

THE GOD OF COMPASSION IN THE PRESENCE OF SINNERS

Bertie Brits

December 20, 2015

GREETINGS

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus! It is such a blessing for me to come and minister the grace of God to you. I know that you are going to be blessed by the message that I have for you today. I am going to speak about Christmas Day. I'm going to talk about Jesus and just the compassion of God in the presence of sinners and how He is a God who never changes and remains the same and has compassion on His people. I would like you to know that God cares for you and that He loves you!

If you are a first time viewer to Dynamic Love Web Church, I would like to welcome you to our broadcast and then also to all of our members who faithfully slot in. It is so good to know that I can come to your house and minister the message of God's love and grace to you today.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, I want to thank You so much that we can be together as a congregation, gathering all over the world through this live webcast. Thank You, Lord, that as this webcast is live and reaching out to people, You are alive inside us and that we have a direct link with You which is not by airways or anything like that but You have come and You have come and made Your dwelling inside us and You live in us. You care for us. You embrace us. You smile over us. You have come to give us life and life in abundance. Thank You for that!

Holy Spirit, as I minister today, You know that by my own ability I cannot reach people the way that You can but that You can do it so effectively through me. Thank You, Lord, that You can just speak powerfully through me today in reaching out to Your people, showing Your compassion, Your unchanging love to all of them. Amen and amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE

Today we are going to go directly into the word. We are not going to have Communion first but we will have it at the end because I feel it will be more appropriate for the message. This will just flow beautifully with what I have to say.

First of all I would just like to thank you for just this year and the fellowship we have had together, the beautiful things we have shared, the faith that we walk in, the support and everything that flows with it and that we can come at a time of this festive season when the whole world basically comes to a stop, a halt, thinking and pondering on the birth of Christ.

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It doesn't matter where you are in the world, we know what Christmas is all about. We've had so many people going off about Santa Claus and whatever but at the end of the day people know it is not about Santa Claus. They all know it is about the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. And although if you go and read some history you can find that Jesus was most likely not born on the twenty-fifth of December but on another date. It doesn't matter! It is all about having a day where we can celebrate the birth of our Savior wherein there was so much joy, so great joy that the heavenly hosts came and said, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will toward man."

I want to read from Isaiah chapter nine. Last year I also read from this but I am going to take it to a different direction this year.

Isaiah 9:

:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

:3 You have multiplied the nation, and increased the joy: they joy before You according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

:4 For You hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

:5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

That is such an amazing piece of Scripture and it will just flood your heart with joy as you read that and understand what it actually means! This talks about the oppression of people. It talks about how people lived in a land which was basically called the land of the shadow of death. These people were dwelling in that land and upon them a great light shined which is Christ, which is Jesus that came.

One thing I want you to know is that sin doesn't bring a change in God's attitude. When you go through a time of rejection or a time of depression or a time of hurt or a time where you feel you cannot overcome certain things, God doesn't change according to your emotions. God is more stable than the Himalayas. He is more stable than Table Mountain.

He is such a stable God! He is such an awesome God that can never change! He is good and He remains good! When we fall into sin, all that happens is we will now see the goodness of God expressed towards us in sin and He will manifest Who He is towards us in that situation. So God doesn't change but who He is will manifest in different situations. If we are in a place where we are oppressed, if we are in a place where we are depressed, if we are in a place where we find no victory, if we are in a place where we feel death is conquering us, sin is conquering us, our marriage is more than what we can handle, our children are going through such difficult times, and we sit with emotional instability, and pain and hurt ... when God looks at that, He doesn't change. He remains a loving, caring God. He remains compassionate, slow to anger, He's not easily irritated. He is a God who looks at the whole situation in perspective. He feels with us. He feels with you. When we look at such a God and we look at how He reached out to people, how He lives among us, we see the beauty of God. We see the freedom of God.

What we need to realize, and this is a very important point, we need to realize that God made great effort to persuade your heart of the truth that can save you from your sin and your death. The Gospel is not the message of God commanding you to change your ways. What I mean by that is change your actions so that you can have life. If God was a God that came, and through Jesus, just commanded us to stop our sin, stop feeling bad, stop your bi-polar problems, stop this, stop that, stop your whatever would irritate you or those around you, and just tell you to stop that and reveal to you what sin really is in the finest detail, in other words, pointing out every wrong thought, He would have just wasted His time because it is impossible for you to stop your sin. It is impossible for you to end death in your life. It is not possible!

