

Bucket Ministry Series 33

Title: Worship Demystified

...the Word of grace which is able to save your soul. He's able to give you an inheritance among those that are sanctified. And today we thank the Lord for the opportunity to start and continue again from the Bucket Ministry Series, which we started a while ago.

And I hope you've been following the series and I hope you've been blessed. And please do hit us back with all your questions and comments and anything that need clarification.

So today we are trusting the Spirit of Grace, the author and the one that can interpret the message which is ever present with us, to come to us today and we want to be floored by his Word. We really want to have the same encounter that Paul had that day, when he was on the way to Damascus, even his fellow companions, they were confounded because they could see the light but they could not even hear, everybody were taken aback by what was happening. He was on his feet. His weight could not carry him anymore. His intellect could not carry him more.

So today we are prayin for the same encounter, which we'll be floored, we will be on our ground. Our weighs, our intellect, the way we know how to do things, what we've been thought will not be able to carry on further. We will be able to say what would you have us to do? So that at the end of this exposition I pray we will able to say what would you have us do Lord?

So today we will continue with this story of the encounter of this woman with Jesus. And as we go further in verse 23rd of the 4th Chapter of the book of John.

So you can grab your Bible, your notepad, your digital format, whatever you are using to listen to us as we continue.

Viewers and listeners all over the world, I welcome you on this note to another exciting episode of this Bucket Ministry Series.

Now, I presume that if you are joining us for the very first time, you might want to avail yourself of all the videos on our Expose 247 page because we've been going through this Bucket Ministry Series using the encounter that the woman of Samaria had with the Lord Jesus Christ. And the last topic that we dealt with was "**the dividing line**" You might be wondering what is this about? Please check our page.

But just to connect with today's transmission, the last two episodes, we had "**the common ground**" where we saw that there was no argument whether people worship or not. We found that in humanity, we might defer in what we believe, we might defer in the

things that we believe is what seeking or what pursuing in life. People defer based on race, gender, ethnicity, location, there are so many argument on how we do things.

But what we saw in the discuss between Jesus and the woman of Samaria is there was a common ground for all humanity. Every one worship or everyone has something that they priorities in life, everyone has something that is important to them, that is most supreme to them or everybody has something that they derive their status and meaning in life from. That is what all humanity can agree on.

And that is what Jesus and the woman came to on that point, where Jesus did say to the woman, everybody worship. We saw the common ground there, but we then saw the dividing line is even though everybody worship, what everybody worship or where everybody worship is where the dividing line is. And we look at that in the previous episode.

Come with us today as we go on to the 24th verse of the fourth Chapter of the book of John on this journey of the Bucket Ministry Series.

Can you read please the 24th verse of the fourth Chapter of the book of John?

24. God is spirit (the source of life), yet invisible to mankind, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.

Here we go, this was the response...

If you have the KJV or the ones that has the words of Jesus in Red, you will notice that 24th verse is actually in Red.

It was a response of Jesus to this woman, where he simply says even though Jesus said you will not worship the Father neither in Jerusalem nor on this mountain, but they that must worship the Father must worship the Father in spirit and in truth. That is 23rd verse and the 24th verse is the reason why the 23rd verse is important.

The reason why you've got to worship God in spirit and in truth is the 24th verse says because God is a Spirit.

You know the book of Amos Chapter 3 verse 3 simply says "can two walk together unless they come into agreement?" So there is an accord between them. He says can somebody even claim that they want to worship God unless the person comes into consonance or agreement with the nature, the essence and the way this God existed? Because if you don't come to an agreement to how he exists, you might be saying you are worshipping God, maybe you are worshipping an image or a creation of your imagination.

He says if you are going to worship him at all, if you want to have any communication with God, you have to first understand that the person you want to communicate with

does not exist in the body realm. He doesn't exist in the soulish realm, in the mind realm. That is not where he exists. He said he exists or he is God because he is Spirit. That is what we see there.

That is the basis. That is the functionality or that is the foundation by which God must be approached.

You know Hebrews 11: 6 says "**without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever will come to God must believe that he is...**" and this one tell us how he is. This tells us in this 24th verse, that he is Spirit. He is not a body. He is not a mind. He is a Spirit.

It means if you want to understand how to relate with him, if you want to understand how to communicate with him, if you want to understand how to worship him, it means you have to learn to also be in spirit so that the two of you can at least understand each other. Be on the same frequency.

You see this is where the whole problem is when it comes to God, because a lot of people will rather reduce God down to their own level rather than come up to God's level.

You know I like a place in the book of Revelation where John said 'I was in the spirit on the Lord's day.' Before there was any revelation to John, before John was able to write down the Apocalypse, the very first thing we saw in the book of Revelation, John said 'I was in the spirit in the Lord's day and I heard the voice say to me, come up hither.' Before we start communicating about the things to come in the end.

Let me say this if you are listening to this. You have to understand for you to really lay hold on the benefit of redemption that we have in Christ Jesus, for you to walk with God, you must be ready in your life not to reduce God down to your level, not to bring God down to a level that you can reason with, or a level that your body can feel, you must be ready to come up to the level where he is.

