

# The POWER of HIS RESURRECTION

Bertie Brits

January 15, 2017

**GREETINGS** in the wonderful name of Jesus! It is a blessing for me to come to you today and bring the Gospel of grace to you, the message of God's power where He sets people free from what binds them and where He loves them into His quality of life.

Father, thank You, Holy Spirit, that Your life that is inside me, the life that is inside You, will just manifest and bring forth understanding and peace to every person that is listening today. Thank You that You work powerfully through me today as You reach people. This Service belongs to You and belongs to the Gospel of Grace, the Gospel of God's love for man. Thank You, Lord, that it can be dedicated to that, in Jesus' name. Amen

Welcome! It's wonderful to know that we can just gather around the Good News, the message of God's love, the message of God's grace where He embraces us with His life. There is not fault finding or nitpicking where He is trying to get our lives to line up with His life by dumping a lot of laws on us but where He comes and He has His power, His very nature, bring forth the very life that He wants us to have, where His nature brings it forth. The Gospel of Jesus does not demand holiness It does not demand righteousness. It doesn't demand longsuffering or kindness or generosity or even loving your neighbor. It doesn't demand any of those things! The Gospel is the message of how God supplies those things! Isn't that beautiful! Glory to God!

For those of you watching for the first time, know that this Gospel, this ministry, revolves only around the goodness, the kindness and the love of God for you. You can sit back and relax and know that is all that you are going to hear today.

## COMMUNION

As our custom is, we have Communion every Sunday so that we can celebrate the death of Jesus Christ wherein we have been reconciled to God. I want to read from **Romans 4:**

***4 Now to him that works is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.***

***5 But to him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***

***Verse 5 again: But to him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***

So what faith is counted for righteousness? What is the faith that is the righteous faith or that which we are supposed to have? It is the persuasion that God justifies the ungodly. In other words, if we want to interpret that from a law foundation, it is the persuasion that says that even if I don't do any good works, God will justify me. That is what it says. The true faith says, "God justifies the ungodly." Another way of saying it is, "God blesses the ungodly." God blesses those who are weak. God blesses the sinner. God blesses those who cannot do it by their own power and the true faith is to say, "I am not going to try and work up any righteousness or any holiness or I am not even going to try to supply anything to my relationship with God. The only thing that I am going to do is I am going to receive what God freely gives and by His gift I will be justified!" Isn't that beautiful!

That is what the whole Communion is about. When we take the bread and we think of the bread that was broken, it is the body of death that was broken. It was the body of sin that was broken and was completely destroyed. It was our death that came upon Christ and the death that we were supposed to die He took it upon Him and He conquered that through His body that was broken and through the blood that flowed. So, as we take this Communion, we do it in remembrance of Christ. We do it in acknowledgment of our innocence, of our justification, by Jesus and not our own works. This is what this is all about. As we take the Communion let us do it in remembrance of Jesus Christ. I want to just thank the Lord for His body.

Father, thank You that You provided a body. You've provided Jesus and You've conquered our death and You've conquered our sins so we don't have to conquer it by our own power. You have come and gifted us with eternal life! What a beautiful God You are! We celebrate the body and the blood of Jesus. Amen Let us use the Communion together and experience His power.

## **TODAY'S MESSAGE**

### **The POWER of HIS RESURRECTION**

**Bertie Brits**

**January 15, 2017**

Today we are going to be talking about the righteousness of God and the power of God. The power of God is such a beautiful topic because all of us want to walk in the power of God and we want to know what this power of God actually is.

I've seen the power of God and I remember a time when I was thinking of the power of God as just signs, wonders and miracles and some supernatural things that need to take place but there is so much more in the power of God and there is so much more to be understood by the power of God. The passion that is in my heart for this year is to just preach on the resurrection life of Christ. I want to do that for most of this year. I want to preach on the resurrection, preach on the power of God that brings forth a brand new life in us, and how that works. When we think of the Gospel, we are at the place where I see in the world that there are so many different kinds of gospels that it is difficult to know what is the true Gospel actually is.