Now one of the greatest lies that we have believed is that we can end sin in our life, that we can end death in our life. We have tried to do that through many ways. It can either be through religious actions like prayer and fasting or going to church. You want to preserve your life by your good actions. You want to preserve your name by doing good that even when you pass away you would live on based on the good you have done.

If we look at Nelson Mandela, although he has passed away, his righteousness and his name which is in South Africa and all over the world, will still remain for a long time. But let me tell you that in two thousand years from now, nobody is going to know who Nelson Mandela is but we will still know who Jesus Christ is because what we can do in our own power can never last forever. God comes by His power and He has come to share with us and give us eternal life. So long after all the good actions of people as being forgotten and we are just like smoke in the air and gone, the eternal work of Christ will still stand. That is the foundation from where He saves us and what gives us life.

When we read Isaiah and this is the point I wan to make: God is good and when man fell into sin what manifested in God is compassion and through that compassion, He saw people that are now walking in the land of the shadow of death. What is this shadow of death? There are many different definitions of it but this is how I like to see it: The ministration of death, or the logic of Satan, has come and cast its shadow over man and what has happened is we have taken God, we have looked at God, and we have embraced the logic of Satan which throws its shadow, it stands between us and God, and throws its shadow over us. Then we now dwell in this land of the shadow that the ministration of death casts over us. In that land is darkness. In that land is misery. In that land is pain and all the turmoil that goes together with people trying to have life by their own works, of people trying to save themselves by their own power or the fruit of the flesh and everything that goes along with that. When God looks at people who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, that dwell in darkness, what does He do?

He says in **Isaiah 9**

:2 *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

:3 *You have multiplied the nation, and increased the joy: they joy before You according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

We can read this in Matthew 4:16 as well. Matthew 4 talks about the birth of Christ and the great light that came and shined in an area where there was just darkness, where people said, “Those are the cursed people. Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Can anything good come into this area? “

What happens is that God comes and when He meets people in darkness, when darkness has overshadowed the minds of people, when darkness has brought forth its death and its corruption to the heart of man, what does God do when He enters that? Does He come and kill man? Does He come and destroy man? Does He come and acknowledge His displeasure with man? No, this is what He does. He says that a great light shined and when this light shines it causes joy in the hearts of people as in the joy of harvest as when the spoils of war are divided. In other words, what God does to the heart of people that are bound in sin is so great that it causes those who are bound in sin, bound in fear, bound in depression, bound in feeling, “I can never conquer,” what He will bring forth in their hearts is a joy that says, “My war is over! The spoils are being divided. This is the joy of harvest where I can harvest a brand new life!”

The way that God does that is not by just supernaturally coming and just changing the situation. God honors your design. God honors who you are and the way He does that is by entering your heart. Your heart is the core from where all things flow which is your belief. So, what He does is Jesus comes and He enters our darkness and then brings forth a change and this change is in our belief.

As He changes the core of our being, which is our belief, what we believe about ourselves, what we believe about Him, what we believe about mankind, and man related to God, and all of that, when that belief changes then all of a sudden we find the fruit of that belief is rest, and is kindness, and is a joy that comes on account of their relation that says, “My war is over! My identity is not anymore in what I achieve in this life. My identity is not any more in my looks, in my money, in how many homes I own or what car I drive or any of that.

You know when you go to bed at night and it's just you alone or sometimes when it's just you alone and you think of yourself and who you are in the light of people, in the light of everybody, many times there's some bad thoughts there but in the midst of that, you find that God shines His revelation and His life inside your heart through Jesus Christ. You find that a change starts to take place.

Now I want to testify about that. There were certain things that I believed about myself for many years and then I got Scripture and I remember when at times I just got into the message of righteousness and I would say, “I'm just the righteousness of God. I'm this... I'm that,” and I claimed all the things that Jesus has done for me. But as time has gone on, I found that the Lord began to form a change in my belief, not in a day, but slowly but surely, I found a change of belief and a change of fruit come to my life where in many areas of life I don't live in fear anymore. I have come to a place where God has brought a belief in my heart towards who He is in a lot of areas in my life. There may be other areas where God is busy with, but I am not going to tamper with that. I am just going to allow and trust God to work in my life in that area.