And that is an invitation that John 4:24 is simply saying to say listen! If you must worship God at all, first! let us settle the fact that he that you want to worship is not a mind, he that you want to worship is not a body, he that you want to worship is spirit. So you need to get into the spirit.

Now to get into the spirit what does that mean? Does it mean that you have to get out of something?

No! it's just pretty straightforward. To get into the spirit, what does it mean? Does it mean to get out of something else into the spirit before you can start understanding what God is saying? And that is what we see there.

We are going to look into this. We are going to study some scriptures today. But first what you must understand is, for you to understand the language of heaven, you can't do it in the mind or in the body. It has to be in the spirit.

Let's see what the Word of God has to say about this.

Hold on to that, he that must worship God must be in spirit and in truth.

Philippians 3 as we look into that.

You can read that,

1. Finally my fellow believer, continue to rejoice and delight in the Lord. To write the same thing again is not hard for you, and it is the same guide for you.

2. Look out for the dogs, the Judaizer, the legalist, look out for the trouble makers, those who claim circumcision is necessary for salvation for we who are born again has been reborn from above,

For those of us who are born again, for those of us who are born twice, we were born from above

Go on please

Spiritually transformed, renewed, set apart for his purpose and we are the true circumcision, who worshipped in the Spirit of God.

Now he says we are in the spirit. We are not trying to worship God outside the spirit. He says we are worshipping in the spirit.

Don't forget that this was a response to some people who are actually trying to infiltrate the church. He was saying this in contrast to those who are trying to worship other than the spirit in the flesh; the Judaizer, those people who are saying that there is way you can get identified. So don't forget that this is meant to be an antithesis to something that was happening on ground. But he says we worshipped God in the spirit.

Now let's see how do you get into the Spirit to actually worship God? Look at what he says

Who worship in the Spirit of God and glory

Now the word glory there, is a very hold grammatical tenses for the word boast, which is talking about do we boast in.

Go on please

And take pride and exult in Christ Jesus

Can you see that? That is what the boasting is

And take pride in who Christ is and what Christ has done for us, is what we take pride in, is what our confidence lies, is what our boasting lies.

Now, don't forget he says worship in the spirit, Go on please

And place no confidence in what we are or who we are in the flesh.

Can you see then that if we go back to John 4:24 when he says God is spirit and if you will worship God, you have no choice but to get into the spirit?

Now, this then tells us in Philippians 3 that what it means to worship God in the spirit is to put no confidence in the flesh. Is to get out...

So it means to get into the spirit is to get out of something else. You don't talk about getting into the spirit to worship God who is spirit, unless we talk about getting out.

So the getting in is because there has to be a getting out.

And again, it is note worthy to see the comparison and contrast here because we can see he was saying, we having no confidence in the flesh, in what we are and who we are. And then we see the comparison and contrasting to say exulting, taking pride...Exactly!

Jesus in his glory, who he is.

So boasting, taking our pride in Christ.

So you can't do both at the same time. If you are taking pride, having confidence in this, in what we have, or who we are or exulting in the pride and glory of who he is. So we really have to pick one for which we have to place your confidence in.

But don't forget we've come here because he said we are the one that worship God in the spirit.

See! Viewers and listeners, worshipping God in the Spirit is not primarily singing a very sweet worship song. Worshipping God in the spirit according to the scriptures is not primarily somebody praying in the Holy Ghost for hours even though that is great, even though that is spiritual exercise to do.

But worshipping God in the spirit is not primarily for you to say, I want to get into the Holy Ghost, or assume some posture in the place of prayer or some activities or closing some height or anything you do.

Those are great things, they are wonderful spiritual exercises, but theologically or primarily that is not what the scriptures talks about getting into the spirit.

The scriptures say to get into the spirit is to get out of the flesh. And to get out of the flesh is to stop putting our confidence or taking pride in anything else other than what and who Christ is to us. That is what the scriptures say there.

So worship has just been demystified and removed from the power of location because some people feel a sense of aura or a sense of awakening or awareness when they get a particular spot where some people are, maybe miracle working or where somebody minister in the physical literally or something we feel this, we feel this is an atmosphere of worship. And this is a place of worship.

So we found out that worship is redefined here in what we just read to see that where is your confidence? And that is where you will be able to determine where your worship is, are you worshipping in the spirit? Is about where your confidence is.

Thank you for mentioning that.

You see what should be surprising to you reading Philippians 3 or going back to read John Chapter 4 is one key thing is in Philippians 3, the people that Apostle Paul was addressing, the people he was actually replying in Philippians 3 are people that do claim that they believe in God, they are people that actually want to associate with the Philippians brethren. They are not really people that go against Jesus Christ.

Infact these people have not come to claim that they don't believe Jesus Christ died for their sins. These people do not claim to say there is no one like Jesus who actually is the one that saved our soul. They don't make such claims. All they have said to the body of Christ in Philippi is, even though you believe in Jesus Christ, even though you claim you are born again and you will need to be circumcised in the flesh to perfect your experience, to perfect your deliverance or to perfect the fact that you know that you are fully saved. It was just an addendum to Christ. They were not claiming they don't believe in Jesus.

