

# **DON'T ROW THE BOAT... REDEFINING OBEDIENCE**

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Today, each one of you will eat four lumps. You know, whenever I come to Pastor Jerry's house, he says that I must eat six lumps of Nshima! He wants me to be fat. He wants me to be fat. He wants me to look like Roderick! I only have a small beard. I cannot have a big body.

Let us pray together: Father, thank You so much that we can be together today and thank You that You love us. Holy Spirit, thank You that You speak powerfully through me today and impact every person's life with a deep understanding of Your grace and the fruit that Your grace can bring forth in people's lives. Amen

It is so good for me to be here! Today I am going to read from Ephesians, chapter 1. Then we are going to jump to different verses in the Bible, preaching on the Grace of God. You know, there is only one Good News and that is the Good News that God raised Jesus from the dead... which is the Gospel of Grace! There is no other gospel! There might be different views that people have but there is only one gospel! It is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that the man, Jesus Christ, is ruling today giving life to whosoever believes in Him! So that we don't have to be saved by our works but that we can be saved by His grace because by the works of the law can no man be justified before God. No flesh can be justified by the works of the law. That means that no person can be free from sins by the works of the law. Even if the law says that you must live holy and you can look at the law and you can say that the law is holy... even if the law is holy, it cannot save you. If the law could save you, you didn't need Jesus Christ! Amen!

If we look at the law, and we try to obey the law to be saved, other people might think we are holy but we know in ourselves, that by that law we are struggling with so many sins because the law is not the power of God to salvation. Amen! And when you have received the Holy Spirit when you believed in Jesus, that Holy Spirit is recreating you, and in Christ, you are a new creation. You don't refer to yourself as a bad sinner. You refer to yourself as a new creation and, by God's faithfulness, you will see His life in you! Your faithfulness to the law can never save you! God's faithfulness to people can save us. We are saved by the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. You can never be faithful enough to the Lord to be saved. The only thing that saves is Grace! You need to receive the goodness of God and the love of God because the love of God will preserve your life.

You know, if you love your wife and you are very good to her, you speak good to her, you teach her the good news of Jesus Christ, you love her, you provide for her, the chance that your wife will leave you for another man is very small.

Because she has a very good husband, why would she go to another man? But, if the husband beats her, if the husband is always drunk, never at home, always at the bar, you can find the wife looking for another man. Or, you can find that another man thinks that he can be better to that woman than her husband is to her. It is the same way with God! If you can know how much God loves you, you will never leave the Gospel! But, if you think that God is beating you every day, if you think that God is always telling you about your sin, you'll find the reason to leave the Gospel because who wants to be beaten every day... no person! Amen?

**Ephesians 1:2.** Paul starts and says, ***“Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** Can you see how Paul greets the people in the name of Jesus? When he starts his letter, he says, “I am Paul and I am sent by God.” That is what the word, apostle, means. Apostle means to be sent, to be a messenger. The first apostle there was in the New Testament was Mary. She went from the grave to tell the people that Jesus was raised. She is called the Apostle to the Apostles, because those angels sent her, “Go and tell the people!” When you are sent means that you are an apostle. The first apostle was a lady. Many times we think that an apostle is somebody with a big, big jacket with very nice shoes... almost like Jerry's shoes. Ahh Apostle Jerry!

An apostle is someone who was sent with the Good News message. You guys need to know that when you hear messages being preached, if it's not the Good News, it's not the Gospel! It's just the message from a man!

Verse 2, Paul says, “God sent me.” Verse 1 says, “God sent me.” He says, “I am an apostle. Then in verse 2 he says what God is telling him to say. He says, “Grace to you!”