That's how the change will take place for the scripture says in verse 3 that He has, ***“...multiplied the nation, and increased the joy: they joy before You according to the joy of harvest... How? :4 For You hast broken the yoke of the burden that the oppressor has put upon the people, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of the oppressor, as in the day of Midian.***

What has happened here is that God has come and when He looks at people in sin, He doesn't come and say, “You bad sinner!” He comes and says, “You are under a yoke and under a bondage and you are under something that causes you to live in a way that you cannot help but to be who you are and what you do. You cannot help but to think evil thoughts. You cannot help but to walk in lust and to have an alcohol abuse and all those things because should you be under an oppressor, like the devil and his wisdom, that is what you will give into. That is what will take place in your life. You cannot help but always think if you look good and just try to show your body all the time and do those kind of things and have no respect for your body... have no respect for somebody else.

Under the oppression, under the severe oppression, people can do anything! There was a preacher who once said, “Anybody, under the right circumstances, can do anything!” That is the truth. Anybody, under the right circumstances, can do anything. You can swear. You can abuse alcohol. You can beat somebody. You can plan a murder. You can do all those things! Under the right circumstances anybody can do anything. If you grew up and you were molested, if you grew up and you were in a house where the only answer was beating up one another, and you never experienced any love, under the right circumstances, anybody can do anything. And that is the logic that I see here in Isaiah. God comes and He sees people oppressed and when He sees them in their oppression, He say, “They are living in darkness and I need to enlighten their mind about two things: Who I am as God and who they are as My people. In order to do that, He had to bring forth a brand new logic, a brand new belief about who we are and man was dumped into this system where he believed, “We will forever be slaves to sin. We will forever be slaves to death. We can never walk in true freedom.”

Jesus Christ came and, as I preached before, He became a man, took the sin of all people onto one man and without moving a finger to try to raise Himself from the dead, or without moving a finger to prove that He is the beloved Son of God, He simply trusted that God would conquer the sin that He became. God would conquer the death that sin could bring upon Him and to prove to all of man that Jesus is the beloved Son of God by resurrecting Him from the dead wherein sin and death has no more power over Him. And He did that with our sins and with our life so that we, today, can have a mind enlightened in this valley of the shadow of death that we walked in, where we could say, “My goodness! There is a hope!” The hope is not in trying to resist the darkness. The hope is embracing the Light which is the revelation that God will enlighten His people.

Let's read on in Isaiah: It's says that all of this lack will break forth and the yoke will be broken because ***:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful...*** In other words, when you have something to do with this Jesus or with God, when God comes and dwells among sinners, this is what will be said about this God, ***“... He is wonderful. He is the Counselor. He is the mighty God, He's the everlasting Father, (the Father means the one who actuates your thoughts and gives life to you,) He is he Prince of Peace.*** In other words, when God comes and He dwells in the presence of His people, the bottom line conclusion is, “This Guy is wonderful! This Guy is marvelous! He's a father to us! He cares for us!

I remember one day a guy came to me and said, "Bertie, can I be your spiritual father?" I understand that the guy probably thought that I was kind of a loose cannon and I needed some authority or whatever and he said to me, "Can I be your spiritual father?" I said to him, "Well, fathers buy their children cars. I need a car." All of a sudden he didn't want to be my spiritual father anymore. But when we talk about God being our Father, being our Abba, we find... and the only point that I want to make is that when we say that somebody is your father, you will see how he fathers you, how he cares for you as if you are his own blood. He acts toward you like somebody who says, "This is my heir. This is the one that I live for. This is my offspring." When God comes and dwells among sinners, what we will see is somebody who is not ashamed to call those sinners His children! He is not ashamed to father people who are in darkness, who is not afraid to help and care for like a father whose child has been kidnapped that he would care for his child. That is what we will see about God. That is who He is. He is compassionate.