In this week I read an article on an old church father about 150 after Christ. They documented a conversation with him and he mentioned things about the church in about 150 years after Christ and he said that these are new things that come in and don't even think that those people are Christians. Those are things mentioned that is common knowledge for us today as thinking that is part of the Gospel. So in this year to come there are a lot of things that are going to be shifting and a lot of things that are going to be corrected. I want you to know that and I want you to be ready for that but it's not going to be at the expense of anything. It's going to be to the manifestation of the life of God that there is toward us and Jesus Christ.

I want to start off by reading a well known passage in Romans and we are going to talk about the power of God in the life of a believer and how do you walk in the power of God and what is this power of God, and how do you access the power of God.

## Romans 1:

***16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

***17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live (shall have life) by faith.***

***18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;***

There are some key words that we need to look at here. It talks about the power of God. It says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, our Messiah, because this Gospel is the power of God unto salvation." I want to look at the word, gospel, the word, power, and I want to also explain a little about salvation. This scripture goes on and says that it is for the Jew and for the Greek and then it goes on and says, "In this Gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed for it is written, "The just shall live, (have life) by faith." And then a very interesting verse 18, "For the wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness." That sounds funny. It sounds like these things don't work together.

What it says here is that the Gospel is the power of God that will save us for this is salvation: ***The just shall have life by faith.*** Our picture of salvation is so important to the Church. Let me start off with what salvation is. Salvation is to be saved from sin and death. We have had this salvation message that God is going to save you from your rotten body, the prison of the soul, which is the physical body, and He is going to take your spirit to Him in heaven. In traditional Christianity has always been God making it able for my spirit to go to heaven. That is what we had seen salvation to be but that is not the salvation message. That is actually a very powerless message! There is no power in that message because it cannot save my body. It cannot save me from sin in the flesh. It's all spiritual. It has everything to do with my spirit and where my spirit will go but it has nothing to do with actually redeeming me and saving me from sin in the flesh.

You must remember that God became, incarnated, human flesh to redeem our lives from death. In the beginning when Adam sinned, the biggest problem that came in was that Adam died. He said, "If you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, this is what will happen to you, you will die. And Jesus came to save us from death. That is why the Bible says, "The just shall live. The just shall have life." How? By trusting Jesus! How will that take place? Jesus will come, by His Holy Spirit, and He will conquer His enemies in our lives. God will conquer those things that are an enemy of life, be it bitterness or hatred or fear or any of those kind of things, God will conquer those things in your life by His Holy Spirit, through a certain truth that we believe. So the Gospel message is the message that is so powerful that it brings forth life in us today and eventually the last thing that will be conquered, we know is in the return of Jesus, is even death. Death is not our friend. It is our enemy.

I read a very interesting thing this week. I didn't plan to say this but let me say this. There was a Greek philosopher, Socrates, about 400 before Christ. He was involved in politics and he had some Greek philosophies. He said that you don't have to believe in all these many gods. He was against this thing of having many gods. The Greeks back then and the empire that was standing then had to accommodate different religions and different faiths because as they would go and conquer different nations, they would find different religions. What they did was just took all these religions together and basically said that all these gods are legitimate gods. They even to a certain degree, honored our God that was seen as the God of the Jews or in Jerusalem back then.

When Socrates came, he said that you don't have to believe in all these gods. He caused a lot of turmoil. Because of saying that he had to appear before the Council as a trouble maker. He was then given three hours to defend himself and then the state had three hours. He was found guilty. Two hundred twenty said he was not guilty and two hundred eighty-one said that he was guilty. When they decided the punishment was the death penalty. The death penalty was the ultimate thing that could happen to you but Socrates had a belief that basically made nothing of death. He said that death was not a problem but death was actually your friend because when you die your soul gets released from this jail. Many think this today. This was the Greek philosopher's view of death.

The way the death penalty worked back then was you had to drink poison. So he was taken into his cell and then he had the opportunity to have his last words with his disciples that were sitting there. I think there were three of them. As they were sitting there they were crying but Socrates was not crying. He asked them why they were crying because he was going to a much better place. Doesn't that sound so much like Christianity? I'm going to go to a much better place and it is going to be so good for me and I am just leaving this death. I'm leaving this jail and I'm going to go to a better place. He corrected them and they stopped their crying but they were still sad. Then he asked the jailer what they had to do and they put the poison there for him to drink. He asked what period of time should he drink it. They said, "As long as is reasonable." He drank all the poison and the next thing he had to do was to start to walk around in the cell so there could be some blood flow. When his feet got numb, then he had to lie down and they would examine him to see if the poison was strong enough. He peacefully died because he said that death is your friend.

