

# The Law Cannot Save You

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Thank you so much that I can serve you today with the message of His life, the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Let's just thank the Lord...Thank You, Father. Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You speak powerfully through me and that my trust and reliance can only be in the Spirit of God, the very life force of God Himself, bringing forth and speaking life to people. Amen and amen!

Today we are going to talk about the law that is not enough. We are going to talk about what God had planned for us... what God had dreamt for us. I am very pleased to see that more and more people are starting to grab ahold of the message of the resurrection... the importance of the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Many of those people are very influential church people. It is amazing for me to see how the Lord brings in something and how it spreads through His body, and how more people start to see that salvation is actually more about God giving you existence... God giving you eternal life... eternal existence where the opposite of that would be eternal death or non-existence... complete utter death and how He has come to preserve our lives. It is good to see more and more people getting to that because that is the truth and that, I believe, is the key where we and from where we are experiencing the very life of God.

In our Communion service, prior to this message, I read from Acts 13. I want to just quickly recap on that. That will be a wonderful foundation springboard from where I am going to speak about the salvation of man's essence or man's very being.

**Acts 13:38 *Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:  
39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.***

What he is talking about, and what the context of this passage is, is simply David and that David was not raised from the dead but that Jesus was raised from the dead where Jesus is then seen as the one who has fulfilled the Messianic promises. It says here that Jesus was raised up again to see no bodily corruption.

I think that some folks who listen to me must say, "Bertie, we are hearing about this resurrection every day. We are hearing it all the time. All the time we are hearing about corruption, non-corruption, eternal life in the flesh, bodily resurrection." I will preach on this as long as I feel the Lord puts it in my heart. I am not preaching on this because I don't study or don't have my mind in the scriptures.

I do study and I find that that is basically what all of the Scripture is about. It is about God had to come and forgive man of their sins. The forgiveness of sins cannot be measured by the law where man had a transgression towards a holy God where there is just punishment from God towards disobedient people. **The forgiveness of sin is actually God delivering man from death in his body.** That is what it is actually all about. It is God forgiving, or delivering, you from decay or what we would call annihilation... dying. That's what Jesus came to deliver you from. This is what this passage is all about.

Read **Acts 13** carefully with me.

**36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep** (He died.), **and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:** (Did David see corruption? Yes. He died. His body decayed. He saw corruption.)

**37 But he, who God raised again, saw no corruption.** (That isn't referring to Lazarus here. It is referring to Jesus.)

**38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:** (Can you see how the Apostle Paul, in Acts 13 here connects forgiveness of sin to bodily immortality? So then what would sin then be? David could not deliver you from sin. Why? Because he was dying himself. So, if a person that is a mortal cannot forgive you of sin, it means that sin is defined in having the power to end corruptibility or end mortality. That is what it is all about. But here it says that there was a man that was raised from the dead and he saw no corruption. That is why it says,

**38 Be it known unto you therefore** (or on account of his bodily immortality and incorruptibility or, what you would call, eternal existence as a human being on account of Jesus existing forever as a human being having human flesh that can never die. He possesses that power over death in the flesh and He has actually conquered death in human flesh. Let it be known to you that through Him, who knows how to get that right in human flesh, is preached to you today the deliverance or the forgiveness of sin in the flesh or deliverance of decay in the human body. That is preached to you and you have the hope to be raised up just like Him by His Spirit of life! That is what it says and then the signs of this eternal life will already now show in you which are things like kindness, peace, freedom, deliverance, ending of addictions--- basically just the fruit of the Spirit.)

**39 And by him all that believe** (Believe that Jesus was raised and you will have resurrection as well) **are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.** (That means that we have no need of the law of Moses. We don't have to try and follow laws to be successful in this world. We don't have to try to follow laws to have life. We don't have to try to follow laws to have kindness and peace and have compassion that is born from God in our hearts. It is an effortless life as pertaining to the effort that we have to put in connected to Adam's sweating of the brow where he will till the ground until he returns to the dust that he came out of because we are not tilling the ground anymore. We're not tilling our immortality any more to have life from it. We are now believing on the one that can give life and therefore we are not tilling the ground anymore. That is why we are not having dust everywhere.

That can be a little difficult for some of us to understand but let me explain this. The more you till the ground that you came from, means the more you try to live by your own flesh, the more fleshy it becomes around you... the more you see the fruit of the flesh around you. But, as you are relying upon Jesus to give your flesh eternal life, you are not stirring up the dust anymore because you are resting, waiting for Him. It would be like taking a pond with clear water. We know that at the bottom of the pond there is mud. If somebody comes and tells you, "I am bringing you a golden coin." What will you do? You will sit next to the pond, enjoy the beauty of the pond and the bird life and everything that is there. You will look at some of the fish in the pond and so forth. You will enjoy clear water, a beautiful scenery and everything waiting peacefully for someone to bring you the golden coin that he has promised you. But, if you think that the golden coin is at the bottom of that little pond, although it might just be three feet deep, and you think that you need to go and get the gold out of the pond, you will be so busy stirring up the mud that you will not have anything beautiful to look at. You will just have murky, muddy water. You will see no fish. You will not enjoy the bird life. You will have no tranquility... nothing! Why? Because you are stirring up the mud. In the very same way man is a mortal being and the more you try to live by your own ability in obeying the law, the more you are stirring up the dust you came from and it becomes very dusty. You cannot see anymore. It's almost like a veil that is over your face.

It says in verse 39 ***And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.***

***40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;***

***41 Behold, you despisers, and you wonder, and you perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which you shall in no way believe, though a man declare it unto you.***

What is he saying here? He is actually saying to both Jew and Gentile that David is not the big shot. The big shot is Jesus who the Jews betrayed into the hands of the sinners and whom the Romans crucified. That very Jesus, who was raised from the dead, from His eternal existence as a human being, He offers eternal life as a free gift to all people, free from the works of the law which could not give what Jesus had in mind for man. It says here that this work is so great that you will marvel... it is marvelous to think of what God has attained! It's marvelous for us as Christians to actually know that we are at a place where God has come to forgive us, not just in a sense of not in a legalistic way but in an existence way or if I want to use a complicated word... in an ontological way. He's come to save us ontologically. We are going to discuss that a little more today.

This was just an introduction. Let us now get into the message for today... I want to talk about what this Gospel message actually is. We are talking about an ontological salvation. What is that? Ontology is basically the study of existence. Ontology comes from the old Greek word, onto, which simply means the word forming, the element meaning. In other words, a being, an individual being or existence. If we say, "onto", it means existence. Ontology would simply mean the study or the explanation of existence.

So, when God made man, what did man become? Man became a human being. He became a living soul. I don't like the word, living soul. It is a bad word in the light of today's Gnostic understanding of the Gospel. We should simply say, "And he became a living being." In Afrikaans it would be, "n lewende wese".

So if you look at man becoming a living being and you study his being, what would you say he is? You would say, "He is dust that came alive." He is, in what we would say today ontologically about us, we would define ourselves as humans. That would be the right word. And if we look at defining salvation ontologically, we have to come and see how does God preserve the human being forever?

I read a beautiful article on this. (You need to understand that I don't share what article I read or what book I read because if I do that, I might differ with twenty points that man has. Then there was one thing that was nice in line with what I already use but if I tell you what I read then you will identify me with this group or that group. No, I am of no group. I just read the Bible and want to see what the truth is.) But what this guy says is, "God is so good! He has given us being. We became human beings and then what he basically says is, "Then God wants to give us well-being and then eternal being", which I don't fully agree with. I believe that God has given us being and then gave us the promise of eternal being. And as we believe on the promise of eternal being, we are experiencing well-being. That is how it works. That's why we can never, through well-being, attain eternal being. We need to first have eternal being and from the promise of eternal life God brings forth the fruit of the Spirit inside us. Glory to God!

But I think it is beautiful for us to understand that God gave us being, existence, and He said to this being that exists, "You can die. I promise you eternal life. I promise you all of this." This may sound like something I said to you a million times here, but the focus that I have, and you will see that the message that I preach, before I went to Brazil, was about the fruit of God in our lives... how God brings forth fruit in our lives... how God brings forth eternal life inside us.

We have also seen now, that this resurrection pertains to how we live every day. And that is what we struggle with. I am now doing marriage counseling with people. We are always busy giving advice when it comes to marriages and those kinds of things. I find that a lack of understanding on what the resurrection is, what God has come to give us, brings so much trouble in marriages because all of a sudden man wants to find existence and life. Man wants to have his marriage to exist within the parameters of how he must treat his wife and how his wife must treat him instead of both of them finding their identity in the resurrected Jesus from where they will have the very life of God which would be a perfect platform from where God would bring forth love to each other. So this might sound very theological. It might sound very philosophical but I want to say to you that this framework wherein God has blessed, that I am sharing with you today, is really the source from where you will have peace in your marriage, where you will know how to raise your kids, where your kids will know how to honor their parents. It is the foundation from where you will keep your workers who work for you in your business respectfully and with life. It is the very foundation from where a worker will honor his boss in a way that is fitting for people who believe in Jesus Christ. This is truly the foundation!

Hebrews 8:

**7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**

**8 For finding fault with them** (finding fault with people), **God said, Behold, the days come, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:**

**9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, says the Lord.**

**10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel in those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:**

He is basically saying that God had a dream. The dream that God had with humanity was eternal existence. He wanted to give us eternal being as **humans**. That is what He wanted to give us. You might then say, "Bertie, are you then saying that we will never live separate from our bodies as spirit?" The answer to that is very simple. Will God ever separate the Spirit of Jesus from His body to live separate from His body one day?" The answer is, "No!" Well, that is the answer. Jesus is the Word of God about God's dream for humanity, God's fulfillment of that dream for humanity. He is the only word, the only Mediator between God and man. He is the one who gives the true message that God wants to bring forth... and brings perfect mediation between God and man. Mediation talks about: to set at one again, to end enmity, to make one. He is the perfect one wherein God and man was made one and we see a human in the seat of God which is an eternal, immortal, being.

With that in mind, what he says here in **Hebrews 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**

That means that if the law didn't have faults, if the law was perfect in what it must bring us in connection to God's dream, if the law was the way to eternal life without believing in Jesus but by obeying its commands, there would have been no need to bring another covenant.

**8 For** (God) **finding fault with them** (He is not referring to the laws here but to the people under the law), **God said, Behold, the days come, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:**

So, what God does is He looks at man the way a doctor would look at his patient. If a patient has stomach pain, then doctor would look at the patient and he would try to diagnose the problem. He might say to the person, "I think you are stressed out." He then may give him a pill that would relax him a bit and he may also tell him to go to bed earlier, walk a bit, jog a bit, do exercises to get rid of his stress and then the stomach ache may go away. But, if he gives that advice and the stomach ache does not go away, he must know that the pills he prescribed, the advice he gave, doesn't work. It is not good enough.

He was actually finding fault with the medication since the person is not healed. He is basically saying that if the medication was correct, then the person would have been fine. But here in Hebrews it says that God found fault with the first Covenant. Why? Why was the first Covenant faulty? The first Covenant was faulty because he found fault with people. People weren't healed. People weren't set free. People weren't experiencing what God wanted and dreamt for them.

I want to use another example. You may have a pain in your back. The doctor may prescribe a pill that is a muscle relaxer. It will relax your muscles and really help you. You take the pill but it is not helping. Meantime, you have a tumor growing against your spine pressing against a nerve in your back. Now, I mean, something that is just relaxing your muscle is not going to heal you. So, if you look at the person not being healed, the problem is obviously with the medication and not the person. This is the analogy being used here.

I don't think that God did find fault with the law because the Bible says that the law is perfect. The law was perfect to bring man to the place where you know that only Jesus can save you. The law was also perfect for Jesus to look at to know what He had to do and how to bring salvation forth for people. But, our obedience to commandments is not the way by which we will have eternal life. The Ten Commandments cannot give you bodily immortality. It cannot save you from mortality inside the flesh... death's sting which is sin inside the flesh. It cannot do that. It cannot set you free. That is why the scripture says, "**For (God) finding fault with them...**" God was finding fault with the first. He was saying,

#### **Hebrews 8:**

**7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**

**8 For finding fault with them** (finding fault with people... imperfections in people, He basically says, "Well, I am seeing imperfections in a human. I don't find any human having eternal life by this so I need to find a different way in which I can bless these people. These people don't have the ability to obey the law. That makes the law weak. That makes the law weak, not man, the law. The law is weak unto salvation.)

It says here that he found fault with the people and then He said, **Behold, the days come, when I will make a new covenant...** Then He says that the new covenant is that He will write His law in our minds and in our heart. I especially like when He said that He will write His law in our heart. I believe, and this is my opinion, that when He writes about the law written in our heart, he is referring to the old Mesopotamian concept of divination where they would ask God about their future and then they would lay hands on an animal and pray that God would give them direction of the future through this animal. Then they would cut the throat of the animal, cut him open, let his intestines be spilled on the ground. Then they had a certain way in which they would read how the heart lies, how the liver lies, how the kidneys lie, and then they would believe that God, through that, would give them advice on the future. They would then believe that the message of the future was written on the heart of this animal or in the kidneys or in the liver of the animal.

Even today they have old stones that were chiseled out in the form of a heart with inscriptions on telling you if the heart looks like this, if the veins look a certain way, and so forth, that it would have a certain message about the future. They were trained in divination. So, I believe that when God is saying here, "I want to write My law on your heart, which is the law of life", what it is actually saying is, "Inside you, physically, in your understanding, as well as inside your physical body, I am going to write the first signs of where you, prophetically, will be in the resurrection." I do believe that when He writes the laws on our heart it is not now talking about my heart and I now wanting to do good. It is actually bringing an understanding and a belief from where we will see fruit coming from our heart which is the fruit of the Spirit being a sign and a knowing of where we will end up in the resurrection of Jesus which is eternal existence. Glory to God!

**Romans 8:1** is the very same thing again. In Romans 7, in the end, Paul says, "I have come to the acknowledgement of what is truly the problem with humans. The good that I want to do with my inner man (He is not referring to his spirit. He is referring to his mind.) with my inner man I serve the law. Therefore, with my mind I want to do what is good but I cannot. I find that there is this law with me that when I want to do the good, evil is with me." And then he expresses the problem. He says, "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who will save me? Who will save me from this dying body? I need somebody that has conquered bodily death so that he can help me to love my neighbor because the problem here is that I am moving." This is what Paul is basically saying. That's why it is called death. God has given existence and from this existence we through His love towards us can move into eternal existence. That's what onto means. It means existence. So, God has granted us existence.

I have said many times in the messages that I don't like the word, eternal "life". I like the word, eternal "existence." That is what the Scripture teaches. God gave us existence. God gave Adam existence. He said to Adam, "Adam, you can lose your existence because the stuff you are made from is the dust of this earth. You don't have eternal existence inside yourself but I promise you this. Let Me love on you. Let My Spirit be yours and I will bring you to this eternal existence." Adam didn't believe that and he started to walk in the power of his own existence.

Then he said, "I need salvation from bodily death. That's what I need. I need somebody that can give eternal existence to my human body. That's what I need! Who can give it to me?" Then he said in Romans 8:1, "Therefore, I thank God through Jesus Christ." on account of Jesus's bodily resurrection, from where we can have the forgiveness, or the deliverance, of death in the flesh. There is no condemnation to us anymore or slipping away into a place where then there would be eternal death.

Let me say it as simple as I possibly can. When I was in Brazil, I had like a two-hour message where I explained these things. Then I said at the end, "Isn't this simple?" and the students started to laugh at me. I said, "It is very simple because it sounds very difficult but the simplicity of it is this: God made the human. He gave him existence. He said to him, "I promise you eternal existence." This being said, "No, I already have it." Then he started to slip away from existence into death. He is dying. He exists and now is dying.

Then God said, "Well, what I need to do is I need to conquer death. And if I can conquer death and I can show them that My promise from the beginning is the same and they believe upon Me then I will assure their eternal existence which is really defined and the whole Gospel message is defined in Jesus. God came and brought forth a man, Jesus, from the womb of Mary. This Jesus was mortal. God promised eternal existence to this human. What did He do? He believed God. Even if He entered into death, He believed the Father. Then the Father raised Him from the dead and there He is now a human, with the very existence of God. That is the Gospel.

Let me make it simple: God makes man. He promised man eternal life. You believe Him, He gives it to you. If you don't believe Him, you start to walk in the power of slipping away from eternal existence into non-existence. Another word for non-existence is death... where you will just be a corpse that is dead... you were completely corrupted. But now he says that through Jesus we have the hope of eternal life! Alleluia!

This might be a very difficult thing for some folks. Some may say, "Bertie, this message that you are preaching, you are not giving a lot of place for the time between death and the resurrection. What's happening there? What about our loved ones? Do you just want to say that they are just dead? There's no existence for them whatsoever?" To me, the best way that I can explain that is along the following analogy: Paul comes and he calls death a sleep.

1 Corinthians 15 is very clear on that. We talk about those that have slept in Christ and then it talks about them being woken up out of their sleep. Now the question is, "Do you have any consciousness when you sleep?" My answer is very simple. When you sleep on the bed, do you have any consciousness? It's kind of yes and no. My consciousness is if I am in a deep sleep is in the form of a dream. That dream may be the best experience that I have had on this physical earth. I may say my best experiences that I have ever had on this physical earth are things like, I can fly, I can be at more than one place at the same time... an absolute joy and bliss I have experienced while I was asleep.

So I am not saying and I don't believe that we will have no consciousness once we have died. I do believe there is a form of consciousness but I don't know how that is. What I do say is that the only things we can have is what people have experienced and these things contradict one another many times. So to me, this is what I say: I know that, when I die, my life is in the hands of God... absolutely safe! But, that is not what the issue is to me. To me it is not about the life of the death but like N.T. Wright says that it is the life after the life after death that the Bible actually writes about... the eternal existence of the human body in the likeness of God or the complete human being.

I don't want to refer to us human bodies but as human beings because that is what we are. We can see this clearly in Jesus. When Jesus died, the question wasn't "Where is He after His death?" The question is, "Was He raised?" That's the question. That's the big question and I believe that is what this is all about.



I want to submit to you, Church, that when you see this resurrection, what it answers to and what it brings forth, it answers to the fulfillment of what God has promised and Him not being alive plus it brings to us the fruit of the Spirit that is not by our power. That is why it says in **Romans 8:**

**1 *There is no condemnation for them who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.***

In simple words, those who are not digging in the mud for the gold coin but believe that someone is bringing him the gold coin, he is not going to see the death in the flesh being stirred up all the time.

**2 *The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.***

**3 *For what the law could not do (Listen to this) in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:***

**4 *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not in the flesh but after the Spirit.***

**5 *For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh and they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.***

Walking in the Spirit does not mean that you just pray in tongues all day. Walking in the Spirit, according to Scripture, understanding it biblically, simply means having your life born from the very eternal existence of the human being, Jesus, giving you life from the very same source of life that gives Him eternal existence. Alleluia!

The old Bible words for eternal existence and non-existence is simply this. Eternal life or death. That's it! What was the Gospel that God preached to Adam? God made Adam. He gave him being. Then He said, "You are a human being but I want to give you not just well-being but I am going to give you eternal being where you will experience well-being." That is what He was saying. That is what He preached to Adam and that is what He preached to Jesus and that is what Jesus preaches to all of us. What do we do? We simply believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and that His life is our life and as we rest upon that, we experience the fullness of God's life.

One thing I want to answer. You might say, "But Bertie, I am not experiencing that fullness of life right now." The wonderful thing is that God has promised us and He also said to us that He gave us His Spirit whereby we can know that we will have eternal life and that is seen by the fruit of the Spirit manifesting in us free from the law. And as I see the Scripture says that if we look at Abraham, God promised him and he believed and after a long time the promise was fulfilled. This is Hebrews 11. So, not just seemingly but we can see clearly that the resurrection is something that will take place in the future. So we know why we are yet mortal today. We are not finding our identity in the fact that we are still seeing mortality manifesting in us. We are finding our identity in the resurrected Jesus and we find proof of that resurrected life in us today in how He sets us free from the fruit of the flesh. How we start to see love and peace and joy, kindness, generosity and those things in our lives free from our effort.

Can you see why there is no need for the law because whatsoever the law could promise us we have by the rule of a man that has conquered sin in the flesh. We have always made the problem our disobedience to the commands of the law and, because that was our problem, our solution was a Father punishing His Son. But when we realized that there is an ontological issue here, a metaphysical conclusion issue which ontologically is that we define ourselves not as spirits that is eternal and immortal but ontologically we are saying that we are mortal humans and mortality in the flesh is the problem. That is why the solution, in a bodily resurrection of Jesus makes sense. And that is why we cannot have forgiveness of mortality or deliverance from mortality without a resurrection.

I hope you can see how the Gospel actually makes sense if you define the very being of a human as simply as a human being and not some Gnostic, Socratic kind of a way where we define ourselves as more than human. God does have the ability to bring forth a spiritual body in all of us which is exactly the same body as Jesus has. Let us just believe Him. Glory to God!

My challenge to you is this: Get to a quiet place, pray to God. Say, "God, I want to see this. I want this life, that You are talking about, manifesting in me."

As you are open for this, you will see this come forth in you. I also want to encourage you. You might say, "Bertie, I am not somebody that wants to study things out into depth and into the core. I just want the simple Gospel to believe. I love my work. I love people and those kinds of things and when it comes to the things of the Gospel, can you just give something simple to believe that I can just take and base my life on?"

Yes, I can. This is it: God promises you eternal life, physical eternal life, as a human. The problem with man is that he is dying. Jesus was raised from the dead and He is now God in human, or if you want to say it this way: "He is now the God over humanity, ruling with His life over us." As you believe in this resurrected Jesus, you just say, "Lord, I believe that you were raised bodily and the fulness of Your life comes to me bodily. I am NOT a spirit, a soul and a body. I'm not one of these three. I am a human and I believe that You've come to save humans. I see a human raised from the dead and that resurrected human can solve the problem of my humanity which is mortality. I believe that I will also have eternal life because of You." That's it!

It is very simple. I am a human. This human has a problem. He is losing his existence. But, there is now a human that is sealed to exist forever and He is now Lord over me. I believe You were raised and I will have eternal life like You. Amen!" That is it! Short, powerful, full comprehensive version of what the Gospel is. Glory to God!