

DEALING WITH A LIFE THAT SEEMS SUCCESSFUL

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It is a blessing for me to come to you and bring you the Good News of Jesus Christ. For those who have slotted in, we are coming from a very beautiful Malmesbury, Cape Town, area... snow on the mountains... ice cold... it's just so crisp and clean. It's such an honor to live in this area and just bring you the Good News of Jesus, the Gospel, the message of His life that He has come to bring us, the comfort that there is in Jesus Christ. As we know that Jesus was raised from the dead and He is Lord, we, as Christians, see Him as our Lord. We see His rulership as the jurisdiction under which we stand although we are in this world.

So, when we look at the things of this world and how there are injustices in this world and pain and fear and anxiety and violence and things that are not going right, we know that we can invite those people into or under the rule that we stand in and that we, in the midst of all of these things, can have peace.

Today I am going to talk a little bit about Jesus and where He was also going through difficult times. We need to understand that Jesus went through difficult times. It was not as if He was, all the time, just thinking that everything was just 100 percent. He, Himself, was at a place where He asked His disciples to pray for Him. The Bible clearly says that Jesus' words were saying that His soul was in distress, waiting for the cup that He had to drink. He knew that He was going to go through death and it wasn't an easy thing for Him. He even prayed to the Father, more than once, that that cup can be taken away from Him. He did not want to go through that. It was a fearful thing. It was a thing of anxiety. It was something that was really pushing down on Him.

He was also in some other places saying to His disciples, "How long will I still be with you?" And we get the sense He was thinking that, "By this time, you are now supposed to understand and grab along of this message." We find in another place, and we will see a bit of that in Isaiah, where He is saying, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, I wanted to gather you like a hen gathers her chicks but you didn't want to." So, He comes to do the will of the Father which was to gather Jerusalem but they didn't want to be gathered and they are not being gathered, and Jesus is going to die that way with the people of God, Jerusalem, not being gathered. We are going to look at how Jesus deals with that because there are places in our lives where we think that things were supposed to have been working out in a certain way... but how do we deal with these things that, seemingly, is not working out as we think it should work out.

Now, if you read Isaiah, you find from Isaiah 40, the deliverance of Israel coming, the prophecies of what Jesus was going to do, the Messianic prophecies coming forth. And we find he starts off prophesying to John the Baptist:

Isaiah 40:

1 Comfort, comfort my people says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service has been completed, that her sins have been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins (that basically talks about a double forgiveness)

3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert the highway for our God. This is John the Baptist and we find from Isaiah 40 here, the prophet now comes and he's prophesying everything about Jesus. So now, when we read this, what we need to do is we need to read it the way Jesus would read it.

Remember, here Jesus sees John the Baptist. He knows John the Baptist is the one that is making the way. From the age of 12, Jesus Himself was busy with the things of His Father at His Father's house. And here He reads Isaiah 40 and He knows that this, prophetically, is speaking about Him. Jesus knows there's a man going before Me making the way straight. It is Elijah. He even said that John the Baptist is Elijah if you can take it, the one that had to come before making the way straight for the Messiah and what John was doing was, he was making certain things clear. He was saying to the Jews, "Listen, you are not the people of God because you are Jews. He basically said that God, of these stones can raise up children unto Abraham. So, it is not about your flesh. It's not about the law. It's not about works but it's about Him that shows grace and shows mercy.

So, imagine Jesus reading through Isaiah and then He gets into Isaiah 42 and He sees the Father, and this is what we preached on last week. I normally do two services a day. In the Afrikaans service I do the Afrikaans one and directly after that I preach the English one. I think that last week's English message came out a bit better than the Afrikaans one. That is just my opinion. People normally differ with me from that but it came out a bit better in the Afrikaans one. So, if you have time, listen to last week's message, the English one that is on YouTube. But this is basically what I spoke about. This is now the Father presenting His Son, to people.