This may upset some of you, but when Jesus was in Gethsemani He was afraid. He didn't look at death as something that is going to release Him. He doesn't look at death as His friend. He doesn't see Himself as His soul escaping the tortures of this world. He doesn't see any of that. He saw death as the absolute opposite of God because God is life. God is love. The very attribute of God is eternal life. That is eternal life, the only thing that God possesses. That is what basically, to a certain degree, is one of the attributes of God that if you connect anything to God, that is what makes Him God. It is that He has eternal life. That life also talks about a certain quality of life. So He has so much love and so much goodness and so much joy that it's so unending and so good that it can never die. And here Jesus comes and let's look at what was ahead of Him. We can try to reason about this as much as we want but Jesus was straitened, distressed! He was in Gethsemani and He was greatly distressed. Then we look at Socrates who was facing death with peace but Jesus didn't.

He was so distressed that He asked His disciples to pray for Him. Here is the Son of God asking for assistance from a fragile man. "Pray for Me, please." Then He comes back and says, "Can't you even pray for one hour with Me? His heart is afraid even unto death because He knows what He is going to go through. Many times you may think He was afraid because He was going to be beaten or He was afraid of the people who were going to kill Him. I don't think Jesus was afraid of those because even when they came to grab Him, they said to Him, "Where is Jesus?" He said, "It is Me", and they fell down on the ground. So He wasn't afraid of them. The fear that was in His heart was the fear of death because He knew He was going to go into a place, a place that is something that is completely opposite to God and He was going to embrace that and that is our death. He's going to embrace that in the hope and the belief that His Father would raise Him up from that. That was the hope but it was still a terrible thing for Jesus. It wasn't a joyful thing. The joy that was set before Him that caused Him to endure the cross was what could happen to us after the resurrection but let's look at it this way. This is the point I want to make: Death in the eyes of Jesus was not the same thing as what it was in the eyes of Greek philosophy. It was not a release. It was not a moving to a better place. It was none of that although it became that to us which I will still explain.

We can die in absolute peace now but we don't die in the peace like the Greek philosophers because God has a power that is greater than the lies of the Greek philosophers. The Greek philosopher's was, "I'm moving on." But God's issue was not moving on. God's issue was, "I want to conquer death. I want to conquer what is killing these people and I want to save them from death. I'm not there to let them live in another place. I'm there because I want to raise them up from their death and I want to conquer everything that brings death which is, as we know is, sin or weakness. So Jesus came and He embraced death and He died. When we look upon the cross when He was hanging there, it was not a pleasant sight. We don't find an atmosphere of absolute peace and joy. We find turmoil. We find desperation. We find a quoting of Scripture, Psalm 22, where Jesus said, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" It was not that God forsook Him but He was in a place where He is in such despair, taking on darkness upon Him to the point that we could say, "My God, My God, where are You? You have forsaken Me." He trusted His Father going into the greatest enemy of God which is death. Paul even said that the last enemy that will be conquered is death.

So, Jesus, on the third day, was raised from the dead. He was the first born from the dead. When He was raised from the dead, He saved man from death. He actually conquered whatever would lead man to death and whatever would lead to destruction. He even conquered physical death and raised a man, that carried all death, from the dead so that He was called the first born from the dead so therefore out of Him flows all life now. That is what salvation is. Salvation is the message of God saving us from death and everything that leads to it. If we look at politics, if we look at just the things of this world, if you just go and sit in nature for instance, and you sit and look at a beautiful tree or just out in the middle of nowhere. I think of my driving to Zambia once and I drove to a place where there are just rocks there. It's barren and you would sit there and you would just experience that peace and how quiet it is. A desert has its own beauty to it. You would just experience that and as you cross the river you see see the beautiful green next to a river in the middle of desert.