Yesterday my wife and I went to a place where I got a machine that I trim the trees with. As we were driving there, there was a guy standing on the street corner. This area where the shops are there is a lot of money that flows there so you find beggars standing at the traffic lights begging. We stopped and there were two guys begging. Helena said, "That guy standing there is a good looking guy." I said, "If he just washed and got into a suit, he would be good looking." You could see that there was nothing wrong with his body. He looked strong. He didn't look as if he was badly into alcohol and stuff, and he was begging there. When we were looking at this beggar we were saying that his body was well and he looked intelligent. You immediately want to go into the reasoning of, "Why can't he work? Why this? Why that?"

I find that the more you get into grace you find compassion. When we look at people like that, we find compassion. What is that compassion? That compassion in my case there was just to give these people some money like Jesus would give to the poor. What did Jesus do? He just gave to the poor because He has compassion. He didn't say, "You are poor and you deserve this poverty because you haven't paid your tithe!" Oh, my goodness!

I remember a time when a guy would preach and he said that when he was driving with somebody who was in the car and he found out this guy wouldn't tithe, he would stop and let the guy out of the car because he said that he couldn't drive with somebody who is cursed because he doesn't tithe. No! When somebody was under a curse of darkness, when somebody was under some of that, what does God do? God reached out in such a great way, in such a compassionate way, that we could only see the life manifesting in these people as He cared for them and not judged them according to the oppression they are under.

If you look at a beggar in the street, he might just be standing there begging and whatever, and I said to my wife, "You know, if he could help it, he would have done something else, but he can't. He's handicapped in some way and I just feel the compassion of God." The worse thing I could ever do is go up to somebody who is already handicapped in some way and start to make them feel guilty for the situation they are in and tell them they need to do better. They need a message that can enlighten them in the depth of their darkness that can cause a joy as in the day of harvest. That is who our God is!

I want to tell you that if you sit in your deepest sin, if you sit in your deepest distress, we find in the holiday season that a lot of people become depressed. They become lonely. They are people who don't have family to go and visit. They just feel lonely. At Christmas time many people commit suicide.

If you feel like that, I want to tell you that God doesn't go in the time when you have wasted your money, messed up relationships, wasted the good that He has given you in this life and then He comes and He accuses you. He says there's an oppression and He has come now to reveal to you how He has broken, two thousand years ago, the yoke of the oppressor, how He has broken the yoke of despair, the yoke of slavery over you for a Son was given unto us. (I don't want to go into that. Last year I preached on what it means that a Son was given to us.) It says that He will be called the Prince of Peace.

So when God comes and He dwells among us, we would say, "This guy is really wonderful! He's really a counselor and a supporter." You can go into the Hebrew and look into these words and make many messages about this. He is the mighty God! We would say, "This is God, man! Only God can come and dwell among people and give people, who are dying, so much life!" He's the Prince of peace and He comes and gives peace. Then it says, **:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...** I want to tell you that you might have peace today but of the increase of that peace there is no end. It will continue and continue and continue. So when you see that there is place for more peace, don't worry! You're in the right place. You are in a place where the God who is not sin conscious, that is value conscious is righteousness conscious is speaking to your heart and He shall increase that peace to you.

It goes on and it says, and I like the last part here, it says, **...and to establish His kingdom with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** What He says is He is going to establish His kingdom with judgment and justice. And then it says, **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**

Who will perform, what will perform this beauty in your life? The zeal of the Lord! The zeal of the Lord! And when was the zeal of the Lord mentioned in the Bible? When Jesus went to the temple and He threw out all the Pharisees and He threw out all the people who make merchandise out of the house of God, that tried to sell sacrifice, that didn't make the house of God a house of prayer but of merchandise, which actually points to this mountain of legalism and law and all of its death. Jesus came and cleansed His temple. Then the Bible says that when Jesus cleansed His temple from what He had never planned for it, the house of the Lord was a house of prayer. It was actually a house where God would bring forth beautiful desires in your heart by pampering you with goodness. That is the house of the Lord. That is the temple of God. That is what He actually saw there. He came and He cleansed all of that and then it said that He remembered the zeal of God has consumed Christ.

