

THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION

Bertie Brits

April 2, 2017

GREETINGS in the wonderful name of Jesus. It is a great blessing for me to serve you today with the Good News of Jesus, the message of His love and His embrace and just the goodness that He is exercising towards us and how He sets us free from religion.

Today I am going to be talking about what is wrong with religion. I am also going to be talking about the whole thing we are dumped into where we think there is something wrong with us when it comes to trying to serve God ... this whole religious thing where we feel there are mistakes and there are things wrong with us when we are not “serving the Lord” the way we think we are to serve God.

Before we start the Service, let's pray together.

Father, I want to thank You that we can gather together and I thank You, Father, for people gathering in their homes watching this Live webcast. I thank You, Father, that You just encourage each person in the Good News today. As we work together, we know that is what You are busy with. You are busy encouraging people in the Good News. You are the God that makes all things alive and gives life and gives joy. Thank You for that, Father.

I thank You, Holy Spirit that You continually teach us and encourage us that our war is over and that our life is new by You! Amen!

COMMUNION As our custom is, we are going to have Communion together.

1 Timothy 6

:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, where unto you are also called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses.

:13 I give you charge in the sight of God, who quickens all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

This is such a powerful passage. The passage before this is where Paul told Timothy not to chase after money, not to chase after the riches of this world, but, rather, lay hold of eternal life where you are called. Many of us want to know what our calling is. This is our calling: You have been called to live and not die! Isn't that Good News! You have been called to eternal life.

Listen to what he says in verse 13: *I give you charge in the sight of God, who quickens all things*, The word, quicken, there means He makes alive. So he says, “God can make anything alive and He has come to bring forth life to us. If we want to do anything in this world, if we want to lay a hold of anything in this world, let us lay hold of eternal life. The big question is, “How do we lay hold of eternal life?” Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the Way to the Father. He is the Way to eternal life. He IS that life and He IS the truth... about you and me!

So if we want to grab a hold of and lay a hold of eternal life it is simply **John 3:16** where the Bible says, *Whosoever believes in Me shall not perish but have eternal life.* So if we want to experience life in this world, if we want to experience the quality of God's life start to flood into our life, if we want to experience victory over the power of the flesh, that victory is not seated in religion. It's not seated in 5 Steps to anything or 3 Steps to a breakthrough, or binding the devil over the town or confessing sin again for the billionth time! True victory and how we lay hold of true victory is in belief in Jesus! If we want to lay hold of eternal life, believe in Jesus. Believe means to have your mind at rest in the integrity of someone else. If you believe in Jesus it means that you, your mind, has come to rest in the integrity of Jesus.

So if you want to lay hold of eternal life this is what you do: You need to have your mind come to rest at the integrity of Jesus. How are you going to get that right because you cannot decide to have your mind come to rest. It's all up to Jesus! He must come and show His integrity to you in a very powerful way. If you want to do anything, you can just say to God, "God, I want to just see Your integrity. Reveal Your integrity in the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Reveal your integrity in what it actually means when You incarnated human flesh. Reveal how You feel about man. As that takes place you will find that belief and faith rises up in your heart. That is how you grab a hold of eternal life.

One of the things that we do and what I like to do is take Communion every Sunday. In this Communion I don't do it as a Law where I try to convince myself. I do it as a reminder of what Christ has done for me. When we take the bread and break it, we see that He has actually broken His life and shared it with all of us so that we can eat this life and actually have life from His life. That's what it is all about.

In my Discipleship Program on my website, I preached a message (Message 8) on eternal life. As you view this, you will see that the Bible says, "In Jesus is life and that life is the life of man." Even after His resurrection, Jesus broke bread and I think that in the breaking of the bread after the resurrection it was saying to us, "My life is shared with you and the life that is in Me is the revelation, the life, that will enlighten your whole life."

That is also true for the wine. When we take the wine, we drink it in remembrance of the end of the Old and the beginning of the New and that we are in a place where the life of God is our life. We are not trying to preserve our own life but where His life is our life.

The greatest sin there is is self preservation. The greatest thing you can do to destroy your life is self preservation. Rather, trust the Lord because He knows how to preserve your life.

Father, I want to thank You for the body and the blood of Jesus and as we, as an internet church, take this Communion together, we are mindful of what You have done for us and Your beauty and Your power towards us. Amen. Let's enjoy the Communion together.

THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION

Bertie Brits

April 2, 2017

Today I am going to talk about what's wrong with religion because there is something very wrong with religion if we look at what it has produced in so many people's lives.

Before we start, I want to define religion. If we think that religion is just Christianity or even the message where we trust upon Jesus to save us, then I want to say that is not religion. The way I define religion is man's effort to try to please God. I define religion as man's effort to try and please God or man's effort trying to preserve his life through spiritual principles. There is something very wrong with religion and we are going to talk about that today.

Matthew 11: 28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest.” Isn't that absolutely powerful! It is so beautiful. Jesus comes and He stretches out His hands to those who are worn out and burned out in religion. ***Jesus says, “Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life.”*** In other words, “You can lose your life through religion! You can actually lose your life by trying to preserve your life. That is exactly what Jesus Christ has said. Those who want to save their lives will lose their lives but those who lose their life for His sake will save their lives. So, you can lose your life in trying to save your life by your own works.

Religion does have a big problem. The problem that I found with religion is that it is powerless. It doesn't have power to save man. If I look at church and just church in general, I use church examples a lot because that is what I am busy with every day of my life. They are the circles in which I move but we can take these examples and we can use them in any area of our life, in any business or anything. But if you look at church, one can have a wonderful strategy in how to grow a church and that church can grow very fast. It can become very big and it can reach many people but if that strategy is a religious strategy, in other words, a human effort strategy, where we follow principles to grow our church and to reach people so that we can feel that we are obeying God, or whatever the reason would be, you would find that that inside that church there is so much arguing. There is so much fighting, so much back biting and all those things going on there that there is no life there. It is just a destruction game. It's like defeating the object. You are not getting what you really want. You want people to be saved. You want people to have life and peace and yet on the other side you will find that even in that church structure there is no life and peace.

We find the same with business. The moment we chase after money, the moment we run after things so hard and we give our whole life for it, you will find that you can make money but you have no peace. You have no joy. It destroys your life because you are following certain principles. I've even seen it in the tithing, reaping, sowing message.

You find that many people believe a lot of the Grace message but when it comes to the message of finances, it's almost as if there is a little bit of a fear because if I grab a hold of true freedom, I mean, up to now I did have money. The money that I had was through this System and now I am so scared to change the System because then my future might not be secure. Then this person continues to live in fear and you don't really get free because your financial future is all caught up in what you are doing for God.

Today's teaching may be a little bit technical so just stick with me. Before I get into that, let me just give you an example of religion. When I first got saved, I bought myself a little bible when I was in Bible School in January 25, 1993. It's a leather bound King James. It was when I got the revelation that the King James Bible is the one that God and Moses read. Back then, I don't know why it was, but the smaller your Bible was the more spiritual you were because you could put it in your pocket and you could evangelize. It was like a sign of a street evangelist, somebody who won souls. So I went and bought this bible. The print is so small that it came with a magnifying glass.

As I was sitting here, I looked at what I wrote in the front of this Bible. This was a time when I was still "working hard" trying to serve the Lord. I had written a list of nine things that I prayed:

Ask God to make you hungry for Him.

Ask God to give you a will to war.

Ask Him to know the Holy Spirit in person.

Ask for a heart of compassion.

Let the motive be people and not the power.

Ask for a Spirit of prayer and praise and worship.

Ask God to teach you obedience.

Ask God that you might believe in Him.

There are some things I wrote in here, and I thank God that He wasn't legalistic about how I prayed but He could see my heart and He answered my prayers. Although God wasn't legalistic toward me, my approach was also very legalistic and law based and in that time I was going through some very difficult times. I was feeling that something was wrong with me because I would pray and fast and do whatever I needed to do but at the end of the day I would still do that sin that I think I shouldn't do. I would lose my temper and feel I have not done enough. The Law is always like that. You are never good enough! I would feel that I was not good enough and it would leave me with a feeling of, "What is wrong with me? Why am I not good enough?"

If I can see just by the small print of this Bible, that you start to lose, I mean my eyesight has gone down a bit as I become a little older, but even back then I struggled to read this, why would it be like that? "Why would you do something like that? You're not rational any more." It's all because religion starts to mess you up. Religion starts to make you not to think straight anymore. Religion puts things in boxes that you cannot think outside of that box to reach anybody and everything is about right and wrong. I'm going to tell you that one can be very religious about the Grace message as well. If it's not about what Grace stands but it's about articulating everything correctly then that can also be a religious thing that destroys people's lives and breaks up relationships.

If I look at what I wrote in my little Bible back then, I don't feel ashamed. I thank God that He could break through my darkness and He saw the passion in my heart and He saw that His child just wanted to know more about Him. He did send people along my path and I did get a hold of the Grace message.

But I can now, especially when I read these things, I remember how I wrote that and how I thought in my heart, "Man, I'm going to pray these 9 things everyday!" I still have some of my old Bibles where I wrote things in. I would think, "This is a wonderful method if I just pray this every day then it is going to work." At the end of the day, I just became more tired and more tired and more tired. When we are religious, we find that our minds get to a place where we don't think straight. We just want to fall into the next law, the next thing.

Colossians 2:23 These things indeed have a reputation of wisdom in self imposed religion, false humility, and severity on the body, but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Paul defines self imposed religion as ***false humility, severity on the body***. Severity on the body where you think you are going to beat your body by fasting, by putting your body through difficult times and where you think that your body is just a worthless, sinful thing. He says, false humility is a very religious person who says that he is very humble but he is not humble. He thinks he is better than other people because he prays more, he fasts more, he does more, he believes that he behaves better than others --- just like the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law and the Sadducees. He says, "Those things have one problem. It has ***no value against the indulgence of the flesh***. That means that it cannot conquer death. It cannot conquer sin in the flesh. It cannot stop sin in your life. It cannot set you free from bondage. It doesn't have the power to do that. Self imposed religion, in other words, your 9 Point Plan, what you think you need to do to get a breakthrough in town, what you think you need to do to get the country to repent, what you think you need to do in order to prosper or have a breakthrough, or whatever --- those things are called self imposed religion. Self imposed religion always goes with false humility. It goes with things like beating your body, depriving yourself of things. I will put myself through a hard time so that I can kind of purify myself and show through willpower so I can get somewhere. It is also called, "Will worship" where you serve God with willpower and where it is a flow of love.

In our Service this morning I said, "If there's love in a marriage, that marriage will be healthy. I believe it comes from both sides but I think a lot of it starts with the husband. If you just love your wife from the depth of your heart and when you look at her you say, "She's beautiful to me! I love her!" You think that she raised your kids, she helped you. This morning I said to Helena, "We've been married so long and we have walked the such a long path together." I was just looking at her and I had respect for her when I said that to her. When that is in a marriage, that marriage will always last. It will always be good. You will not have to go through a Five Point Plan on how to try and understand the other one. That love makes room and creates life there. But if there's not true love, you will find that you will have to do all these rules. The one will have to keep his part and the other one will have to keep her part. When true love comes and is really in the heart, you will just find that fixes itself. That's how it seems but it is actually God fixing it.

When it comes to self imposed religion your willpower does not have the power to end what is destroying your life.

Colossians 2:

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

This is a little technical but this is what he says: *As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord...*

The question is how did they receive the Lord? What he is actually saying to them is, "Speak to the doctrine that you heard that I preached to you when you received Jesus." That is what the Apostle Paul said. He said, "Stick to the doctrine that I preached to you when you received Jesus." What did Paul preach? Go to the Book of Acts where he always spoke about the resurrection. He taught that Jesus died and then He was raised and so He conquered death and He will return to the earth to judge the quick and the dead. Let us believe in Him and so have eternal life." That was the Gospel that Paul preached and he preached that to Jew and Gentile. He preached that the Law has ended and there is no more Jew. There is no more Gentile. Christ has conquered the sin and the death of all people. Just believe upon Him. He will manifest His victory in your heart and as He manifests His victory in your heart, the end, and the last thing that He will conquer is your physical death. That is how He will cause sin to cease to exist in your life. He will cause victory to be yours. He will cause abundance of life to come forth in you and eventually crown your life with eternal life in human form. That is what he says.

So when Paul says, "As you have, therefore, received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him" what he is saying is, "Don't receive this wonderful message of the resurrection and then start to walk away from it!" What the Apostle Paul is addressing in Colossians is Greek philosophers who came in and preached dualism which was a system where they taught eternal evil and eternal good will exist forever. It also taught how the human body is actually of no worth and that you need to beat your body. You actually need to deprive your body through willpower and you need to cause your body to suffer. As you do that you make your spirit become more spiritual and more holy. As you do that, you can then move on to the next level and heaven. That was what was taught but Paul didn't teach that. He was not into that. He didn't teach the redemption **from** the human body. He taught the redemption **of** the human body. When he taught the redemption of the human body, those who believe that found that their bodies started to be redeemed from and they started to see the salvation from sin in the flesh. That's what it talks about.

So the problem that I have with religion is that religion is too weak to save people. Religion cannot give people peace. Self imposed religion doesn't have the power to bring life to you. It doesn't have the power to have a successful church in the earth. It doesn't have that. I have had a lot of church politics and those kind of things just like many people have but I want to say that as this message of Grace flooded my heart, I found that those things just fall off and they are not there anymore. You find peace. You find joy. You find comfort and the only discomfort there is is when you are faced again with self imposed religion where you will think that if I reach this goal or if I reach that goal, then I will have peace.

Earlier this week I uploaded a message where I spoke about someone who won the lottery seven times. Imagine somebody winning the lottery seven times! It's just like religion. There's something wrong with the lottery because that shows you that the lottery cannot give people peace! The lottery cannot make you content because even if you won it six times you will want to win it the seventh time because it cannot make you content because at the end of the day, on the other side of the breakthrough, you're still stuck with yourself. The way you feel now, before you have money or before you get the breakthrough, I want to tell you that after the breakthrough you will feel exactly the same. Unless there can be joy now, there will never be joy. God did not come to save us through circumstances. He came to save us and give us peace right there where we are and then our circumstances can change. But if I'm happy now in an old beat up car that means when I get a nice one, I will also be happy in the nice one. But if I'm sad in the old one, I tell you that the new one is not going to make you happy.

So many times religion puts something in front of you that you feel that if you can attain to that then it will give you the steps on how to get there. As you follow these steps you think that once you reach that place you will then be truly happy and truly satisfied. I tell you that is not true! And this is what happened to the church in Colossae. Paul came and said to them, "I want you to stick to the Gospel you got from the beginning. I want you, as you were established in this simple faith of the death and the resurrection of Jesus, where in His death your sin died and the power of sin in the flesh died, and where He was raised and that His resurrection is your resurrection. As you can believe in the Father who quickens all things by His Holy Spirit, He shall quicken your life and bring forth holiness in your life and eventually manifest your sonship in immortal human flesh. That is the simple Gospel. These people were established in that and then there came people (verse 8):

Colossians 2: 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

What he was teaching is he was saying to them, "Listen, you have learned that the Gospel is Christ took away your sin. He takes away your death. He brings holiness. He brings righteousness and He will raise you up in the last day, bringing immortality to you giving you a seat with Him in the Godhead. Just believe Him!" Then we found that men came and spoiled them. They came with certain philosophies. I see that so many times even today. We have the philosophies of spirit, soul and body and all these kinds of things where we don't stick to the simplistic Gospel, the simple Good News: Jesus conquered sin and He conquered death and He came to give me eternal life and will make all things new on the earth. Since we are not sticking to that simple Gospel, we come with different philosophies and vain deceit and the traditions of man and the rudiments, the basic principles, of the laws of this world. "The laws of this world" also talks about Judaism. He said, "Don't let people spoil you through that." That spoil is not like we would say a spoiled child in the sense that we treated him well. That word, spoil, is literally what it means. It means to spoil, to destroy. Don't be destroyed! Don't spoil the broth by putting a handful of salt in it. So, don't have your life spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit.

I know there is such a thing as philosophy and it can be very beautiful if we look at philosophy in the lines of Christianity but the philosophy they are talking about here was Greek philosophy. Greek philosophy, what Plato and Socrates taught. They said that the human body is just like something you have for awhile and then when you die, your spirit moves on and then there is actually this body that you get saved from and you will have a release from your body and you will be in a better place because you left the bad place which is your body. That was not what the Apostle Paul taught!

Paul did not preach that we will be saved from our evil bodies. He taught that our bodies are holy and the very temple of God which was completely contrary to the philosophies of that time. The problem that there is, and this is how the Apostle Paul saw it, was in our flesh is sin. In other words, our flesh, our human bodies, are at this moment in time, missing out on the very life of God. What I mean by that is that our human bodies, at this point in time, is not immortal. It is dying. If we take that dying body and we try to follow principles by that dying body and make us live forever, we will find that our body cannot do that. Yet God comes to the Apostle Paul and He assures us that that inability we have is not an issue to Him but that He has come to give fullness to all of us and that we should not look at ourselves according to our ability and discredit ourselves and tell ourselves that we are not good enough, that we cannot be loved, that we will never make it because of our inabilities. If we look at the inabilities of the flesh, and we don't see a salvation plan of the flesh, we will get to a place where we will hate our bodies and we will say, "What's wrong with me?" You will say, "What's wrong with me?"

What's "wrong" with you, (it's not actually wrong) is you are trying to use something that has never been designed to create eternal life which is human ability to create and preserve your life forever. That is what is wrong.

He says in *Colossians 2: 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments* ("basic principles") *of the world, and not after Christ.*

What happens is we start with Christianity and then when we look at different areas of our life, we don't want to apply the basic Gospel. We want to apply "deeper knowledge". That's gnosticism. Let's get back to money. I like to use the money thing, it's such an easy thing. God comes and tells you, "I will save you from your sin. I will even save you from death. That's how I will care for you.. Just trust Me!" He says, "Look at the birds of the air. They don't sow or reap or gather into barns. Yet, their heavenly Father feeds them." Then we get very "clever" and we start to come with philosophies like, "There is something like seed time and harvest time." And we come with different kinds of philosophies and we come with sowing and reaping and how we access the different dimensions, how certain people have a deeper knowledge and that's how they know how to operate in these financial principles and all those kind of things. My friend, watch out, lest you be spoiled, because that logic is not after Christ!

If we look to Christ for finances, this is it: Our God says that He is our Father and our Father will care for us. He gives us contentment and peace and He provides for us and let us live a simple life. Let us wait for the Lord and in that waiting on the Lord, rely upon Him and His Spirit will bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and we live that life. In that simplicity, I believe the Lord gives us wisdom and knowledge on how to deal with every situation. I think that is the best way we can ever live a prosperous life in this world, simply according to Christ. It is where the answer to your problem is according to the finished work of Jesus and not something that we want to add on top of the finished work of Jesus.

Man found that there is inability in his way. The Greek philosophers came and said, "Listen. You need to beat your body. You need to deprive your body. Your body is evil. The spirit is good." But listen to what Paul says in *Colossians 2:*

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy...

9 For in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And you are complete in him, (That word, complete, means you have this fullness in Him) ***which is the head of all principality and power:***

Paul is saying: Jesus is above sin. Jesus is above death and the fullness of God indwells the human body. You don't have to think that you can only experience the fullness of God once you depart from your human body." He is saying that the God who quickens all things, quickened Jesus, put Him on the right hand of the Father. Let us just simply continue to believe in Him and rely upon Him for the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus bodily and you have that fullness!" You might say, "But, Bertie, I don't see that yet!" Just wait! Just be patient. "But what if I even live and then die?" It's like the one guy, Lecrae, sings the song, "I'm a Saint." One of the words in this rap song is, "Some believe they can fly but I believe I can die, rise again and forever live with God!" I mean it's one thing to say, "I believe I can fly." That's nice. You might somehow, in human power, get that right but to say that you can die and five thousand years from now be raised from the dead to forever live with God, that is great faith!

I want to say to you, "Let's walk in the faith of Jesus Christ by the operation of God when He raised Christ from the dead, when we don't see ourselves in lacking any form. Where we see ourselves like Christ. **9 For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.** So, don't come with teachings like I read in verse 23 which is self-imposed religion of man's wisdom, false humility, severity against the body, but doesn't have any value against the indulgence of the flesh. The only thing that can save your body from the power of sin is the resurrection power of Christ and the only way you can have that manifest in you or to have access to that is by simply believing that the resurrected body of Jesus and what He accomplished includes you! As you believe that, the truth has entered your heart and that truth will set you free from the fruit of the flesh. Isn't that absolutely awesome!

Colossians 2:

10 And you are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

What is the body of the sins of the flesh? In what body does that take place? In the very same way that a school would have a governing body and that body decides what happens in the school. It appoints the head master and the teachers. In the very same way Paul comes and uses that language talking about the body of sin or the rulership or that which would dictate sin to us. What is that? It is the Law! How does the Law System work? You see the commandment and by your own willpower you want to do it and so preserve your life. It says, **In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

In the Old Testament they would circumcise a man in his foreskin. That would mean that it was a cutting away of the flesh. So by the circumcision of Christ, we cut away the fleshly system where in we find sin and death in us. That means that when Christ was cut off, when Christ died, when Christ's life ended, He was that foreskin that was cut off. In His death, He has cut away our flesh. He has cut away and destroyed the power of the flesh. That's how He fulfilled the circumcision. It was flesh that had to be cut away. "To cut away" means to die. Jesus died. He was that which had to be cut away. It clearly says, **"In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh (How?) by the circumcision of Christ:** Glory to God! Buried with Him in baptism. So what did He do? He has cut our old life off. He cut away the religious life, the human willpower life. He has cut it away. It has died forever more so the only way we can have life now is, by what Paul calls, the operation of God, in my words, the way God operates. The way God operates is, "I take dust and I give it life." The way God operates is He takes you and He gives you life by Him breathing the breath of life into you.

This morning I also said to the people, "Jesus is called the Savior for He shall save His people from their sin. So it is Jesus' job to save you from sin. It is not your job. We think that Jesus came to make us savable. No, He didn't come to make us redeemable or savable. He didn't come to wash us clean so that God could save us because now He washed us clean and He gives us the Holy Spirit and now we can live the holy life so God can look at us and say, " Well, you are holy enough now by the doing of Jesus and because you are holy enough now, then now you are qualified to be saved and to have eternal life. That's now what He's done. What He has done is we have already been savable. The only thing that He has come to do is to save us from what has destroyed us. So whose responsibility is it to end sin in your life? It is God's responsibility! It is the responsibility of the Savior.

The last thing a person, who is drowning in an ocean, needs is swimming lessons! He doesn't need swimming lessons. He doesn't need any of that. He needs a Savior. The last thing that someone who is drowning in the ocean needs is guilt about what he has done yesterday. The guy is dying and he needs help right now! That is how God looks at us! He has come to redeem us. He has come to save us. He has come to save us from the body of sin which is the human willpower that tries to preserve your life by your own works through laws and regulations and also philosophy.

Some people realize that in their own life they are never going to live holy enough so what they then basically said is, "This body is evil so all we are just going to do is pass on to a better place and that's it." I want to tell you that our God is not so poor that He cannot save our bodies!

Last week I put on Facebook talking about different religions and this is really a big thing to me: If I do religion shopping, if you want to call it like that, and I look at Islam for instance. Then I'm going to look at Islam and I am going to see what they say and what they offer me is not good enough for me because their package is a package where you will live on this earth, you will need to obey a god and if you obey this god and you do everything he says and you die then he will raise you again. Then in that resurrection, he will bring forth your past before him and everything you have done and then he will judge you by your works. If you've done good then he will give you life and you can live. If you don't, then he will keep that body alive and then he will torture you in hell forever. That is what Islam believes. Go study it out for yourself. That is what they believe. Now when I look at that and you want to sell me that, I'm going to tell you that I don't think I can do everything right for the rest of my life. He will want to tell me that Allah is also merciful. I will ask, "But how merciful?" At the end of the day you will find that in Islam there is no surety of salvation. You don't really know if you are going to make it! Sadly, that is what happened in Christianity because we just had a little different flavor of legalism as what Islam has.

When you look at Buddhism. In Buddhism you must deprive your flesh. Deprive yourself. That is why only in certain countries can women become monks. The monks cut themselves away from their families. They are not supposed to have any desire. They are not even supposed to have a desire to love their children. Like Dalai Lama has a desire to save the country of Tibet that he is in. Then Ravi Zacharias asked this question, "Is that his desire because Buddhists aren't supposed to have desires?" They said, "No, let us rather say, 'It's his choice.'" You aren't allowed to have any desire. You must cut yourself away and at the end of the day you must sit in the middle of the bush on a pole, where you have nobody around you. Now let me tell you something. You can't sell me that. I don't want that! I'm not interested in that! I have found a lot of Christians are becoming so open to Buddhism! Wake up! You don't know what Buddhism is! Buddhism is an atheistic way of enlightenment where you try to find life by your own works! It cannot save you!

You can go to Hinduism and all these different religions and look at all of that even Christianity mixed with Law! I don't want that! It doesn't offer me something. What I want in a religion is this: I want a God because I know that I am weak and I cannot save myself. I cannot preserve myself. I need someone who can take my sin away for me. Then I want somebody that loves me spirit, soul and body and He would want to preserve all of that. So I want a religion, if you want to call it like that, I want a belief or a faith, a religion in the true sense of the word and not in a man made thing. I want a religion that can preserve my body. So if you come with your salvation plan, I want to see how this body in which I live is also valuable to the God that I serve. I also want to see how this God embraces this. I want to see how this God loves this body and I want to see how He, by His power, can preserve this body, the soul and the spirit forever. I also, at least, want to see a God that is friendly, that wants to be with me!

Like Noah found grace in the eyes of God. One of the root meanings of the word grace is to pitch a tent, to want to live with. Noah looked in the eyes of God and he saw a being who wants to come and live with him.

So if you can't provide me a friendly, loving God who can save me from my sin, who by His doing can make me holy, who can make me righteous, and who can preserve my life, who can conquer my sin and death for free because He loves me, I want to tell you that he is not worthy of my worship. He's not worthy of my praises. I have only found One who is like that and this passage here, and sadly there are now some Christians starting to teach that their resurrection is the moment that you die. That's the resurrection and there is no bodily resurrection any more. They are teaching that. That is crazy! Let me put it this way because I don't want to insult anybody by saying that person is crazy but that thought in the light of the physical resurrection of Jesus, to me, is crazy!

He says clearly, **8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy...**
9 For in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

That is what takes place. **For in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.** Alleluia!

It's the wonderful complete salvation where I don't have to come and look at my body and say, "Oh, I so wish that one day I could be rid of this body!" Listen, if I look at my body, do I have weaknesses in my body? Yes, but I am saying, "Thank God for the salvation of this body. Glory to God! Amen!"

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body (the truth) is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he have not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increase with the increase of God. That's a very powerful passage! When you start to believe that Jesus, in bodily form, is seated at the right hand of God and that the fullness of God indwells in bodily and that salvation is defined as you being saved bodily where you as a human being is saved from death. When you start to believe that, then you are holding to the Head, Christ, and then from Him flows nourishment to you, to all those who believe upon Him. That nourishment makes you increase with the very increase of God. That means that as you believe in this bodily resurrection, as you believe that Jesus conquered sin in the flesh, as you believe that He physically conquered death, that the end goal is a resurrection from the dead.

Jesus prayed in Hebrews 2:13 It says that He prayed with loud prayers to God who was able to save Him from death. Jesus needed to be saved from death. So the definition of salvation is to be saved from death. How are we saved from death? We are saved from death in the resurrection when we believe this we are now holding to the head and from this head is flowing nourishment into us not after we have died but now. We find nourishment today! That nourishment is the gifts of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, and all those things. Glory to God! That is what he is saying here.

So let us hold to the head and let us not be puffed up by those who say, "I've seen angels and I've seen heaven. I've seen hell." They come with their theories based on that. Listen my friend, let people see what they see and if you hear what they see and think of it, and whatever can confirm the simplistic Gospel, believe that. But whatever sounds like it is going to dump you into laws and rules and regulations and into vain deceit and dump you into Greek philosophy and all those kind of things, listen my friend, what Paul says is "... *here, they are vainly puffed up by their fleshly mind.* They are saying that they are vainly puffed up by the thoughts that come through self preservation through human willpower and Greek philosophies mixed in with legalism and law and who knows what, can be in there.

Colossians 2

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding to the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increase with the increase of God.

20 Wherefore if you be dead with Christ from the rudiments (basic laws) of the world, why, (are you living) as though living in the world (worldly), are you subject to ordinances, (like)

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; (and all those things)

It says, "These are the *commandments and doctrines of men.*

Verse 23 says that it has no value against the indulgence of the flesh. **Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.**

So I want to say to you, "What is wrong with religion?" It cannot save and it will leave you to the point where you will always ask, "What's wrong with me?" I want to tell you that there is nothing wrong with you as a person! You qualified for salvation. God loves you! God cares for you and His hand is stretched out towards you! He has embraced you. He has taken what destroys you and He has destroyed it. Since you are a being who operates through faith or through your relational orientated being, you operate through Him persuading your heart so that through that persuasion you will have access to Him to that conquering power. As you believe in the simple Gospel, you will find that nourishment comes to you.

I tell you, I have been nourished in so many areas of my life by holding to the simple truth to the incarnation, death and and resurrection! That's enough! Nothing more! Just that simple Gospel. I apply that to my marriage. I apply that to my finances. I apply that to my children and the university and school and friendship, and building a church, running a ministry. I apply that principle and that simple principle is this: I don't have to build it! I don't have to make it. It's by the operation of God. He came and died away my death. He died away my sinful man so I am not, through will worship, neglect the body, and all those kind of things, try and get rid of sin. I cannot get rid of sin by my own power.

Listen, you cannot stop your sin! You cannot stop to sin by yourself. To stop to sin is a gift from God! To stop to sin is by the power of God and it is made available for whosoever that can believe that He died your death and He was raised up. When we see this, all that we we can do is say, "God, Your life is my life and I see a man seated at the right hand of God and the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily. Since it is in Him bodily and I have a body, and a man is in the Godhead and I am a man, that fullness belongs to me and I lack nothing! I need no philosophy! I need nothing to try and save me.

This is the salvation message: He gives me, now, by the Holy Spirit, the first fruit of the Spirit which is God's quality of life, to start to settle into me and it nourishes my body. The fruit of the flesh starts to fall off my life. I start to see the fruit of the Spirit manifest in me. The fruit of the flesh is gone... all by the doing of God! And in the end, immortality in the human body. Glory to God! Amen! Isn't that beautiful!

I would like to pray for you.

Father, I thank You so much for Your goodness and Your kindness and Your mercy. I thank You that You stretch forth Your hand toward us and You just embrace us with such a beautiful embrace of life. You have come to give us eternal life.

Thank You that we can see that there is something very wrong with religion and that is it cannot save us. Thank You that You, in relationship with us, have come and ended our sin, ended our death and given us eternal life. Amen and amen

I want to thank you for watching this broadcast. I trust that it has blessed you. I want to thank you for being so kind in sharing this with your friends. As you share it with them I am sure this will also bless them greatly because there are so many people who are caught up in this religion that is destroying them. I also want to thank everybody for their generosity and your faithful giving towards Dynamic Love Ministries. It is such a blessing that we can do this together and preach this Gospel together. In the name of Jesus and just by a heart where there is no force... just freedom. Glory to God!