Now, if you want to take your time, you might want to read all of Chapter 3 of book of Philippians or read from Chapter 4. In fact, if you go to book of Acts, there was a situation where there was a convention in Jerusalem where some people say even though you were saved, but you still need to do this to perfect their salvation.

So it means it is not just enough that people say they believe in Jesus, what is much more important is where does our confidence for righteousness, where does it lie?

It is not by word of mouth. That is where John 4:24 reiterate and simply says they that must worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth because God is spirit.

You know what does that means? He is simply saying is one thing you might claim that you are worshipping God, but if you really want to worship him in spirit and truth, you have to worship him in spirit. Now, this is where the rubber hits the road.

We could profess with our mouth, we could say that Jesus is my salvation, Jesus is my righteousness, Christ Jesus is my holiness, but in reality where lies our confidence? Where lies our pride? Where lies your boasting?

You see when I check out your pride, when I check out what you boast in, when I check out what you put your confidence in, it tells me, if you are really worshipping in spirit.

Now, we are going to go to some other verses today...

And even if we go further, we see Paul was trying to make a case for himself...we are going to get to all that...

You are right; he began to talk of things that he could have boasted in...

That is why I did say it is one thing for you to claim to believe in Jesus, is a different thing for you to actively and functionally boast or rely or depend or have confidence in other things and be hanging around your life.

So the question is, the worshipper in the spirit; those who worship God in spirit, are they that take pride, are they that their boasting, their confidence, their dependence, their reliance in life, their sense of who they are in life, their sense of value, their sense of worth, how they respond to life, their confidence, their boldness is all coming from who Christ is to them and what Christ did for them. Those are the worshippers in the spirit. That is what we see by the Word of God.

And again, I need to clarify this that is not a mistake for you to have things in which you could have put your confidence in. You have some things maybe privilege, you have some things in your possession, is not a wrong thing per say. Some were born into it, so they can't help it. Some it was bestow on them. So it's not about that thing itself, is about where you place your confidence in.

And some might want to say oh! I will rather not have these things. And feel like okay that is the way of working away and not being entrapped into false confidence. We will rather not have this and not take this pathway. Like Paul did, he went through the pathway of civilization, Roman citizenry, education he had under Gamaelial, all the theory and doctorate of everything he has possesses.

Some might say maybe we should just walk away from that, so we will not be tempted to put our confidence in some of those things. We are bereft, we don't even have any of those thing. But we can tell you, you can have all those things and still be able to live

above those things by not putting your confidence just as we saw Paul did, because there is an escapism mentality which some people feel.

But you know one thing, the fact is if you look at the scriptures, a balance view of the Word of God, it tells us that it is not about escaping from or running into that is meant to define who we are or is meant to put our confidence in anything. For example, for what you are saying, you are simply saying some people can put their confidence in the fact that they don't have these things. Can you see what I just said there?

But some people can still put confidence in not even having it.

No! You cannot said that automatically is because the reason why they want to push it away or they want to escape is they will be more comfortable and more confident if they don't have it.

Yes, they feel like they do not run the risk of being tramped.

And even some might go further and used that as source of boasting actually, I don't have this or I have moved away from this. I don't have this. It can be turned in any other way round. I don't even have this at all, and that put me at an edge.

Exactly!

So it means if somebody want to do away with them, it means they believed that they can be somebody who qualifies because they don't have it, that is why they want to push it away, isn't it?

So the fact still remains, they have refused to escape that confidence.

If you think about 1Corinthians 13 where he says that even if I give all my goods to the poor, can you see? or if I give my body to be burned at the stake and I have no love, I amount to nothing.

So that is the Apostle Paul by the revelation of the spirit of Christ saying even if he get to the point where you are literally burnt at the stake. My question is, do we have Apostle who were burnt at the stake?

If you read Foxes Book of Martyrs, it tells us Apostle Peter, Apostle Paul, most of the church fathers, you will see explanation, a graphical illustration of the terrible death they had to undergo for the testimony of Jesus Christ. In some of them you read and you wonder that people can really sacrifice themselves, their bodies, their dreams, their life goals, their ambition just for the excellency of testifying to the goodness of God.

Yes, they did and that book illustrates that.

Does that not run contradictory to 1Corinthians 13 where Apostle Paul said even if I give my body to be burnt at the stake and I have no love, I amount to nothing? There is no contradiction. This is the resolving of it.

What happens is, Paul said if somebody believes that when they get martyred that is when they are fully accepted by God, see! Confidence is a terrible thing when it comes to salvation. He is simply saying it is not about whether the thing is good or whether the thing is bad. To be martyred for the cause of Christ, for somebody to sacrifice their life for the cause of Christ, we might want to say that is a great thing.

Well, that is a great thing, but the Apostle Paul is saying by the Spirit of Christ that, if that is the basis of somebody's confidence, then they are no different from somebody whose confidence is based on his money. They are no different from somebody whose confidence is based on his connection. They are no different from somebody whose confidence is based on their academic or societal or cultural status. They are no different.