You look at all that beauty there and you come back home and you look at politics and fighting and you look at love for money and all those kind of things. As you travel back home you kind of almost feel that pressure that depression that wants to get on to you. As that takes place you realize that there is a death in this world and our God is not a God who stands helpless against the things of this world., helpless against politics, helpless against all these things. Our God saw what went wrong with this earth. Our God saw what went wrong with man that man's belief was wrong and that man entered a weakness where he cannot experience God's quality of life and He said, "Let Me enter into that. Let Me defeat all of that. Let Me conquer all of that and I will save them from this decay. I will save them from this corruption. I will save them from death! All they need to do is trust Me and rest in Me and I will bring it forth. Even if they should die I will raise them from the grave, restore this earth and restore man." That is the Gospel. That is the end of the Gospel. That is the result of this Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and there's a power that works in us. That power which works in us is called the power that raised Christ from the dead which is the resurrection power of God. That power is the power that works in us as believers.

How does that power work in us? How does that power actually come and defeat sin in our life and eventually defeat death in our life, defeat things in our life where we find arguments and fights and stresses and the things of this world? How will that power defeat the things in this life and overcome the things of this life for us where we can maybe in the midst of the greatest turmoil have inner peace?

I don't know if I testified about his last week but we were supposed to go to Mozambique and spend some time on an island there. Somebody just gave us time there and said, "Just come and just spend time in my island house." It's a beautiful place with a private beach, the whole thing. We got everything together and the day before we left we realized we have the wrong kind of birth certificate for Bertus. The laws changed and we just simply forgot about it. Less than twenty hours before we were to leave we realized we had this wrong birth certificate. We phoned the border control and they said that there was no way that they would not allow him to leave the country. We could leave but he would stay. You know you can't leave your kid here and go on some holiday on an island. We lost our flights. We lost everything and we just stayed home. You know what was the beautiful thing that even when that happened, the beautiful thing about the Gospel and this resurrection power is I don't have to go to the island to be happy. If I would have gone to the island, happy me would have been on the island and if I stay at home, happy me is at home. That is the way it is. A place doesn't make you happy. The Gospel, the nature of God, the goodness of God has resurrected joy inside me free from situations. That is how God comes and conquers His enemy in your life by that doing, by bringing forth things like love and peace and joy and kindness and certain wisdom and all those kind of things. He will continue with that until physical death is defeated. That is the salvation plan. That is why we are, even in the day of judgment, we are not afraid because as He is, so are we in this world.. How is He? He is physical and He has conquered death and so are we in this world. That is how we will be in that time in His return. Here is the thing: we don't have to be afraid! He has come to bring life to us.

Let me just summarize this. Greek philosophy basically said, "Salvation is to be delivered from your body." Christianity said, "Salvation is to have eternal life." That's the difference where your whole body is saved from sin and death. That is a big difference. There is a difference between Greek philosophy of the time about 400 BC. That's a difference between Plato, one of the Greek philosophers, and what he believed. He just honored this master that aught him and he died so peacefully. He said, "Just believe in the immortality of the soul and we actually don't actually need eternal life. We already have eternal life. Let's just go on and move on to the next dimension." Where Christianity was all about, "Death is an enemy. It is an ugly thing and our Jesus came and He conquered death. Now, today, when we die in our physical bodies we have joy, much more than Greek philosophers. The joy we have is that nothing will be lost. We shall be raised immortal. A wonderful thing about a belief that says that we will be raised immortal is since our body will be raised and since our body and our mind and our will power is too weak to experience or bring forth the life of God in this world by our own power, what happens is our heart allows this message of the resurrection to have an access to our body and we have the peace of God. We don't have the peace of ignorance. We have the peace of God. We have the joy of God. We have the righteousness of God. We walk in the truth and in true victory. We find things like, ego and love for self and self preservation and all of those things, fall off our backs because we know that we are preserved in Christ.

When we look at Romans 1:16, we say that the Gospel is the power of God that will save us from death and everything that leads to death. With that in mind, we don't have to have a penal substitution gospel. There's no place for law because we know that by our own ability we cannot save ourselves. If salvation determines where you spend eternity then it is like, "If I do enough good works then we can just rely on the moral character of God to judge my situation. Did I do good enough for Him to now give me a place in heaven?" That is not what salvation is. We need to be saved from death. We need to conquer physical death. That is the thing. We need to conquer sin in the flesh. How will that take place?

Who of us by sowing money to your local church can save you from dying! Nobody! Who can by his own giving and by his own doing cause his bones to be raised from the grave even if it is a thousand years from now? Nobody! I think if we preach the true salvation message, which is salvation from death, people would not fall into the law so easily because you know that your works cannot save you from death. Only God can. Your works cannot save you from sin. Only God can. So, here is the Gospel: the Good News is a message that is so powerful that it can save you from sin and death. So when God sees you in sin, He is not saying, "You bad sinner!" He is saying, "I need to save him from that."

What is the word, "Gospel"? What is the Good News? If you read Mark 16:1, you will see exactly what the Gospel is. Jesus died and after He died, the whole story of Jesus' resurrection is recorded. People went to the grave and they saw that the grave was open. They went back and told the disciples and the disciples didn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus appeared to some of them on the way to Emmaus and then He told them to wait for Him at a certain place and He would appear to them. They didn't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Then Jesus appeared to them and He rebuked them for their unbelief that He was raised from the dead. There were people going around spreading the Good News that Jesus was raised from the dead but the people didn't believe that. Then, Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to the eleven and said to them, "Here am I. Why are you so full of unbelief. Why are you not believing the Good News that I was raised from the dead?" After that he said to them, "Peace to you." After He corrected them He said, "Go and preach the Gospel."

That word, Gospel, means Good News. What is the Good News? The Good News is that there was a man who conquered death and He has power over everything that leads to death and He has conquered death. It was my death and that means that His life is my life. That means that everything that is destroying my life has lost its power and that I can be free from that without any doing, simply trusting Him. That's the Good News. That's the Gospel. The Gospel that they preached was the message of how God conquered sin and death. That's the message. It was almost like a given that we are accepted. It was a given that we are loved. Caleb sings that song, "He Sings Over Me". The song that He sings over me is a song of His love for His world. God has a song of love over His world. This is His world. This is His people. You are His people. He loves you. He has dreamt you. He's always wanted you and He cannot see that you die and that you are destroyed and therefore He has come to conquer all of that for you. So, the Gospel, the message of the resurrection, is the power of God unto salvation. The message of Jesus' resurrection, the Good News of the resurrection, is the power of God, and I want to use my own words, that causes you to have an effortless life unto eternal life. That is it.

The definition of the word power there is, *dunamis*, where some people say you get the word, dynamite or dynamo from. I can believe that. Look at the beauty of Thayer's definition of this: inherent power or ability residing in a thing by virtue of its nature or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth. It says that it is the power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature. What he is saying here is that the Gospel is the power of God or the very virtue or the nature or the power that God exerts by His nature, that saves you.

What is the nature of God? God's nature is life. God's nature is love. God's nature is goodness. God's nature is kindness. So, the Gospel, the message of Christ's resurrection is, of such a sort, that the new life we have comes from the very nature of God which He exercises towards us. That is what it is all about.

I want to read a passage about what sin is and how He saves us from sin. The Gospel is the message where God comes and saves us from our sin. I've asked God so many times, "God, what is sin?" You would think that is common sense. You know what is sin: sin "Don't sleep around. Don't drink too much. Don't smoke. If you look at the Greek you will find certain definitions of sin. One of the most powerful definitions of sin for me from the Greek is, "Not to have a share in; not to be a partaker of". In other words, if you sin, it means you are not partaking of the life of God. That's a powerful definition but I saw something today that blessed me so much. Let me read what sin is and I hope you will hear this in the first reading but I will explain it.

**Romans 5:**

***5 And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

***6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.***

***7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.***

***8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Listen to this. I'm going to read the two verses together that makes a point. He says,

***6 For when we were yet without strength, Christ died for us.***

***8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

***When we were without strength, Christ died for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

So, what is sin? Sin means not to have strength to eternal life. That is sin. Sin is not to have the ability to have eternal life by your own works. That is sin. Sin is when you cannot reach eternal life by your works. In other words, that is why, if you tithe to be blessed, you are sinning! It is a sin. Why? Because you are using a force that cannot give you eternal life. You are using weakness to try and reach what only God can do. That is a sin! Sowing and reaping, if you give money to the local church to be blessed by God and therefore create a blessed life by that principle, you are sinning. You are walking in sin. You are walking in your weakness because human flesh doesn't have the ability to have eternal life by its own doing.

Whenever we engage that human flesh, or our inability, or our weakness, we are walking in sin. And now He has come to save us from our sin. He has come to save us from walking in our weakness because you will continue to walk in sin as long as you don't think there is provision for you. In other words, let's use finances because it is such a practical thing. For those of you who saw the picture I put up on Facebook, Jesus is the Tithe, a painting on the wall, caused some discussion which is wonderful. I have seen how many people still believe in tithing, sowing and reaping. It's amazing! It's almost like you cannot believe that we could still believe such a doctrine! In the presence of what Christ has done for us and even with technology where you can get the message so clearly, you almost can't believe that we can still be stuck in that kind of sin. So when we look at that, what we see in sowing and reaping for instance is if you have a thing that, "I'm not going to be blessed. My future is not secure. It doesn't matter what I do, I've got eternal financial security in God." If you don't have that and you are not sure of that, do you know what you will do? You are going to use anything to try and get that. Now you will engage weakness. Weakness is man's ability to have eternal life by his doing.



Let me put it this way: **You can never be financially blessed by your sowing and reaping as what someone would be blessed if God blesses him. If God blesses somebody, nobody, by following any principle, can ever be as blessed as the one that God has blessed freely.**

If you are at a place where you are not sure of that eternal security and life and provision of God, you will engage something that cannot even work and you will just use it for awhile. You will use some principle. You will use the flesh. You will use your weakness. So, God sees sin as man's weakness to have eternal life and He wants to redeem us from that. He wants to give us enough reason that we will not see any need to use any human will power, or principle or anything which causes our death and causes our destruction and we would find no need to use that.

If your child uses drugs, he uses drugs to have some peace. But if you can supply a peace to him and he can be convinced of that peace and if that peace is for free forever and that peace is greater than anything you could ever desire and he can know it is his for sure, you will see that he will be immediately set free from drugs. Why? Because what he seeks, he has found. That is how Christ has come to set us free. What man is seeking is eternal life. We are seeking eternal life. That is what we want and God has come and has given that to us in Christ Jesus. That is what this is all about. He has died for us while we were yet weak. He died for us while we were still seeking justification by our works. That is the sin.

**Ephesians 1:** Paul praying for the Church

*15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,*

*16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

*17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

*19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

*20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places*

What he is saying here is phenomenal! He says, "I've heard of your faith. I've heard that you've believed in Christ now. I've heard of your love for all the saints and since I've heard this, I'm not stopping to pray for you and this is my prayer: "I so hope that you can actually understand the Gospel!" This is amazing!

We've thought that if we have a church that comes together and we've "dished out our biscuits and we've given our lemonade and we've done our good things there for people, that is church and if we just grow our church, that is church. Paul didn't say, "I preach that you reach the world." He said, "I've heard of your faith. I've heard of your love for all the saints and this is my prayer: That your mind might open up to the Gospel that you may understand the hope of His calling." When we talk about the hope of His calling, it talks about the resurrection from the dead.

He comes and he says, “The hope of the Gospel, that which the Christian expects, is that God is the Source of all life in him; that God is the one who bears the fruit in him; that God is the one who brings righteousness and holiness and peace and joy in him; and that God conquers all death.

With that in mind, let's read verse 17 and 18 again. He says it so beautifully here: I pray ***17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*** He was saying, “Although I've heard of your faith, although I've heard of miracles that took place in your town, although I've heard of your love for all the saints, I am still praying for you. This is what I pray: I pray that you may have the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. He said, “I pray that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; My goodness! We would say, “Well, that Church must know everything! No, Paul said, “I pray that you might be enlightened!”

And that's my prayer for the Church as well. We have seen churches being built. We have seen so many things take place but we have not seen the Gospel! We have walked in the church in the futility of this, I almost want to call it ignorant faith, not understanding what the Gospel is all about! He says, “***I pray that the eyes of your understanding might be enlightened.***” Then he explained what he is talking about. He says, “***that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance is in the saints.***“

In other words what he is saying is, “I want you to know what Jesus inherited and how that pertains to you.” What did Jesus inherit? He inherited eternal life! He inherited a life where He, by His nature, by His being, has conquered all sin and all death! He inherited that. He said, “I want you to know what your inheritance is. In other words, what you have received in the resurrection from the dead.”