Now, imagine God the Father standing in front of you and saying to you:

"Listen, man, I've got you. I've got a present for you. This is what I wanted to give you all the time:

Isaiah 42:

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

I can just see God, standing, full of excitement, presenting Jesus to His people. Just see that. I mean, see a massive crowd or however you want to see it or God coming to your house and knocking at the door and saying to you, "Listen. I have something that I want to show you. Here is My Servant!"

And then He points you to the Resurrected Christ and He says: “My soul delights in Him. My life is in Him because He brings justice to you! He’s the one that brings justice to you.”

It’s almost like, I remember our neighbor, awhile back, had Covid and he and his wife were very, very ill. Then I went and mowed their lawn. Helena and I went there and cleaned the whole garden and everything there. I think there was a gardener who picked up the leaves and whatever. But when there’s a gardener helping there, the gardener brings me joy because he is cleaning the neighbor’s yard and it brings joy to the neighbor. So, it is about the neighbor and that is what God is doing here. He’s presenting His son because it is about your well-being, about my well-being. And this person, Jesus, is serving the Father and doing the will of the Father which is your salvation.

So, what he is basically saying is that the law cannot save these people. The justice system of the world cannot bring justice to this world. It cannot bring order in this world so I have now raised up a servant. Before the servant came, I even raised up another person that made the way straight for this person to come. What He was telling the Jews was, “Listen. It is not about ethnicity. It’s not about the law. It’s not about your works. It’s about what I am coming to do and here is the man Jesus and He is going to do My will. And My will is to bring justice to the nations and that justice is defined in giving the fruit of the Spirit and the life of God, to people by the working of God.” That is absolute Good News!

Isaiah 42:

2 He shall not cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. (In other words, he’s not a politician! That is simply what it means. He is not a politician.)

3 A bruised reed will he not break. (In other words, even if a reed is bruised, even if your life is destroyed and this world has got no hope for your life, He will not say, “It’s a hopeless case.” That is what He would say. He would say, “This is not a hopeless case. I can bring life for the Father has sent Me to bring eternal life to people, to bring peace to people, to bring joy to people.” Now you might say, “But, I’m not seeing that in my life. It is as if I believed all these things and I’ve done a lot of things in the kingdom of God and I’m not seeing the fruit that I think I was supposed to see.” Don’t jump the gun. We are going there. That is what we are still getting into in Isaiah 49, “But, Bertie, we are only in Isaiah 42. How are we ever going to get to Isaiah 49?” We are just going to skip the chapter in between. Don’t be afraid. Glory to God!

3 A bruised reed will he not break, and a smoking wick He will not snuff out. .in faithfulness he will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on the earth. It means that He is tenacious. He’s not going to stop. It says here that our God, Jesus Christ, will not stop. It basically means that he’s not going to be discouraged. He’s not going to become tired until.... Church, I want to say to you: “Every one of you, right there, as I see your names on the screen, every one of you... Jesus Christ will not stop until justice is served and to Him, justice is only served when you appear in the fullness of God, bodily. There is no other way.

xxxAnd that is what the scripture says here. **He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on the earth, In his teaching the Gentiles will put their hope.**

What is the teaching that Jesus has? The teaching is that He was raised from the dead and that the very same thing that happens to Jesus, the condition Jesus, the human being, finds himself in at the right hand of God, is what we can hope in. The teaching that He has, the doctrine that He has is, "It's not by your works. It's not by your effort. It is by Me!" The beautiful thing about that is it can truly now show people what is truly in their hearts. Those who truly want freedom will come to God and say, "God, You have promised me this. This is what I want." And you will receive it by Him. It says here that this is what God is saying. This is what He will bring forth. He will bring forth a light in darkness.

Isaiah 49 is a repetition of what Isaiah 42 says:

1 Listen to me, you islands (When he talks about the islands, he talks about the Gentile nations, the non-Jews.); **Before I was born the Lord called me: from my mother's womb he has spoken my name** (This is Jesus now speaking. This is His message to the Gentiles.)

2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me, he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel (or you can say in this case, "My servant Jesus."), **in whom I will display my splendor."**

4 But I said, (This is now what Jesus said) **"I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all.**

So, what this is basically saying here is that the Father speaks to Jesus and the Father says to Jesus, "In You will I bring forth justice to all the people." But Jesus said, "If it looks... and I want to explain this because there's something to understand about this. Jesus said, **"I have labored in vain. I've spent my strength for nothing at all."** What that basically means is that in His time, when He was living, it would look as if He did not have any success, as if He spent all His strength, as if He had done whatever He had to do, but there was no effect.

Let us just look at it this way: I'm going to look at it in a normal way and that is how we look at our own lives. Then we are going to look at what God says to Jesus and how Jesus dealt with this thought of, "I'm not successful at what I've done."

Imagine you preached for three years. You get disciples, 12 of them, and then you have about 70 more followers. Then, all of a sudden, one day, you preach and you tell them, "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you have no part in Me." Then they say, "Well, this is difficult to hear!" and then most of them leave. Only 12 of them remain. Then the 12 that remain don't really understand what is going on. They think that you are busy with a political rally. They don't understand your death. They don't understand your resurrection. When you give them some power to pray for people, they are very proud of having power and then think that this is power that they have, this power to heal the sick, is a great tool to gain political favor and to overthrow Rome and to basically strengthen the arm of the flesh.

They have no clue, where to the point that frustration kind of settles in a bit. You know, “How long will I still be here? When are you going to understand something?” And then to the point where you realize that these people are not going to understand anything while I am here and then unless God pours out the Holy Spirit after I’ve died, these people will not understand and that in my time, while I work with them, they are not going to understand.” That is basically what Jesus faced.

And then, when He was about to be crucified, He goes and asks the people to pray for Him and they cannot even pray with Him. They are too weak. They are too tired. They cannot pray. They cannot stand with Him in a time when He is sweating blood. He tells them that He is going to be handed over to the chief priests and all those kinds of things. Then they rebuke Him! They have no understanding. They’ve got no clue! These people fight amongst each other and then the one mother comes and says. “Let my one son sit on Your left hand and the other at Your right hand when you come into Your kingdom.” They were thinking that when Jesus now overthrows Rome here and He’s getting His big army, let my sons rule and let them be with You. That’s what I want.” She was just thinking of herself and her own fame and ego and all those kinds of things.

They were fighting among each other and Jesus tried to tell them, “Listen, I wash your feet. Let me explain to you how this thing works.” They understood nothing! Then just before He goes to the cross, the Bible says that Peter denied Him three times. Jesus knew it was going to take place. Peter denied Him three times and the Bible says, “And then they all deserted Him.” Then on the cross, He hangs alone and the only one that is there is John and His mother. That is all. That is it. That is how the ministry’s end looks. There is nothing to show for three years of hard work. The very people that He multiplied the bread for, the very people that were singing, “Hosanna” to Him when He came in on the triumphant entry on the donkey there, those very people were shouting, “Crucify!” I mean, it doesn’t look like success. It doesn’t look good.

It says here in verse 4... Remember when Jesus reads Isaiah 49, He is saying, “Listen to the islands. I want to tell you this is what I’m going to come and do.” Then he says,

:5 But I say of myself, ‘I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. (Now listen to the key here) Yet what is due me is in the LORD’S hand, and my reward is with my God.’

Can you see this powerful thing? We find the same thing in 2 Corinthians 12:9. We will have to have a look at that and we can also look at 1 Corinthians 4 where Paul is being drawn before courts and all those kinds of things, and how he basically says, “Of myself I know nothing.”

So what Jesus is saying here, “According to Myself and according to what I think success is by My own works of My own hands here, it is counted as a waste of time. But, the success of what is taking place here is not in what I accomplish right now. My success is in the hands of My Father.”

And we find that Jesus, after He died, if we look at success in a worldly manner, the Romans would have said, "He had no success. He had twelve followers. We just put Him on the cross, killed Him, and now they stole His body but we'll sort that out as well. Nothing is going to come of this man!" And they would look at His ministry and say, "Unsuccessful!" People that used to follow Him would say, "Well, we need to find another Messiah for ourselves because obviously this is not the one. It was just a cheat and he was killed and twelve followers is all there was and the mother, crying. It looks the same as what anybody else that's crucified there. It's no difference."

But then we find that what was due to Jesus, the resurrection, was in the Father's hands and not in His own works. We find that which the Father would reward Jesus with, which is us, and the advancing of the kingdom, is in the hands of the Father. It was not in the hands of Jesus' works.

Isaiah 49:

5 And now the Lord says, He who formed me in the womb of my mother, to bring Jacob back to gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength.

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to (just) restore Israel... you will also be a light to the Gentiles..."

So, what I want to say to you, what the scripture is saying here, is that even Jesus Christ, and we are going to look at Paul now, even Jesus Christ, when He was at a place where He would say, "If you look at My works right now, just by what I am doing and accomplishing in this world, it might look like nothing. It might look like things going backwards. It's not going forward but it's going backwards. But I want to say to you what is due Me is in the hands of God. What is due Me is My reward is with God."

And I want to say to you that your reward is not in your hands. Your reward is not by your ability. Your reward and what is due to you is in the hands of God and in God's ability to fulfill what He has promised you. It is not in your own ability.

Let me testify just ministry-wise for Dynamic Love Ministries and how this passage, and I'm going to look at Paul as well, has helped me. When I started out in ministry, I was just a radical young man that would preach everywhere, to any person, and I would find that a lot of people would receive Jesus. I would also lay hands, basically, on everything that moved and we would see a lot of people getting healed. We also saw a lot of people not getting healed but we would see a lot of people getting healed.

I went to Bible school and passionately, most of the days, went out and preached on the street corners, preached house to house. That's what I did not because I was under a law that I had to do it. It is just a passion in my heart. We saw people receiving the Lord. We planted some small churches in communities. I went to Bible school and met up with an evangelist that had big outreaches and I would also, occasionally, preach for him on his stage there.

I built my own stage as well and we would preach. Helena and I would preach there. I'm talking about 1996, '97, around there. We would go to Mozambique and preach in the villages and in the open-air markets there. We would minister to between five and ten thousand people a day... every day and I would do it for a month as long as what the visa could allow. We would preach. We would dish out Bibles. We would do all of those kinds of things. When I preached with Ed, sometimes Ed didn't go and he would ask me and some other people to preach on the stage. We would have crowds of 20 to 25 thousand people to preach the Gospel to.

Helena and I went into Mozambique and planted churches in many different places with preachers. We worked in Zambia and planted many, many churches in Zambia. Then, in South Africa, we got the tv studio and got our own tv station and all those kinds of things. I've traveled 20 plus countries in the world, preaching the Gospel. Then the Covid thing started coming. The tv station closed. Many of those churches that we planted rejected the Grace gospel. They don't want to hear the Grace message anymore and got under the hands of people that preached the Law. People rejected me, like they rejected the Apostle Paul, saying that I am a false preacher.

After planting all the churches, doing all the hard work, now the churches' stand, when they hear my teaching on the tithe, they kick me out. You think of all those kinds of things. I mean, we can talk about the mission station and Zambia and whatever that I don't even want to mention here. You think of all those things and you look and then there are times when Helena and I look, not so much Helena, but this sometimes happened to me where I would say, "It seems as if ***I've labored in vain and I spent my strength for nothing at all.*** But what strengthens me is this: Because I don't walk by that, that is not where my life is. My life is not in how many people I reach, how big a ministry is or any of those kinds of things because Jesus, as well, the Apostle Paul as well, had many people that followed him.