So, what does God come to do? He's come to take away the thing where you need to pay to have forgiveness. He's come to take away the thing where you need to sacrifice to be forgiven or to sacrifice to be pure for one year or to be set free where you can be abused and be tortured by the enemy. He came to cleanse that place and make it a place of prayer, a house of prayer. You know the word prayer also means to make a request known or to make a desire known. He has come to give us the desires of our heart. The way I see prayer is when we speak our desires which our born from Him pampering us. God has come to restore the house, restore the place, the place of pampering, unto sharing of desires. He has come to restore that! It says, "The zeal of the Lord shall perform that." So I want to tell you that the Son was given unto us, a child was born, and that is the passion of God to set you free from that which binds you. I would also like to go to **Isaiah 61.** (This is also found in Luke.)

:1 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. (It talks about Jesus.) because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

So what it says here is Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is upon Him to preach good tidings to the meek and He was sent to bind up the brokenhearted. So if you are brokenhearted, if your belief system was broken, your heart is your belief system, what you believe was broken, shattered to pieces by the oppressor, God has come to heal what you believe. How does a healed belief system look? Very simple! This is a healed belief system: when your belief comes back to the place where you say, "I belong to God!" Where you say, "I'm innocent!" Where you say, "I'm the God-kind!" Where you can say, "In Him I live and move and have my being!" Where you can say, "He's not far from me! I'm not far from Him!" Where you can say, "The purpose of my design is for Him to share His life in me and for me to be a co-heir with Christ. Where you can realize that eternal life belongs to you as a free gift on account of the zeal of God, that He will perform peace in your life. That He will perform joy in your life. That He will perform the prosperity you need for your life.

Glory to God, that not even death, poverty, and any of these things have any voice anymore but where God has come and said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me to declare to those who were in captivity to legalism and law and the mindset of guilt and the life style of condemnation and fruit of the flesh and bondage, to declare to all of them that you are free now! Why and how? Through the revelation of who you are in Christ in the resurrection and the revelation of the death of the old man in the death of Christ, *To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...* I want to tell you that God has come and said, This is the year of Jubilee. I accept you!" I'm not talking about 2016. I'm talking about the whole time now. It is the time of acceptance. It says that God comforts those who mourn. It's the day of vengeance that causes comfort.

When God looks at you in your deepest sin, when God looks at you in a time of unhappiness and all of that, He says, "I take vengeance on what destroys My people and I bring freedom to them!" And in that vengeance, you become comforted. The vengeance of God is not a bad thing! It is a good thing! We waited so many years for the vengeance of God revealed in Christ. I delight in the vengeance of God for God takes vengeance on what caused us to be captive to what would destroy our lives. Glory to God!

PRAYER

I am praying this from the depth of my heart. Let us pray this prayer together. Just say, "Lord, Jesus, whatever causes me harm and pain, You take vengeance on that belief and I trust You and I believe in You that You bring forth a brand new life in me. If it is today or tomorrow or whenever, but I sit as in the day of harvest and rejoice in the day when the spoils are divided. I am free! Thank You, Jesus, for coming to this earth, and revealing the Father to me! My life is brand new! Amen and amen!"

COMMUNION

When we take the bread and we break it, we are just doing this in remembrance of everything I have said. His body was broken for us and as His body was broken, the old man was broken, that accusation and the guilt, the thing that makes you feel that you are not in victory, was broken. And when you eat of that, we celebrate the joy.

Maybe you say, "I am not going through a bad time. It is going well with me." We rejoice! We rejoice in the body that was broken and mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice. We thank God for what He has done for us.

Then the blood, our innocence, our perfect innocence before the Father, Know that you are innocent forever! Glory to God! Let us eat and drink together.

CLOSING

If anybody needs prayer, please feel free to just write on my Facebook Messenger or any of our Web pastors. Go to them and ask them for prayers. They would love to pray for you and assist you in whatever need you have.

I would also like to thank everybody that have been so part of this ministry this year! I will put more emphasis on it in next Sunday's message but I just feel such a gratitude for all of you for this beautiful year we have had. I don't know how many nations I have visited this year, how many thousands of people got reached through the internet and through the books, and through cds and television and for the beautiful fellowship, the Web Church, the way you guys supported the ministry, the team we are... It's so beautiful. Let's celebrate our union in Christ. I just want to thank you and say, "You guys are the best. I love you with all my heart and you are precious to God! Thank you so much!"