I'm saying this as a lover of the Church and as a pastor who wants to shepherd the people in this Web Church with the passion of God: there are people who call themselves Christians and they don't even believe that we will be physically raised from the dead and they call themselves Christians! They go around and they are cheating you who are watching this. I can see how some of you are falling into this. You know Facebook is a thing where your life is open. I can see what you are doing. I can see the danger that is coming to your life. They are lies and heresies going around making everything about some spiritual thing and not the resurrection, the physical resurrection from the grave. There are even people going around today, and I'm sad to say that some of them are my friends, who go around and say they don't even care if Jesus was raised from the dead! That's blasphemy! That is not the Gospel! It is not the Good News! I can see why the Apostle Paul prayed and he preached and he said, “I know that you are Christians. I know that you are believers. I hear of your faith but God please help that these people understand what this is all about!”

People believe the Gospel for different reasons. You will find that people go to church and they have faith and they love people and dish out things just because that is the “In thing” to do. That's it. You must be in the church so we go to a church. It's a nice thing. There is love there so let's just go and join that. It's another club or group but it's not a personal thing where you personally have a revelation of what God has inherited in man when He raised Jesus from the dead. What added to the Godhead was an immortal human being and Paul came and he said this so clearly that the Bible says that in the Godhead is a man who has conquered death who dwells in the Godhead bodily. Jesus dwells bodily in the Godhead, not spiritually... bodily! The reason it is so important to believe in the bodily resurrection and the bodily salvation is because when you believe that, you find that your heart allows that resurrection power to have access to your body and to your mind and to the things in your brain, and in your heart and you find that you are saved from the power of the flesh and sin. That's the only way!

The Gospel is not about the pearly gates. The Gospel is not about how God saves man from his body and just dumps the human body. That is not the Gospel and has never been the Gospel even if you say the other message sounds very good. Greek philosophers also thought their message was good. Their message was so good that they could drink poison but the thing is that it was not the Truth and it has no power against the flesh today.

Let's read these verses again. 18 *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

*19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, (who believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, the resurrection) according to the working of his mighty power,*

*20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places*

There are some that say that the resurrection has already taken place. My goodness! I want to tell you that the only resurrection that has taken place is when Jesus was raised from the dead. We are now awaiting the resurrection and we are seeing the first fruit of the resurrection in our bodies where we see the signs of this resurrection power in us. Where we find our emotions get resurrected by the Spirit that dwells in us. What Spirit? The Spirit that raised Christ from the dead where we say the end goal, the end salvation, is a complete whole human where God didn't in the battle with the devil, and with the battle with Satan, lost human bodies and now they are doomed to be ghosts, some floating spirits somewhere!

Church, you know it is amazing that we in 2017 have to after so many years of knowing the Bible and having all the resources to the Greek and the Hebrew and all of that, still sit with preaching an elementary message, which in Hebrews is called a foundational message of the resurrection. So much doubt has come into the Church where we don't believe in the resurrection anymore. In the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, we had the Apostles' Creed that we would say every Sunday. In the Apostles' Creed it says that we believe in the resurrection of the dead and what we understood when we said that was the physical resurrection of the dead when the graves will open and we believed in the Gospel that was said every Sunday. You wouldn't go through a Sunday where you wouldn't say that. The whole congregation stood up and said that. I find that in many churches in South Africa it is like common knowledge but when I travel to nations of the world I find that is not common knowledge. People think the resurrection is when you die and go to heaven. That is not the resurrection! I want to tell you that if you narrow down the resurrection to that you will walk in weakness. That's why the Church is so open to all these lies of financial lies, of binding the devil over a town, and all these heresies, things that are just dumping the Church into works righteousness and dumping the Church into hurt and pain and turmoil. I watch Christian television every now and then. When I look at that I just say, "Lord, help! Help the Church, Lord. Put me on that station. Lord, because there are Christians that watch that and need to hear this Gospel of the resurrection. There are people that need to hear."