He had great success. He said that all of Asia has received the Gospel and just a little bit later, on his writing, he says, "We have nobody in Asia." We find Paul, at the end of his ministry, basically having Timothy, a teenager, that believed what he says. That's towards the end of his ministry. I mean, that's terrible! Most of the churches that the Apostle Paul planted, when he walked the earth, were closed or became Judaized. The people in Corinth rejected him to the point that he couldn't even put his feet there, man. And he's the one that loved them. He's the one that came honestly to them. He didn't ask them for any money. He was good to them and then some other people came there, big shot apostles with money and entourage and all those kinds of things and they started to speak against Paul and then the people rejected Paul. That is what happened to the man.

We find the same kind of a thing with Jesus Christ but here He says ***Isaiah 49:4 ... yet what is due me is in the Lord's hands.*** So, Jesus wasn't seeking justification or the manifestation of reward in what He did and by what He did. He knew that His reward was an empty grave and that He would be appointed as Lord and that His kingdom will advance in all the earth to where it is today. We can see the reward of the Lord all over the earth and what happened to him there.

He says here, and this is so beautiful I want to just read this in the King James translation and then we will go over to 2 Corinthians.

Isaiah 49:4 Then I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work is with my God.

He says, "Yes, it might look as if we wasted our time. You might have been a person that has tried many different things in spreading the Gospel, having a home church, telling the Gospel to somebody, and all those kinds of things and you might say, "My strength I've spent in vain."

5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

So, Jesus says, "My strength I've spent for nothing. I couldn't gather Israel like a hen wants to gather chicks, I want to gather Israel but they are not gathered." And Jesus saying, "Well, it looks as if I didn't get that right." But then God the Father says to Jesus, ***Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I (Jesus) be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.***

So, Jesus is saying, "Yet, if this does not happen, I shall still be glorious in the eyes of my God!" Alleluia! You know, we as parents, as we raise our children, I am thinking of people that are here now, people starting businesses, people supporting ministries, whatever you try to do that you feel is the right thing to do... home groups, whatever it is. You join a church and you thought, "Man, I joined this church and now this is God's will for me and this is going to work out successfully." You can come to the place where you say, "I've saved all my strength for nothing." And God would say, "I tell you that what you are doing here is not going to work out but you shall always be glorious in My eyes!" Alleluia! Paul takes this principle. Let me just read it again. I don't want to rush over it:

Isaiah 49:3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. This is a prophetic word about Jesus. You need to understand that when it says, "Israel" here, it doesn't talk about the nation, Israel. It doesn't talk about the Jews. Jesus is Israel and we, who have believed upon Him, are the Israelites. Paul said, "Who is a Jew but he that is circumcised in the heart?" And that is the logic Paul uses when he reads these scriptures, as well as Jesus. Israel, as a nation, was supposed to be the servant of God to serve the Gentiles with the Gospel, but they didn't. But God prophesied, that through Israel shall be a servant and then from Israel, He will raise up a Jew, Jesus, who was Israel, who did what God prophesied. So, what God did, what God promised, became true even if it was just in one man.

3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel (or Oh Jesus), in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work is with my God.

Yes, to me, it seems as if nothing is working out but Father, if You say it, it is so.

5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, (This is what the Lord says to Jesus) Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall you be glorious in my eyes and I shall be your strength.

It means that Jesus didn't find His strength in how successful His ministry was when He was on the earth because the Father had to justify Jesus with that which the Father promised Jesus prior to His death which was resurrection and that He will reign and rule on the earth. And that is what took place. We see that after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is poured out, the Church started to preach. We find in the seventh chapter in Acts, the Jews became a bit nasty. They killed Stephen.