When God comes to you, what is the first thing He will say to you? “Grace to you!” Paul says here, “Grace and peace from God and Jesus Christ.” So, you can know one thing for sure. Grace is not only from Jesus. It's from God and Jesus. Some people think that God is angry but Jesus is friendly. God the Father is the big boss. He's angry. But Jesus is always bringing the Father tea and says, “What can I do that You cannot be angry? Oh, Daddy do you need Coca Cola today? Oh, please just don't punish the human beings! Please don't punish the human beings.” No! It says, “Grace” from God and Jesus. **In heaven there is only grace for you... nothing else! Amen! The throne of God is called the throne of grace.**

When you go to court, you see the judge sitting there. When you see that judge, you are scared because that throne is the throne of the law. If you've committed an offense, you go to the judge and he is going to decide about you, you'd better be scared because in the court there is very little grace and there is very little mercy! But, when you go to God it is a throne of grace. It's a throne of mercy. It's a throne where He helps you. If you have stolen something and you go to the normal magistrate court, that judge is not thinking, “How can I help the thief?” How can I help the thief so that he can love people? How can I work in the heart of the thief so that he can have kindness and goodness?” No!

But God, when the thief comes to Him, He says, "This thief is a beautiful person and I love him but I see that he is stealing. Let Me use My power to set him free from the bondage of stealing, having compassion on the thief. That is called the grace of God. It is the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! When Jesus was raised from the dead, He was victorious over all sin and over all death. And today, as a human being is seated at the right hand of God and every person that comes to Him, the job of Jesus is to save that person, to heal that person, to deliver that person. It is Jesus' job. The Bible says in John chapter 6 that the will of God is that Jesus will not lose anyone that the Father gives Him. It is the job of Jesus to save you! It is not your job to save yourself so that you can go to heaven. It is Jesus' job to save you and when God greets you, He says, "Grace to you. My child, My life I give to you!"

Imagine I come to Pastor Jerry's house and I greet him with, "Hello, Pastor Jerry." Before he even greets me, he says, "I want to tell you that everything in this house is yours!" Even before greeting me! That is what God is saying! When you go to the throne of grace, before God even says, "Hello" to you, He says to you, "All of My power is to you to help you!" Amen! Before He greets you... because to God, in His heart, it is so important that you know that He is for you and not against you.

Paul comes and he says, "I have spoken to God and now I am writing you a letter from God. I'm sent to you and this is what I find from God towards you: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen! I want you to know that whenever you think of God, He has grace to you... not law!"

You know, I find these days, and a lot in the southern parts of Africa that people love the Prophet so much! You come to the Prophet and then the Prophet says, "Your name is..." and then he calls your name. Why would God want to tell you what your name is? You know your own name. (Bertie turns to Pastor Jerry and says, "Your name is Jerry." I told you nothing! He knows his name. What you need to hear is what you don't know and what people don't know is how much God loves them! You come to the Prophet and he tells you what your name is... and then he starts to tell you your sins. That's a problem! Do you know why it is a problem? Because Jesus took away the sin of the whole world and He said, "I will never think of your sin! I've removed your transgressions from you as far as the East is from the West! So, if God the Father doesn't know about the sin, if Jesus Christ died for the sin, and he is mindful of the love of God and the Holy Spirit is the spirit of God's love to you, who is telling the Prophet about your sin? Only the devil! He knows your sin! Now he is telling a certain man that this man has all these sins. God does not think of that!"

The people in Ephesus had sin but when Paul wrote to them, he said, "Grace to you!" Do you think the people in the church of Ephesus there was no person that do something wrong? They had sin! If I go here today and I say, "God is showing me that somebody is drinking a beer. I will be correct. I will not be wrong because in a church with 200 people somebody's drinking beer. You can never be wrong. If I stand here and I say, "I feel the Holy Spirit shows me that there is a guy who is lusting after a lady", I would be right!"

We don't need the Holy Spirit to reveal our sin. We know our sin. We need the Holy Spirit to reveal the mysteries of God which is the grace of God. I come here in the love of God to you. I want to say, "Grace to you!" Alleluia!