You know if you know that the Gospel includes salvation from the power of the flesh, if the Gospel is the salvation of your body where the end goal is to have the earth recreated, made brand new, a new heaven, a new earth where we are raised from the dead, where we have not lost anything, what became weak actually got glorified. When we see that we will not be tempted with laws anymore because we would know the goal is so high. The goal is not to get into heaven by my good conduct. The goal is to have eternal life.

And if you would follow a certain principle, like a work, love your neighbor, if the end goal is eternal life and loving your neighbor can give you eternal life, then those who love their neighbor should never die. The moment we can see the end goal for what it really is, we wouldn't fall into all these little tricks the devil plays on us on how to have eternal life. We will see with our own eyes, we see it doesn't work! But now we have the hope where God has promised us that even if we die we shall be raised. Therefore not even death or anything that seems to be negative in this life can tempt us to get into the law, get into works righteousness.

Church, I want to say to you that this year to come and in the future, and this has always been God's plan but I am seeing it manifesting and I'm seeing it coming forth, this thing of, the Bible says, that in the last days He is shaking the Church and that shaking has been going on for two thousand years. I want to tell you that the Bible says that He will build His Church and unless the Lord builds the house, the builders build in vain. If you want to build peace with your works, you're building in vain, my friend. It's not going to work. It is going to be for free. It's going to be the message of the resurrection. It's going to be how God ends all death and how God ends all sin in you seeing that when Jesus became sin, when He became weak, He became your weakness. And when He was raised, how much more shall we be saved by the life of Jesus. The just shall live by faith. Glory to God!

So Church, in a nutshell, you say, "What must I take home?" This is what I want you to take home: the Good News is the message of the physical resurrection of Jesus. Some Christians say that Jesus' body was eaten by dogs. Church, the internet is good but when you hear some rubbish and you feel it in your heart, don't listen to it! Christians, studying, having doctorate degrees, saying that the body of Jesus was never raised but it was eaten by dogs and that the resurrection was basically the realization that people had about how wonderful Jesus lived and now it is an example for us on how to live. I want to tell you that Jesus' example cannot save you! Jesus' example is weak. What saves you is the resurrection of Jesus! Examples can't save you. There was somebody from Malmesbury who's child drowned in the ocean the other day. His father saw how his child just went into the ocean and drowned. He couldn't do anything. I tell you that if you went into the shallow water there and gave an example of how to swim, it wouldn't have helped. The child needed a savior! The example that Jesus set for us cannot save us. That is weakness. That is lies from the devil. The truth is that our God came. He incarnated us into our life and He conquered physical death!

My shoulder's hurting and I just believe that it will become better much quicker than the doctors say it will recover. My heart rests in the healing power of God but if I look at human power just to heal a frozen shoulder, humans are weak. They know nothing. They are weak in their own ability. We cannot even heal cancer. We cannot even heal HIV/AIDS. We cannot even heal somebody who is physically blind or born blind. We cannot heal a shoulder. Do you know what the doctor told me? It is going to take a year and six months. And now we want to trust human ability and human knowledge to save us from sin and death and following examples. It's not going to work! I tell you, Church, it's not going to work. We need to see ourselves unified in God.

In summary: By my power I can never be saved. God incarnated human flesh. He incarnated my sin and my darkness, all my sickness and everything, as me. He allowed the enemy of God to manifest fully which is death in Him. And then victoriously, stood up out of that death and in that death He died my death away. In His resurrection His life is now my life and that is what I believe and in that belief I will find that power that raised Christ from the dead by the very nature of God, will, in me, bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and the victory of Christ as I believe that truth. Amen

Church, let us not be deceived into some stupid teachings where people don't know what they are talking about! Jesus was raised from the dead. More than five hundred people saw Him at once right after His resurrection. They touched Him. They felt Him and then that resurrected body was glorified and that is the Christian hope. My prayer to you is I pray that you will have an enlightened mind of your understanding that you may understand the hope of the Gospel what God hoped for. That you understand the power of His resurrection, what He inherited in the saints and what His plan is with you in this earth, glorifying you and conquering all your sin and death by His doing as you rest in Him and see yourself united with Him. That's my prayer for you. Amen