The fact is, confidence in anything other than who Christ is and what Christ did is not worshipping in the spirit. This is what we see in the Word of God there.

So it not about things. It is immaterial what the situation is, what the circumstance is. No wonder in Philippians 4, the Word of God simply says I have learnt both to abase and to abound in whatever situation, that I can do all things through Christ. It's not about the situation. It is about does the confidence lie in any situation? It doesn't matter what the situation is. That is what it means to be in the flesh. And if you are in the flesh, Philippians 3 says you are not worshipping in the spirit.

So you see! what we have come by the grace of God to do on this transmission is to demystify the notion of what it means to worship God in the spirit.

The word of God is giving us the vocabulary of heaven that to worship God in the spirit is not to be in the flesh and not to be in the flesh is not to have any confidence in the flesh and not to have any confidence in the flesh is to take pride and to boast in Christ; what he is and what he did at Calvary. This is the simplicity of the definition of the Word of God.

So we see it there...

You have one or two things to say there?

Hope our people should be able to get that worship is simply explain in this way. That is what Jesus meant in John 4:24.

So all these seminar of worship and all these things going on about is more complicated. We can get all our definitions, all our question answered in the Word.

That is what we see there.

And anybody can worship, so some people cannot say oh! Yes, I have a calling to be a worshipper. We are all called to be a worshipper in the real sense of what worship is.

Now it means if somebody claim or professes to say Christ died for their sins and rose up on the 3rd day for them and their confidence is in anything else other than that. They do only believe in God but they are worshipping in the flesh, they are not worshipping in the spirit. That is what we see there. These ones are worshipping in the flesh; those judaizer, those circumcisers, ' those that say you have to be circumcised, they are worshipping in the flesh.

Follow us quickly as we look at Galatian 5. We are going to look at some other scriptures to demystify the notion of what it means to worship God in the spirit. If you must walk with God, you must learn this today. If you must lay hold upon redemption, you have to learn this today.

Galatians 5: 25, see what it says there?

Galatians 5

25. If we claim to live by the Holy Spirit,

That is what I just said that the Judaizers in Philipians 3 do make a claim; they do have a claim... they are born again. They believed that Jesus is there salvation. But they just kind of put their confidence in other things.

Go on please,

We must also walk by the spirit.

So he simply says here that if we claim to live by the spirit, if we claim that the Spirit of Christ lives in us, if we claim that we are no more people or ourselves who we are, that we believed that Jesus is now our life. He said that is a great thing. Thank you for the claim.

But actively in reality, in daily choices, in how you relate to other people, when somebody calls you or try to castigate you or when somebody speaks evil of you or when people are shunning you or when people disregard your personality, how is it? How did you react?

Walking by the spirit means you've come to a point where all your confidence, all your boasting, all your pride is completely only in Christ. He says let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us worship God in the Spirit. Let us not just make a claim that we live by the spirit but we are worshipping in the flesh because by worshipping in the flesh, you are not in a place where you are drawing on the reality of what Christ did for you, because if

you must worship God; is just like telling somebody don't waste your time, if you must worship God and you have to get into the spirit. You must do it in spirit and in truth. If you know you will not do it in spirit and truth, why worship? Or why claim that you worship God in the very first place? That is what it says there.

He says we claim to live by the Spirit. In fact, some other translation of Galatians 5:25 says if we claim we have our life by the Spirit, if we claim that the Spirit of Christ is our life, let us also walk. Let our daily choices, let our responses to life, let the things that matter to us in life, let the way we define ourselves in life, let the way we see ourselves in life, let the way we communicate in life, let it be driven, let our boasting, our confidence completely rely on who Christ is and what he did for us. He said let that be what is going to happen if we claim we live by the Spirit, let us then walk by the Spirit. That is what he says there.

It's good that the word claim is coming up again. People claim to be we are believers, then we are worshippers automatically. But Jesus was telling that woman; the woman of Samaria that if you ever going to claim to always be in my hearing range, you just have to be in the same bandwidth in the same frequency to be in the spirit, if not you are just making empty noise. That is it!

No matter how soulful the song is, no matter the weighty words you are using to express your devotion or how you feel about the Lord. He is just saying, I can't hear you; we are not on the same range or same frequency. You are outside my hearing ear. I can't even hear. You are not in fellowship with him no matter what you do or how you put it, how the songs was put or how you say it or the posture you assume or any mannerism or anything, it might be earth shaking and some people cause people to wonder and say what is this? What a great voice? We've never see this kind before.

But we found that it is empty, it is useless because it is outside the range in which the Lord could access. It is outside and so you must come into the spirit. And you come into the spirit by disannulling all the works of the flesh. All what you can put your confidence in, and resting in totally in who he is and what he is to you.

Now, thank you for making that statement.

Now before I say anything else, I want you to look at Romans 8: 9 so that we can combine those verses together and come up with some conclusion in the Holy Ghost.

Now as you are listening to this, if you have any question, you have anything in your mind that you want to ask us, you can post it on the page as you are listening to this.