And church, it is good for me to see how this church is growing but, like the Apostle Paul said, "I want to warn you. There are false prophets not knowing the grace message and all they do is prophesy how much money you can have or how you can become pregnant. If someone has a message on how you can become pregnant, my wife does not want that message. She's 47 years old! **The message that God gives is the same for everybody!** It is His grace to you. If you don't have money, you have a Father. Believe in your Father. Believe in Father God! He will care for you! He always cares for you!

I always tell myself this: "Bertie, what do you have?" I know I have the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that Gospel can bring me anything I need. That Gospel can even make me happy when I am poor! You people know that when I came here with Roderick we came with ox cart. We came with a bus. Everybody says that these missionaries are very poor but what we have no money can buy! We have the Gospel of God's grace and even if we never have beautiful buildings the grace of God makes us happy in our hearts! Alleluia! You have seen how the grace of God has encouraged Pastor Ruth and Pastor Jerry. They were not begging for money. They were not preaching tithing! They were just believing in the grace of God and today you have the most beautiful building in the Kalabu!

**The grace of God is the power of God and it gives you life! You don't have to live by the works of the law. You have a Father that gives you holiness. Holiness is not what God commands you to do! It is what God promises you! Alleluia!**

***2Peter 1:2: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and our Lord, Jesus Christ.***

We see that the Apostle Paul speaks to Jesus and when he writes the letter, he says, "Grace and peace to you." And we find Peter saying the same thing. He said, "Grace and peace be multiplied to you." Let the grace and peace have super abundant power on you! And this would be through having knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. He says here that grace will multiply in your life as you know who God is and who Jesus is.

A man who knows God will know the grace of God. A man who does not know God condemns people because Peter says here, "*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.*" If you have the knowledge of God, if you know what God knows, if you know what Jesus knows, you will find peace and grace in your life because what God knows is how to help you. He loves you! He has made you to pour His love on you! Amen! God does not make you for any other reason than to love you! He has come to give His life to you.

You know, if I give you my life it would mean the following: I'll give you my mind. I'll give you my understanding. I'll give you what I believe. I'll give you everything I possess, even my house, my love for my friends, my relationship with my friends... everything!

That's what it means to give your life to someone else. God has given His life to you! His life is full of peace. His life is full of kindness. His life is without fear. He gives you His life and by His life He manifests His life in you! Amen! That's how it works! If God gives you His life, He doesn't need the law because God does not need the law today. Do you think Jesus is reading the law every day saying, "I must love My Father. I must not desire. I must not this... Jesus is not reading the law. Jesus IS the law of life! His life is your life! Amen

I want to read one more verse. I want to go back to **Ephesians 1:3. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

Now hear what Peter says in **2Peter 1:**  
**2 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you...***

**3 *According as his divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:***

**4: *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature...***

He is saying here that grace is multiplied to us and this new life is according to the power of God that gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness. So, Godliness is by the power of God. Godliness is not by your willpower! It says there that according to the power of God is given all things to us that pertains to life and godliness. Whatever you need to have eternal life and whatever you need to be godly, and whatever you need for this life is given to you by the grace of God. **You don't have to add anything to God's grace!**

You can preach grace but it doesn't help to mix grace with the law. **The moment you mix grace with the law, you are saying that His power is not enough to give you a new life!** And it says that by this grace of God is given very big promises to us that by the promise by God keeping His promise, we might have the divine nature. If you want the divine nature of God, the nature of eternal life, the nature of love, God promises you love. He promises you the divine nature. He promises you eternal life! As you believe the promise and God keeps His promise, by **God** keeping His promise, you will be a partaker of the divine nature. You are not a partaker of the divine nature by the law of Moses. You are a partaker of the divine nature by God. That means the fruit of the Spirit is not God's commandment to you. The fruit of the Spirit is God's promise to you. Holiness in your life is what God promises you.

Many churches believe heaven, hell, and then God is here in heaven and then God is telling you, "Produce a holy life! Live a holy life plus believe in Jesus, then I will save you from hell." That is what the church preached. Let me say it again. The message to a sinner is this: Believe in Jesus and repent of your sins. Stop your drinking. Stop your smoking. Believe in Jesus. Go to church. Help in the church. Be in the choir. Help to build the building and keep doing this and then Jesus will save you from hellfire.

