

SAVED BY GRACE... WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

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It's a blessing for me to just bring you the Good News of Jesus Christ. I've just quickly run away from the sessions that we are having this morning (In Kenya). Someone else is preaching in this upcoming session and I just thought to let me just quickly come and make a recording for all of you. I trust that you are going to be blessed with this very short message because I have to get back to our program. We are busy with a leadership training where people from the area came together from different villages. Some of them walked 6 hours to get here! Some of them walked in the rain to get to this conference. This was the first time these leaders were really bombarded with the gospel of Grace and I tell you that we have seen the power of God!

I can understand what the Bible says in Acts when they went to a certain town and they saw the grace of God. That is what we are seeing here! We are seeing the grace of God. We are seeing what God can do. We're seeing the Divine Influence of God upon the human race. We can put it this way: We see the power of the Holy Spirit bringing forth life! There's just nothing as beautiful to me, and I'm sure to you as well, to everybody that understands the grace message, to see the light of grace go on in the eyes of people!

Just like my one friend says, "When it just goes, "Ping!" and you find that life that comes from that Grace." I tell you, when we gave people the opportunity to preach... last night, we preached the whole day, last night, the night before we had our first session which was a vision sharing as well and yesterday, we started with our sessions. I preached for five or six hours and then gave the people an opportunity, those who want to preach, to preach. Some of them were leaders. Others were just church members that came with their leaders and when they opened their mouths, my goodness, was that fire! Glory to God! It is just amazing! It's man coming here, doing what we are doing here, is absolutely worth it in seeing the fruit in those people's lives! Glory to God! It is Christ being formed in them! That's what we've been busy with.

This morning we got up earlier and did our first session before the Church service. It was using someone else's church. We did the first session and then we are joining with their church service and I just said to them, "Excuse me for the first part of the service. I just want to minister to people that are in our web fellowship and let them hear what's going on here and just share a short message with them." I just quickly came and I'm right here under a tree because it is hot here and I just stopped under the tree and just quickly made this message.

So today we are going to read from Ephesians 1. Before we get into that I want to just thank you again for allowing me to serve you with the Good News and I want to thank you

that you've allowed Helena and I to serve you for many, many years, being part of a family, part of a fellowship, that gathers on the internet all over the world wherein I just see this Grace message living in you! That's what I'm seeing living in these people! Glory to God! I also want to say this: Those of you that are adventurous, that want to travel sometime and get involved in mission, even if it is just for one outreach in your life, that you come and you do an outreach and you want to do it in this area in Western Zambia, please prepare yourself! It is life-changing! We are still building here. We are still busy but I think by next year, 2024, we are going to have a lot of things ready here and so save up some money. I think if you come from Europe, U.S. because you are going to fly into another country and then into Zambia, then you are going to get on a bus, get over here... flight costs at least two-thousand dollars. So, it is expensive to get here but if you want to do it, think of that holiday you wanted to have and take that money and come here.

It's not going to be a holiday. It's going to be hard work. It's going to be experience of getting to a place where there is no such a thing as a cell phone signal, where there has never been electricity. But Helena and I will make sure that it is in a way where you can focus on the Gospel of Grace and share that message with others and also be equipped and trained. You'll get here and we will just bombard you with five or six or ten hours of teachings and then drop you off in a village with the local team and make sure you are properly cared for and you minister the Gospel and you'll be ministered, too! It is just your life will be greatly impacted! So, if you want to do that, start saving up. Glory to God. Say, "Lord, I want to do it!" Get your minds ready for something like that. That is part of our vision and our plan not just to be a training center for people here but also for people internationally.

Before we get into this message, let's pray together.

Father, I want to thank You for Your Gospel. I want to thank You for Your grace! I want to thank You for the power of Your resurrection, the power of Your life, that You bring to us. That You give us peace. That you give us the opportunity to share in Your life! Thank You, Lord, that You have made us from the dust of the Earth and that we, from that dust, as people, can have nothing of ourselves but whatever we will be will be of You. So, in everything in our life, we'll share in Your life because Your life is the only life! Thank You for that, Lord, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen

I am reading from ***Ephesians 2:***

1 As for you (talking about the people in Ephesus, Gentiles) ***you were dead in your transgressions and sins,***

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Now, I want to tell you that there is a lot of theology packed in there but what he is basically saying and referring to there is those who live by idol worship or the worship of themselves, living by the power of themselves. Now I'm not going to get deep into that.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time (Now, when he says, “**All of us**”. First of all, he says, “You Gentiles, you lived like that”, but all of us lived like that at once. Now he’s referring to the Jewish people. He says, “Listen, we that had the law were not better off. We, that through the works of the law or the part of the law where it was recorded that says that those who are under the law would live by the law. He says, “We were not better off. We Jews were in the very same sinking ship!) It says, **All of us also lived amongst them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and its thoughts.**

So, when we are under the law and we want to be justified by the works of the law and we are not seeing what the law points to... Now I want to say this: The works of the law points to Christ in this that you are under something... And when people were under the law, If you read **Romans 7:9**, Paul referring to the Jewish people here and he says, **“When the commandment came, and sin came alive and I died.”** What Paul was saying is, “When I became legalistic”, or “when I tried to find my life through the works of the law, I basically realized the Grace Gospel in this sense that God is merciful to me, a sinner, and He is continually merciful to me all the time, and He still gives me life. He still gives me breath. He still provides for me but I can just see through the works of the law that in my flesh dwells nothing good, that in my own ability there is no way to life. It is just the way it is.

So, he is saying here, **All of us also amongst them** (lived in those cravings) **at one time**, and he is just referring to himself and the Jewish people as well. **Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.** He is saying that in our nature, in the human nature, we cannot attain unto life. It is impossible. Now for Paul, this simply meant that it is impossible for a human being, by his own power, to attain to immortality.

When I was preaching here, when I started to minister along those lines, I just saw that the people didn’t know what I was talking about. I realized that they’re at a place where they simply need to hear, “God’s not angry with you! He’s not judging you by your work!” It’s just a very simple message.

(And there the rain starts...I have to say this as well. Sorry for deviating a little bit there. In this area, in rain season, is not good for outreach. My goodness, it rains every day several times and at all night as well.)

What Paul is saying here is simply that it is impossible for a human being, by his own power, to attain eternal life. What he means by that is that it is impossible for a human, by his own works, or by the law or the commandments of the law or by living a good life, to ever make his flesh immortal. Now, some of us would say that is not written there. But I can tell you that if you look at the greater scope of things, what Paul understood under eternal life, what was meant by that and defined by eternal life through Jesus Christ and God’s definition of eternal life in the empty grave, the resurrected, glorified human being, Jesus, who is above sin and death, we can quickly come to the bottom line conclusion that when Paul talks about eternal life, when he talks about life, he is talking about as it

is demonstrated in the man, Jesus, at the right hand of God and it is not defined in any other way, and what it would mean for us is an empty grave.

Now, with that said, he's saying, and let me read it again. It says, ***Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*** By nature, we were at a place where by our own works, all that it will amount to is death or as what God said from the beginning. God said this in Genesis. He said to Adam and Eve, "By your own nature, (He called Adam what he was. You are Adam. You are of the Earth. And if you want to just live by your own nature, your own mortal nature, and you think you are going to know what is good and evil, and do the good and think you're going to get to a place of eternal life, you are not going to! It is not possible. There is no way to that. When one talks about deserving of wrath, it doesn't mean deserving of God killing you. That's not what it means. Deserving of wrath simply means that the passion of God will continue, which is to lead, to give people life by Him and should people not want that, they'll return to the dust of the earth. Then it goes on.

***4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions***

So, what he is saying is that He gave Jesus while people were not even believing in Jesus and then He brought forth a new man wherein we can be identified. So, we came to life through Jesus Christ. Let me read it again...

Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

The fact that you are saved by grace, through faith, that faith is God's faithfulness towards you as well as having faith and reliance and showing faithfulness to the fact that we are saved by faithfulness and not our works, that is how we are saved. So, what he is saying is we were dead in our transgressions and our sins. Our lives could not go forward but God came and made us alive in Christ Jesus. This being made alive in Christ Jesus, seated us with Him in heavenly places, took place through the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and we are having access to that as we rest and rely upon that.

So, we are saved by grace... not by the works of the law. It is not about ourselves. Let us read it again: We don't have access to grace through our works. This is what Paul is also addressing here. We don't have to do good works in order to have access to Grace. No, our access to grace is through faith. That is all. It is the faithfulness of God. Grace is the power of the Resurrection to bring the life of God to us. The only way we could access

grace is by God being faithful to the promise that He made in the beginning and then we, from ourselves, from our side, inspired by the love of God, persuaded by God's doing in our hearts, relying upon the fact that God is faithful.

So, yes, we have a faithfulness from ourselves and this is our faithfulness: We have faith. We are persuaded of and we are faithful to the fact that God is faithful. By that it means that we are not going back to the old system. We faithfully say that it is only by God and by His promise and by Him fulfilling His promise towards us that we will have the life of God. Let me read it again:

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (In other words, He's given us access to eternal life) ,
7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace (In order that in the future we might be raised from the dead, become immortal and through these immortals show His life in all the Earth and this is **expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus**).

So, God's expression of kindness is in what He has done for us in Jesus Christ. The love of God is kind. He says,

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith (Now he calls this grace the power by which we are raised together with, in Him. Then it says here that this grace we are saved by, we have access to it through faith) **—and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—** You don't have access of it by anything you do of yourself. It is you just simply believe Him!

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

So, we don't have access to grace, into grace. We don't have the grace of God working in us because of our works. It is not of the works of the law... circumcision, Jewish customs... nothing! It is a gift of God. It's something that God just gives you. It is something that God decided to do in His compassion and His mercy and He did all of this while we were yet sinners. Then what He is saying is, "When the man, Jesus, was raised up from the dead and a man was seated at the right hand of God, it was done while we have not done any good or anything right. So, why now, that when God did it that way, and I think that's why Paul is pointing this out, as God did it that way, we that now come to the faith, why should we now put certain prerequisites there, works there, the customs of the law, Moses, all those kinds of things there so that we can have access to this? It was given while we were yet sinners! So, what can we do now? We can only believe! It is a gift of God. It's not of ourselves, neither is it of the law or the works of the law.

Listen to what it says here:

10 For it is God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works... So, it is not by good works! He's simply saying, "Listen, good works is not the way unto grace. Good works is not the way unto salvation. Salvation comes to us and the end of salvation is good works. So good works is not the way to salvation. Salvation is the way into finding the good works. That good works is the good works that God has done in Christ that

results in us having a life sharing in the very works of God where we can feel what it feels like to have the life of God. Hallelujah!

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. That’s now according to the Jewish system although men were never without God. You can go and read Acts 14 and 15 on that. God even blessed the Gentiles and didn’t leave Himself without testimony, that He was with them and provided for them. But he’s now defining according to the lowest law system they were and the Jewish system and the covenants that they were without God.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ (the death of Christ. Christ means the resurrected Jesus. The blood of Christ means His death. So, Jesus died for who? He died for whosoever has death. So, the fact that they were excluded, that Gentiles were excluded, according to the law means nothing in the light of God providing life for whosoever is dying. So, the fact that God brought salvation to whosoever physically dies and He’s brought immortality and that His salvation plan was not to be a political solution for the Jewish people but His salvation plan was to save people from death. That means we ask, “Who’s dying and what death did Jesus die and now that He is raised, what does He rule over? He rules over all death. That means Gentiles are included and how are we partaking of. this? We simply believe. It’s not of ourselves. It’s not something we’ve done neither do we have access to it through the works of the law. No, we have access to it through the mercy and the kindness and the grace of God that He simply did and that He simply promised and we believe it.

Yesterday I was preaching. I was just talking about the mercy of God that is by the decision of God. And in that I thought of the twins that were born, Jacob and Esau God making just a choice saying, “The younger will serve the elder and that was by promise and by God’s choice. I was thinking of my sons. While they were still in Helena’s womb and what I would do is she would be there pregnant and her tummy would already be big and I would lay hands on her... not in prayer blessing her so much but more laying hands and speaking to my sons, saying to them: “Listen, this is your father that is speaking to you. I love you. I’ll be good to you. I’ll be kind to you. I’ll provide for you. I will do everything!” I would mention all the things that I would do and do you know what? Everything I said to them while they were in the womb was by promise and you know that I’m the alpha and the omega of that promise? There’s nothing they could do to get into that promise. It was by my choice. It was by election. I’ve elected them to be the people that will be blessed by me keeping my promise. Then they were born. And after they were born there was nothing they can do. I’ve made the promise. I’ll keep the promise. The only thing that can be devastating to them is if they don’t believe me, run away from me and go and try to establish their own life by their own ability instead of believing me and me fulfilling the promise towards them.

So, I want to say to you is what we are seeing here is that we are the workmanship of God. That means that the good works that are in us will be the result of God fulfilling His promise in us. So, we are not saved by our good works. No! Because good works is what God has already designed us for and that He would bring to us. So how would we be saved from not having the good works? By simply believing God! Believing what has happened in the death and the resurrection of Jesus identifying with the resurrected Jesus, looking into the perfect law of liberation where we have been liberated from sin and death where we've been united with God in Christ and not forgetting what kind of man He was. We are not a law man. We are not a works man. We are not a materialistic man. We are not a worldly man. We are, when we behold the glorified man at the right hand of God, co-seated with Him, we are the eternal man. We are the God man and we believe that, we behold that and we don't forget that. As you believe, behold that, and not forget that, we find the life of God manifest in us. How? By the power and the faithfulness of God.

Don't we have to be faithful? The only faithfulness that there is from us is that we, faithfully saying that it is by HIS faithfulness. My faithfulness to the law even if I'm unfaithful as pertaining to laws and rules and regulations, God remains faithful. That is it! Even if I say, "I will be saved by my works", God remains faithful. He will say, "You know you will not be saved by your works." He'll deny you. If you say, "No. I will have life by my works, He'll deny you life. It'll say, "It's not that way. It is only by Me keeping My promise. It's only free. It's only by Me!"

The promise is not a car and a house and those kinds of things. Those are givens. That is just part of being. That's just who God is. He provides that for every person. I said to the people yesterday, "Do you think that the witch doctor and that person that used black magic and all of that living in the African Bush here when he plants maize and the maize comes up and he has a crop, who do you think provides that crop for him? It is God. That's what Acts 15 says. He says, "Listen man, while you were worshiping idols, God didn't leave Himself without testimony and He provided for you rain and good crops that you can see that He was merciful and that He provided. When you see the sinner and the God hater blessed it's a sign of the mercy of God. That's also towards you when you can celebrate in the mercy and the goodness of God.

Paul says in Romans 2:4: Don't despise the goodness of God that leads you to repentance. The fact that God is merciful and good to you whenever you sin, doesn't mean that that is how He wants you to partake in His life forever. He says, "Listen, I want you to know that I'm a merciful God, that I'm a gracious God, and now I want you to come and believe upon me. Only rely upon My mercy and glorify Me and worship Me from that perspective and get away from the way you and the things that you thought about Me. God has come to bless us with eternal life as defined in Jesus... immortality... raised from the dead! Glory to God! Never to die! That is the promise and we are seated with Him, our hope is in Him and when He returns, we will find that our life, which is Christ, shall manifest and so will forever live with God. Thank you that I could serve you with this message. I trust this will be a great encouragement for you...