Romans 8

9. However, you are not living in the flesh control by the sinful nature but in the spirit.

Now, what you will notice there again... please every verse that we actually pick up, we will like you to read up the whole chapter or verses before or after. If you have any question you can ask us.

What he is simply saying to the Romans church is simply this, if you are a Christian, if you are born again, if you have given your life to Jesus, if you have confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believed in your heart that God raised him from the dead, it means you are in the Spirit. And this is what distinguishes a believer from an unbeliever and unbeliever is not in the Spirit. An unbeliever is in the flesh.

If you are a believer in Christ Jesus, you are in the spirit. That is what we see there but you see that is Romans 8:9, but what Galatians 5:25 add on top of that is to say that if we then claim that we are in the spirit, let us walk, let us worship, let us functionally show it, let us demonstrate that. This is what Galatians 5:25 add on top of Romans 8: 9 in the Word of God.

So it means then, it is possible for somebody to claim to live in the spirit but yet walking in the flesh.

We will now go back to our Philippians 3, what we are trying to read the other time that what is the Apostle Paul talking about? Why is he talking about no confidence in the flesh?

Now, we would have thought that if you were circumcised in the spirit, then why are you still talking about no confidence in the flesh?

The reason why the Apostle Paul was talking about that is because it is very possible to have your life by the Spirit of God but still not boasting and taking pride in what Christ has done for you, by putting your confidence in other things. It is very possible to be in the spirit but yet walking in the flesh. That is what we see in the Word of God.

Can you go back to Philippians 3?

Saying believers' life is in the spirit and unbelievers' life is in the flesh. But the believers' life who is in the spirit can actually be walking in the flesh. And we see that today.

Philippians 3, can you read from verse 4,

4. Though I myself might have some grounds for confidence in the flesh.

Now, I thank God for that.

You know today like you were saying, some people today who tried to denounce some of the things happening in the church. If a minister of God or a Pastor buy some things, buy some kind of cars, jets, some people go and say well, it is wrong for a Minister of God to have a jet. Jesus didn't have a jet and all that kind of stuff. Those kind of discussion are very controversial and there are for and against. And some people say, well what about if somebody is a footballer and buys a jet, nobody complains? Why is it that if a minister of God has a business...? People argue about all these kind of things.

But you see, as much as you want to look at the merit of such argument. Some people who are arguing about these things are doing so because of their own financial situation. Atimes you can't be too sure why people are against such things, is it because they lack those things and they are lashing on to fight against it in somebody else's? Because they think somebody else having what they don't have disqualify them or condemn them.

So it is very hard for you to know the sincerity of people argument. What I have just said now has done nothing for or against the argument. I am only just trying to say some things we fight against, some things we contend against, we need to be very sure, we need to be honest before God and man that we are fighting those things not because we don't have them or because those things are disqualifying us, because others have what we don't have.

We need to be very sure about that, because if we don't there would be a dent, there is a pollution, contamination in the very thing we are making case for.

The Apostle Paul in this case is simply saying to all of the whole world to listen, that the reason why we said we put no confidence in the flesh is not because we are bereft of the flesh or we don't have those things or we want to make up for our loss by holding on to the other things, and so we can see our importance, we can draw the same value from you. Though you don't have this, I don't have this yet I am superior.

Paul said the reason why we are chosen not just to live by the spirit but to also walk in the spirit by worshipping in the spirit by putting all of our boasting in Christ and what he did for us at Calvary, is not because we don't have nothing to boast of. Is not because we have nothing to boast about. The reason why he said that is some people who contend against such thing is because they have no grounds to even boast, so they just are ready to fight tooth and nail against other people who have such grounds.

Paul said is not because I lack the grounds that is not the reason. So please don't doubt my sincerity. Please don't doubt the clarity of my fault on this matter. And that is why he chip that particular phrase. I have all those grounds.

See! the reason why he was doing this is because the Judaizer; those people who have come to say it is okay to live by the spirit, but if you really want to be serious, if you want

to be counted great for God there are some things you need to defect to in the flesh. Those people do have those grounds.

And Apostle Paul said the reason I have come to present the reality of the true gospel is not because I lack any of those grounds. I do have those grounds and even more than them.

Paul said I have more grounds than those people. But how come I have chosen to take my pride in the finished work of Calvary? Even though I could have done otherwise.

That is why we should all always argue like Paul when we come to the same possession, come to the same experience, so that you can talk on issues so that your sincerity can be known to all.

Even some people might have good points and argument and people don't know whether they are sincere or not. So do you have these things? You can see some people complaining about the church is not about big membership, but their Pastor has few members. Even if they are making any apostolic theological sense, we really don't know for what stand point?

So we need to try as much as our argument to have a rounded argument. We must have a rounded lifestyle sort of. We've come into the experience. It is an onus on us. You come to that kind of experience. You are already in their shoe. You are talking to the corporate people, you are already in that corporate world and you understand what it is and then you have the apostolic grace to understand what the New Testament living is all about.

So it makes it easier for people to be able to see your sincerity and see that you are really sincere about it.

You see, you just mention one thing and could this be the reason why some ministers who are saying it is not about the bigness of your church when they have a small church; some of them by the time they begin to increase their members, they become silent on those issues.

Yes, that is it!

Even some too, with the same prosperity... so they are just using that thing as a bait. So they always condemn what they don't have and as soon as they have it, and they stopped condemning it. That is the reason.

You see people subscribing to some theology just because it is comfortable for their level at that time.

If you are in that kind of category...

So they play on people's intelligence or people does not understand that they are just preaching from their level of comfort.

And as soon as they move to that next level, they stopped condemning what they were condemning because now they have attained it.

Now, if you are in that situation, you know what? You are just in Philippians 3. You are putting your confidence in the flesh.

Even though we are not saying you are not born again. Romans 8:9, Galatians 5:25, both agree that of course your life is in the spirit, we are saying, you are not walking by the spirit. If you are walking by the spirit, even though when you condemn or disqualify things that don't glorify God in your life in other people, you are not doing it because it is meant to be a bouncing floor or a stepping-stone for you to go to the next level. You can't afford to join this kind of notion together for your own personal aggrandizement. What the Word of God says is your pride, your confidence, your boasting; it doesn't matter what stage of life you are in, should all be Christ, should all be who Christ calls you and what Christ calls you.

So we thank God for a man of God, an Apostle like Paul that say see! I have got those grounds like those men have.

He has a lot going for him.

We can then see the sincerity of the heart of this man. That is what we see there.

He said

Though I myself might has some ground for confidence in the flesh, if I were pursuing salvation by works. If anyone thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have far more.

He has far more!

Some people need not to speak until they have far more in some things if you really want to follow Paul, for most people like Paul in so many things; I hope they are going to emulate Paul in this.

Before I talked about this, I have far more!

Can you see that?

Far more in what you want to talk about...

He said I have more grounds. So don't doubt my sincerity again

Circumcised when I was eight years old of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin...

You see when you talked about nation of Israel; you have to understand that in Romans Chapter 9 -11, there is an argument for the stock of Israel; to simply say they were the ones that were given the law. They were the nations that were called of God. In fact up till today, people says the Jews are God's chosen people.

Paul said just for the fact that I came from that stock, from that place already should have given me a leverage in righteousness, a leverage as people chosen by God.

Even this circumcision matter...

That was the reason, he said

You can't be more circumcise...

If you believe in Jesus Christ and you are born again, that was what the Judaizer were telling them, you will be much more better if actually could be part of Israel. If you are part of Israel, it means you then get the benefit of righteousness that come from choosing Israel.

Circumcise eight days old of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin

Now, it means I even know exactly what tribe I came from.

a Hebrew of Hebrew

Before you go on, it means he is simply saying these are things that should give you a leverage before man and before God. Not just before God, before men. How people see you, how people appreciate you. That is why, you see!

Let's not rush over these things and bring a practically application to the 21st century even among the body of Christ today.

I don't know why Paul is robbing it in the face, is he robbing it in the face or drawing attention to it, going for that detail explanation because nation of Israel, tribe of Benjamin? Is just like saying my citizenship is by birth not by investment or any other means...

Is really like going down to the nitigrity and break it down. If we are going to value citizenship by this, I can explain it by this.

Okay, well, that will explain the reason.

Again if you look at that, what he is simply trying to point out is, the very people who are claiming that the Philippians should not only believe in Jesus but also, you have to be part of Israel as a nation by getting circumcise.

They are saying that because they are Jews. They said we have something that you don't have.

And today, this is not strange in the body of Christ. Some people have come to say well, if you say you believe in Jesus but if you want evidence to show that you truly have faith in God or you want evidence to show that God is really on your side, that God is really working for you, that God is for you, look at what's happening to our lives, look at our ministries, look at how things are working for us, look at the Word of grace, look at the anointing that is flowing in our ministry. See things happening...

Even though you claim to be born again, you claim to be a Christian, if you really want to be where things are happening, where God is working in people's life, you better join this cause, you better be part of this move.

We in most cases always attach other things outside of Christ as one of the evidence or the confirmation of God's goodness, of God's favour upon our lives. We don't expressly talk this way, maybe we don't. But we put hints, we give suggestion that shows to the world and to people what we are simply saying, it is a good thing to believe in Jesus, but if you really want to be in situation where you want to be in the center of what God is doing or you want to be in the center of God's favour, look at our lives, look at what is happening. You better join this cause, you better join this group. If that's not happening in your life, it means God is not actually in your life. If that is not happening around you, it means you are not in the center of what God is doing in the last days...

And then they tell people and they begin to rubbish the work of redemption, the work of salvation... and people begin to say well, unless I connect to that group, unless I become a part of that purpose, unless I put my head under that anointing, it means things are not happening yet in my life.

So this is what Apostle Paul was saying that if you are going to be claiming about group or about sect or about your background or your whatever, he said I have enough grounds to make those claims. That is what we see then.

Yeah, it is apparent today that we still have the Judaizers among us, luring people beating them away from the complete work of Christ into their personal testimony, talking of circumcision.