After they killed Stephen, what took place? They put their clothes at the feet of a young man, Saul of Tarsus, a zealot, and this is what Acts 8:1 says: **And Saul approved of their killing him.**

Man, it's becoming a bit difficult there. But, then, if you read chapter 8, when the Church fled to Samaria, a lot of the Jews fled to Samaria, because the religious Jews in Jerusalem hated Samaria. They didn't want to go to Samaria. They didn't even walk through Samaria. They walked around Samaria. So, they thought that is a safe place to go and hide from the Jews that wanted to kill the Church. But when they were there fleeing you find the Gospel being preached. You find that Herod built these temples and massive places where the gods were worshiped... the Goddess Roma was worshipped and you find that there was a place of worship of the Caesar Augusta. Everybody worshipped there. This Samaria was a stronghold. It was a place of great evil of worshipping idols and all these kinds of things. But when the Church fled there, we find that Simon the Sorcerer, which was called the great power of God, he submits to Jesus. He gets saved. We find the Church spreading the Gospel, people believing in Samaria. Then the Apostles come. They lay hands on these people and they receive the Holy Spirit and churches are planted.

When Jesus was walking on the earth, He said, "Well, it looks as if I'm not getting anything right here but My judgment and My justice is with God." And God justified Jesus and we see how the Church had spread all over the world and continues to spread.

I want to tell you that you and me are part of an everlasting kingdom. We don't have to fret about Bill Gates, man! We don't have to fret about different things in the world. We South Africans don't have to fret about what happens in the politics, land reformation and all these kinds of things. We don't have to stress about those things.

When this terrorist, Saul, was on his way to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him! That appearing wasn't like a one hour long appearing. If you read the NIV, it says the appearing was with a flash. It's like lightning. It was just a flash, like a millisecond, half a second of a flash. And a half a second of a flash of the bodily resurrection presence of Jesus caused scales to come over his eyes and the physical manifestation on his body. And after this flash and this light that shown around him, in the flash, was then speaking to him. Other people heard the voice but they saw no one. They heard the voice that was speaking to Paul. This man changed and the terrorists, the one who was bringing terror, was changed by the power of the resurrected Christ!

Now, I want to say to you, "If just a flash of a millisecond of the bodily, physical presence of Christ brought that change in Jesus, what do you think will His return will be like where you will, not just flash, but shine eternally with Him in the earth! Do you think there will be any wickedness left on this earth! Nothing! Absolutely nothing! We are part of an ever-increasing kingdom where there is no end to it.

Listen to how Paul handles this thing. Paul also had some times when he didn't feel too good. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul says here that he had different revelations of God and then he says this revelation was so great and he was making so much success in the earth, you know, but then a thorn in the flesh was given him. That thorn in the flesh was not God giving him a thorn in the flesh. That thorn in the flesh was just the Sanhedrin and some Jewish people deciding that wherever Paul would start a church, they were going to follow him and then they would destroy his church and Judaize them. That's what happened.

Then Paul basically said that he asked God three times. He says, "There was a messenger of Satan, a Satanic messenger." So, whenever Paul preached his message of Grace, after he preached, a messenger of Satan came. This was a preacher, a normal physical person, that would go wherever Paul went and preached a message that contradicted what Paul preached and do havoc to the Church".

2 Corinthians 12:

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan and it tormented me...

8 For three times I pleaded with the Lord, to take it away from me...

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my power is made perfect in weakness...

So, what He was saying is, "You. think you need to have a powerful ministry in the earth and this revelation can just spread everywhere and everybody can believe accurately and take this Gospel. We are going to take over the world! No, that's not how it works. Maybe these people are destroying these things. Paul, My strength is made perfect in weakness. My grace is sufficient for you!"

What He was saying to him was, "My judgment over you, Paul, is in My hands. Not in what I do through you but it is in My hands to bring justice to you. And Paul, I have the promise of the resurrection!" And we can, today, see what effect the life of Paul had on the whole earth.

So, when Paul was in these difficult times, he thought, "The better thing is if I can change these things." But God said to him, "Listen, man, it's not by how successful you are. It's about Me and what I promised you and what I bring forth.

