the Almighty God! I live by the power of the resurrection... and so do you! Why lie to yourself! That is the reality that God calls real.

Whenever we relate to ourselves on these other systems, it is called fleshly or worldly. Let us not conform to the patterns of this world. Let's live in this world. Let's run our business in this world. Let us do this and I can tell you that it is going to be challenging because it is like an overlapping of two completely different systems. But, as you are continually hearing the Good News, speaking to your wife, speaking to your husband, speaking to your kids about this Good News and you are encouraging yourself in this Good News, and you see who you really are in Christ, you will find the power of the

resurrection empowering you every day! And you will live in the victory that God has for you. So, you are a child of God. Let us continue in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of (knowledge) knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them dung (garbage), that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him...

What he is basically saying here is, "I want to be found in Him. I don't want to be ashamed at His return. Therefore, I'm continuing in this Gospel. I'm never going to end with this Gospel. I, Bertie, am not never going to live with a safety net in the back of my mind, even if you stop to believe for a while, you are safe. No, no, no! I feel I'm not safe at all if I am not in this Gospel, I don't feel safe. I have already seen the fruit that comes to my life should I veer away from the Grace message and just get into the law a little bit. What if I even get further, if I get deep into the politics of this world, and those kinds of things? You know, it's going to destroy me! I will have no fruit. I'm not safe at all. I cannot define myself outside of the way God defines me... and so with you. We cannot! We, as Christians, are under a new kingdom. We have our own King. We have our own Ruler. His name is Jesus. We rest in Him. We are the sons of the only eternal God! We, bodily, possess the fullness of God. That is what we have!

Paul says, "I counted all these things but lost." He didn't say, "Well, I am first a Christian and then a Jew." No, he didn't say that! He said, "I'm a Christian and the other things are dung. It's just rubbish! It's garbage! That's what it is." Now, if the Apostle Paul says that and John comes and says, "Let us continue in Jesus and see ourselves as sons of God", why would we not take that seriously? Let us take that and see. What he's basically just saying is, "See yourself in the Good News and let it be real to you. Don't let it just be some theory. It is real."

I'm going to end off with just another verse. Let's go to **Colossians 2**. This is Paul, again, encouraging people to continue in Jesus. He says,

:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy.

There are so many. How many philosophies are there now... Financial philosophies about finances and how to run countries and all those kinds of things? There were also philosophies about Judaism and all those kinds of things that he also refers to here. He says, **Let no one takes you captive** (So you can be in exile like the Assyrian or the Babylonian exile. You can be taken captive) **through hollow and deceptive philosophy**. You know there can be a philosophy. Paul made this thing so true to him

that he was so much a son of God that he would reckon that there is a philosophy that says that I am a Jew. It's amazing...

There's some philosophy that says that people come and divide lands and countries and all those kinds of things but that I am now a South African and those kinds of things. "Bertie, aren't you a South African?" Well, in the flesh I am, but I have sacrificed that. I am a living sacrifice. So, while I live, I sacrifice that which is, "I'm alive in now."

It says that these philosophies **depend on human traditions and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.**

**9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.**

Do you see how serious he is about this thing? So, what he is basically saying is, "Continue in Christ because bodily you have the fullness of God. It might not yet appear but you have the hope that it shall appear when He returns. And should you have that, you, by that, cleanse yourself from everything that is evil because you believe in the truth about yourself. Amen.

He is the head over every power and authority. He is the head over governments. He is head over everything.

11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ Your whole self, that was ruled by mortality has been circumcised away from you.

So, whenever we look in this world, the systems of this world that say that we are mortal, we must try to preserve our lives in some form or fashion and then follow into their logic and philosophies, that whole self that was ruled by the carnal man, I've been circumcised away from that. I am now an eternal, physical being. I am not an eternal spirit. No, I became an eternal human being. That's what I am and that is my reality and your reality. That is why he says, "**In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**" And you are complete in Him. Isn't that absolutely powerful! This is the Good News! This is the power of God!

I want to encourage you as Christians. I want to encourage you as Believers: Consider yourself as dead to the world... completely dead. It might sound like foolishness and to the the world, what I am saying, might sound foolish, but it is the wisdom of God. By living in this wisdom, the Bible says, "He who believes this, cleanses himself and purifies himself, even as Christ is pure." Do you want to experience the purity of Christ? Live in this mindset: Continue in Christ. Don't start in Christ and continue in some form of Judaism, some form of a lust of the eye, the pride of life, the love of money, or any of those kinds of things. Start in Christ. Continue in Christ and end up in Christ in the resurrection of Jesus.

Thank you so much. I trust that this message has blessed you and you will hear from me again, in this week, through the daily devotions. If you want to get on the list of daily devotionals please write an email to info@dynamicministries.com or in Facebook Messenger on the inbox where you can just pop in a message and say, "Please put me on the daily devotional", and you will get it.