Some is about their personal testimony; the revelation the Lord gave them, the workings of the Lord in their life. People have to discountenance whatsoever the work of grace in their own life to embrace and join into this and begin to elevate it.

It might be a dream, a revelation that is working in that man or woman or a way of prayer, the way he says things, the manner of delivery, the way he approach some things spiritually, they elevated that above the finished work of Christ. And they lure people by that kind of personal testimony; they lure people by the way of their mandate, the things that happen around them.

The commissioning was this... If you don't be part of this commission, you can't get that benefit. Or the one that came in during that inauguration, all those things. They put more weight into this than the finished work of Christ. And people begin to look into their life maybe what I have is not enough, maybe the blood of Jesus, the finished work of Calvary, the complete work is not enough. I need to hook unto that mandate.

So people put more relevance on those things and think less. So they are lure into this. And they feel like oh! We are not asking you to drop the revelation of Christ, we want you to continue but you need to add to this. You can see, we are different from this. That is the problem...

We call them troublemakers. We call them dogs and trouble makers. I hope we will be able to see them for who they are today. The elevated status they might assume in your life, maybe fathers and mothers, they have special name to call them, you have a way to bow in reference to them. But the way the scriptures call them, they are dogs, they are troublemakers, and you have to see them for that.

Everybody that is luring you away, that is telling you that the complete work of Christ is not enough; you need to look into something and add something to it, to elevate something and add circumcision.

Well, I don't know what circumcision might mean... initiation into a group, into a system, into their ideology, into their mentality... to adopt something, adopt another good thing.

We are not saying all these things are bad things, because circumcision wasn't a bad thing for the nation of Israel, but all these things they asked you to adopt might not be bad in itself, but what makes it bad is like elevating, demoting the complete work of Christ, who Christ calls you, what Christ call you, what Christ gave to you, the benefit of Christ, is all enough, demote it and elevate something else in its place.

Some people elevate prayer, call you into it and begin to elevate prayer. People elevate dreams even before the Word of God and everything they believe that the Lord need to speak to them is through dreams. They can find that they can function only effectively only by itself. All these things that meant to be tools are not meant to call into force like this to take the central place.

Now, if you notice one of the way you will know that that this things has begin to afflict and affect your life is if you have the fear that, if you leave such a system, such a group, such a practice or such a connection... because you cannot pray without the anointing oil, you feel as if you have missed out of Christ, or they threatened you that you'll missed out and you begin to look at it and it looks like it looks so, and your faith is on those things. Oh! I forgot to do as they ask me to do, oh! that is why this thing is happening, you begin to find some random meanings..

Even though you are in the spirit, you are not walking by the spirit. It means you are in the spirit, but you are not worshipping in sprit and truth. It means you are in the spirit, but you are pulling your confidence in the flesh. This is what we talked about today, about the worshipping in the spirit.

So the Apostle Paul is giving us his own pedigree.

So we are not to put our confidence in the hymns, in the prayer book, in the anointing oil, in whatsoever, all those good things and smiley good things. We are to put our confidence only on Christ, and that is how to worship in the spirit.

You will feel your sense of being righteous, of being a good person, or somebody whose life is valuable, that sense is only coming because Jesus Christ says, you are accepted in the beloved because Jesus Christ said I called you righteous, I call you holy, I call you blameless.

And then we go back into all the credentials of Paul because some of these things or those good things that people take pride in their parentage. I was born a Christian all my life or something. This is how I was raised. I was a servant to this great man of God. That has been some of the credentials of people. And people used that to draw people. I was a servant to him. So is like I got the mantle from this.

So that is what Paul was just trying to show. I don't know whatsoever it is in your life that is so peculiar to you, that is taking the place of your confidence that you might want to place your confidence on except only what Christ has done. You have to see and see the way Paul dealt with those things...all those grounds. They were nothing.

I don't know do we have time to look at it?

Yeah, we can carry on until when the time stop.

So Paul's wasn't a man that wanted to be in the spirit, he wanted to worship in the spirit.

What is the next one?

A Hebrew of Hebrew, an exemplary Hebrew...

Oh! my God! So some people are not even exemplary.

He has a distinguishing record- his parentage where he came from.

And to the observant of the law, a Pharisee. As to my zeal for Jewish traditions, a persecutor of the church, and as to righteousness, supposed right living, each of my fellow Jews belief is in the law, I prove myself blameless.

It means if you are talking about performance, if you are going to talk about somebody who dotted all the i's and cross all the t's...he said yes! Everything is all done perfectly well. He was blameless.

That might amazes you, for you to understand that Apostle Paul said, one of the things he did not put confidence in, this might surprise you. You know when we say don't put confidence in... we've mention so many things. But this particular thing he mention is a very strange one.

He said even when it comes to doing everything right according to the rules and regulations of righteousness, he said he's done everything right. And yet, he's asking you and I, including himself that we refuse to put confidence in that.

You know when you say these things, because when you tell people that the ultimate thing about being a Christian or of being born again is not morality. This is one of the scriptures that led credence to that statement. He is saying, it's a great thing that you have done everything right. It's a great thing that nobody can come and say that you have done something terrible to them and all of these things, he said but yet that cannot be your sense of righteousness.

You cannot say, if somebody come to you today and say why do you think you will go to heaven eventually or why do you think you are in heaven now? Or why do you think that God is completely happy with your life? Or how do you think or how confident are you that there is no blame in your life? And if you ever think that the reason is because you think you are following all the rules and regulations even though you are born again, you are worshipping in the flesh. It means you are not worshipping in the spirit. We didn't say that. That is what he says.

He said if you can think that way, it means you are worshipping in the flesh. To worship in the spirit according to Philippians 3 is for a man to say even though I have done everything right, that can still not be my confidence. That is what we see there.

And it is good that we are saying this again because sometimes we tell people to discard things. So it is easier for them to discard their academic qualification. You see people at the height of their career, at the height of their academic excellence, they are ready to throw everything away but they are going to hold on to their right living.

If you tell people throw this away, throw away your possession, people can resign from their height of career whatsoever it is, people can walk away from this trust and all these things but they are going to hold on to this right living, I am going to be a man of integrity, we are giving up this for this. That is the thing. People can understand and say, well, I gave up this to be known as this.

But now we see Paul here saying we have to discard everything. We are not substituting this for this.

That is true!

You know that will probably come back to the things you said at the beginning when we started about the fact that, some people can simply say at least I am going to give up all those things, give up all of my wealth so I can be a minimalist. People can say I've got a right conscious, I am somebody with a good character. I have something like philanthropy. And Paul is saying including philanthropy, living right. This is even beyond philanthropy. This is beyond charity, living right, blameless, right living.

You know if you are living right. There should be a benefit that comes from that. If you are doing everything right.

See! In the world that we are in, it is very hard to live right.

Just like Proverbs that say a good name is better than gold and silver. But here Paul is saying a good name and the gold and silver, you have to discard everything.

Exactly!

Because the culture or the folk law will encourage you to pick up a good name and drop the gold and silver. But the gospel is calling us to discard both, the good name and the gold.

That is why the second reason say that these things are very serious matters.

And you see, one of the reason, what should motivate you in the Holy Ghost not to put your confidence in the flesh is this that we are saying here. One of the reasons should be that you are not protected or you are not safe if you put your confidence in the flesh.

You see! there are two things that could happen for people that put their sense... because any time you do things right, you know as humans or as people that God blessed and all that, one of the motivations for us to do the right thing is because we think if I do the right thing, so I can sleep in the night, and say at least I am not a bad person.

At least, I know I have done everything in my conscience as the right thing to do. I think I am a good person. I think I am not as bad as evil as those people have compromise. You

know that is one of the benefit (I call it benefit of the mind), benefit of our consciousness so that we at least get the benefit of doing the right thing.

Even some will say so that I can sleep well, they really want to sleep well...

Paul is simply saying, well, I derive that sense of being able to sleep well, not because I did things right. I derive it because I boasted, my confidence, my pride is in Christ Jesus who is my righteousness. Christ Jesus is my perfection. Christ Jesus is my holiness. He declared me holy. He declared me righteous and that is why I can sleep at night. So whether I do things right, that is an extra benefit. But am not even waiting to do things right to sleep at night.

This is what he is simply.... Christ gave me, confer on me that benefit.

And that is the reason why if you chose this pathway of walking by the flesh, you are in dangerous hands.

And I will tell you in summary because in Romans chapter 8, he tells us, **‘Now there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but who walk after the spirit.’**

Can you see that?

He says one of the problems why people can have condemnation is because they are not walking in the spirit.

If you have this morality stuff as your focus, what about if over time as you continue to live your life, you fail your own standard?

See! If you have not fail your own standard, maybe you are still very young. Keep on living life, you will one of these days. If you are not already failing even your own very standard and when you do, this idol of morality will not forgive you and say can you see? You are a very bad guy. You are a very bad girl. You are so evil. People don't even know that you are so terrible. It will castigate you. It will disqualify you. It will condemn you. And if you happen to meet your standard...

Some can get into hypocrisy....

But deep down is disqualifying you anyway, you are just covering it up; white sepulcher.

And if by any means you can't attain your standard and you meet up with God's own standard, if morality is your confidence, what happen is you will feel proud and you have to castigate and pull down other people so that you can feel great. Whichever way, whether in pride or in condemnation, those are outside the spirit of Christ. There is nothing good, no life can ease you out of this. It will be the flesh that eases you out of that.

That is why he says, it doesn't matter how good or bad anything is, this Apostle, he said I have come to a point where there is no confidence in the flesh. Why? Because he chose to worship God in the spirit. That is what we see by the Word.

This is how far we can go today. I hope you've been blessed by this transmission.

As we have said before, should you have any question, anything that need clarification, we are just right to answer that. So you just send us those messages or those questions whether privately or through our Facebook page. You know where to go...

So till we see you next time, as we continue on this Bucket Ministry Series, I hope we will go beyond verse 24 of John Chapter 4. We want to say as you have received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk in him.

God bless you...

Walk in the spirit.

Bye!!!