I'm ending off ... Listen to this: Remember the Apostle Paul was a good man but he was drawn in front of courts all the time. Listen to what this passage says here:

1 Corinthians 4:

1 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ (He says, I want you to regard me as a servant of Christ) **and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.**

2 Now it is required that those who have been given this trust to be faithful.

3 (But I tell you that) ***I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.***

4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

Can you see how Paul takes Isaiah 49 and applies it to himself? This is what he is saying and I'm ending off with this. He was saying, "I'm a steward of this Gospel and I should be found faithful in this Gospel. But, to me it is a very little thing if I am judged by you or by a human court and found faithful or guilty in your eyes or in the eyes of a human court." That is what he is saying because they were just drawing in front of human courts all the time. He says, "I don't even judge myself. I don't know of anything that I have done wrong but I'm not even justified by that because He who brings life to me is God! That's all that matters!"

Even like in my case, I've had some guy decide to draw me in front of a court, a court of this world, for something that is very stupid. Now I know that I will stand innocent there but that means nothing! That means nothing... absolutely nothing! If I'm guilty or innocent in the eyes of you that watch me, if I'm guilty or innocent in the eyes of a court of law, I don't care! I don't even judge myself. I cannot even judge myself to say, "Will I have life by this or not?" It doesn't matter! Paul says, "My justice is in the hands of the Almighty God and in the resurrection, the life of God shall be revealed in me." And that is what Paul lived by and we see the effect that it had on the whole world! That's the way Jesus lived and we see the effect that it had on the whole world. We see the way the apostles lived and the effect it had on the whole world.

So, I want to say to you, "Never let anything in your life disqualify you! We cannot measure our lives by the things of this world. By the things of this world, we might think we've wasted all of our time but our justice is with God and He has promised us eternal life!

What we can live from now is the peace of having life by God. Alleluia! Glory to God! Isn't God wonderful! Isn't God beautiful!"

Here we have an apostle, the Apostle Paul. The effective time of his ministry was just about ten years. That's when he really traveled and when he could write. But the other years he spent in jails, in front of courts... all lies about this guy! And when he said, "God, I want this to end!", God said to him, "Listen, I want to tell you (and I want to use my own words here) even if this ends, don't find yourself strong in this ending, Your strength is in My grace which is the power of the resurrection for you which will justify you with the fruit of the Spirit today and with bodily immortality in the day of the Lord." And this is the truth we can keep before our eyes, Church.

Thank you so much that I could serve you with the Good News. I would like to have run through this again for another thirty minutes or so but I think you can just rewind and listen to this later today when this is uploaded on YouTube.

Thank you so much for the life that I can see in you by Jesus Christ and that you allow that. You say, "God, thank You that it is by Your working. Thank You that it is by Your doing that Grace is sufficient for me. My strength is made perfect in weakness. When you think things are weak, I want to tell you, "God is strong!" That means that it is not by our power. It's by God fulfilling His judgment in our lives which is a judgment unto life. Thank you so much.

Let us pray: Father, I want to pray for every person that is watching me. I want to pray for every sick person that is watching me... every person that has trouble in his life. I want to thank You that we can stand in the midst of trouble and say that Your grace is sufficient for us. And from that perspective we can also have a confident expectation for healing. Thank You, Lord, that we can live in a place where we don't even have to judge ourselves. And Lord, even if we judge ourselves and we find ourselves as innocent, that we are not justified by it. Isn't that glorious because, Lord, tomorrow we might judge ourselves and find ourselves guilty. How will we then be justified if we be justified by how we find ourselves?

Thank You, Lord, that we find ourselves under Your judgment which is revealed in the resurrection of Jesus as a judgment unto life.

I declare that every person that is watching me, is touched by the power of God, flooded with the understanding of God, flooded with the goodness of God, in Jesus' mighty name. I thank You, Father, that You've opened our eyes to see Your Gospel! Amen and amen!