But God does not say that! God looks at you. He sees, "Oh, this person has sin in his life. He has hatred. He has bitterness. He has no love but, I love him so much! Let Me save him from his sins." Then God says, "I will use My grace to love him so that he can be free from what is killing him!"

The true gospel is this: God is telling people to repent but repent means to have a change of mind. In the Greek it means to think with God. You were thinking with the law. You were thinking of condemnation. Now God say, "Have a change of mind. Think with Me!" Then you must ask God, "God, how do You think? Then God says, "What I am thinking is, "Let Me use My power and recreate you and let Me make you new!" Then, when you say, "Oh, God, I think with You. I think when Jesus was raised from the dead that I am raised with Him! You make me new. You recreate me."

The Bible says, "Repent!" That means to have a change of mind. Believe in Jesus, my friend, and then He will deliver you, save you, from your sins., We have made salvation about heaven and hell but true salvation is about life and death... God saving you from death giving you eternal life. We made salvation about us stopping our sins so that we can be saved from hellfire. But salvation is God saving man from sin, giving him life. The Bible says in Matthew 1:21 that when Jesus Christ was a baby, He was called Jesus because He had to save His people from their sin. So, who must save you from your sin? Jesus... not you! You think you must repent from sin. No! You must be saved from sin!

If somebody is drowning in the river, he does not need swimming lessons! When somebody is drowning in the river, he is going under. You see only his hand is coming out. It doesn't help if you shout to him, "Okay, now left hand, right hand, left hand!" Your swimming lesson is going to kill the man. He needs a savior! He needs someone who knows swimming that is good enough to swim for two people. That man needs to get into the water. Then he needs to take that man who is drowning and put him in his boat... saving him. Amen! That is what Jesus did! Man was drowning and then God came into the water of man, into the sin of man. But Jesus was good enough to swim for me and you! When He was resurrected, He took us out of the water and put us in His own boat! Amen!

Now, it doesn't help you trying to swim in the boat! You are bothering all the people that are there in the longboat. Imagine someone in a boat, swimming! I know that when I was on a longboat, the boat was always leaking but there's not enough water in the boat for swimming. No, you don't give swimming lessons to someone in the boat! That is why we don't preach the law to people who have received Jesus. They are in the boat! We preach the grace message even to the world that is lost. We preach the grace message. The only way you can preach the law is to preach the law in its original context. The original meaning of the law is Jesus! If you want to truly know what the law says, the true message of the law is JESUS CHRIST! You cannot preach law AND Jesus. If you have preached Jesus, you preached the true meaning of the law, for the law is not to condemn you. The law was to point you to Jesus! Amen! That's how it works!

Church, you are the loved of God. You are in the boat. Alleluia! One time we were going to Mongu with a longboat. It was a suffering, my brother! I don't know what that driver did. He put a diesel inside the engine there but it is a petrol engine. Now the engine dies. We just see Mongu coming there. Now they gave us those oars and now we must row. We were rowing two hours, three hours, suffering now. I want to tell you that the boat of Jesus does not need your rowing! The engine is Grace and the tank is full of fuel. There's no need for fuel. You don't need to help God to bless you. He's got enough power to bless you! Amen!

We can thank Jesus Christ! Amen! Let's clap our hands for the Lord Jesus.

Father, I want to thank You for Your grace and Your grace is enough for us. I want to thank You, my God, that You love us! I want to thank You that Your system of life is fueled up and it will never run out of fuel. It is fueled with eternal life. And thank You, God, that we don't have to extend a helping hand to You but that You have sent an extended a helping hand to us helping us, giving us life.

Thank You that I could preach here, Father and thank You that You bless these people. You have blessed them and we can walk in Your blessing in this place where we can see Your message of grace and eternal life manifesting to everybody in this area in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen!