

## **Expose 83 K47**

### **Pagan Christianity**

We have all the armors of the Lord except for the pelvic and the perineum region. We don't have any armor for that. We are asked to flee. If you actually apply the belt of truth which is about to guard our emotions and feelings, we need to know that for that, we need to flee. The truth of God's Word says we should flee all appearances of evil, flee youthful lust, flee fornication and that is it.

So we've been on this prayer and the good news again to know that thanks be to God who daily led us in triumphant procession. He leads us out in pomp and pageantry. What he leads us and accomplished on the cross was not done in corner. The scriptures says he made an open show of this.

So we are being called to take up this armor in a good fight. So we are not just going to fight. We are going to take credit for what somebody has labour for. We are going to take a full reward of Christ's perfect obedience. And so nothing could be more easy and beautiful than that and that is what we've been sharing and that is the good news. So we will continue from that.

And I think we will like to remind our viewers how we got into Ephesians Chapter 6. Now that we are through with the armors of God in Ephesians Chapter 6 and where do we go from here?

Viewers all over the world. Thank you for joining us today on this Knock Out series. Now, let's kind of recapitulate where we are and where are going to.

Now, if you've been with us for the past few weeks. We've been looking at the fact that every believer in Christ Jesus does have faith. Because the Bible says for by grace are you saved through faith. So it means, Christian don't have a faith problem because you couldn't be save without faith.

And then the question we are asking is, why is it that Christians struggle to exercise faith to receive in the place of prayer? And we say the reason is because of unbelief. And we began to see that the weapon that the devil uses against us is to actually allow unbelief to sink into our lives and that mitigates against our faith. And then we actually look in context of how Jesus gave us strategies on how to make sure we insulate our life against unbelief.

And then we went to different scriptures. And then we began to look at James Chapter 1 who actually told us. In James 1 we understand by the scripture, that the temptation in James Chapter 1 is the temptation to drag Christian to unbelief. We actually said temptation has a deeper vocabulary than we think it is.

And then we began to look at temptation. So the real fact of temptation, it is the drag on the life of a Christian to make us to live and walk our lives in unbelief. And then we began to look at the case study of Jesus actually as an example for us as Christian on how we can walk in victory against all the temptations that the enemy brings our way.

Before we continue today I want to call your attention to one basic fact. Hebrews Chapter 4 speaks about Jesus Christ. The Bible says Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. It means, if you understudy the temptation of Christ. You will understand all the divers' kind of temptations you can ever go through because the Bible says he was tempted in all point as we are. So looking at the temptation of Christ, we can understand what the enemy can bring against us in our walk of faith.

So while I will like you to check the volume of the Expose page to see that. I will like to remind our audience to all these episodes we had on prayer. We had a lot on prayer. If you have checked our page. We listed some of the topics for you. So we will like you to go into this because there is no way we could really summarize this for you. So go to Expose 247 page. You can just follow us and view first. And look at your leisure time to look at all these episodes on prayer. It's a long thing. It's long winding season. We cannot afford not to break it line by line, precept by precept as we continue this. Please do remember to go through it and share it with all your contacts.

Ok. So if you are wondering why we are interested in looking at the temptations of Christ. It's not because we just want to do a kind of theological exercise. We are interested in looking at the temptation of Christ because from there, we can understand all the systematics of the enemy that he can bring against our destiny. That is why we are looking at Christ as a figure. Bible says he was tempted in all points as we are.

So we've actually explore the first two temptation of Christ in the past few weeks. Please you might want to get our previous transmissions. For example we did an Expose on the first temptation of Christ. We title it "**The Purpose of Hunger.**" You can look for that on our Facebook page.

We also went beyond that and talk about the second temptation where we actually title that "**Are you testing or trusting God?**" which is a very common temptation the

enemy brings across the pathway of Christians to knock unbelief into our lives. So you want to check that title “**Are you testing or trusting God**” on our Facebook page.

Then today it is high time we being to look into the third temptation of Christ as a springboard or platform for us to understand the strategies and the schemes of the devil against our own very life.

So join us quickly as we go through Matthew Chapter 4. We are going to look at that ,the third temptation of Christ which is a drag into unbelief that the devil want to actually used on Jesus Christ.

Let’s bless the Lord for Jesus, the Bible calls him the second Adam where the first Adam fell.

So this is not the first time we are talking about unbelief. Is like what I have said before, we have “**Unbelief Type 1, Unbelief type 2, Symptoms and Signs of unbelief.**” So really you need to get to what we are talking about.

Now, let’s go quickly...

You can read Matthew Chapter 4. You can read from verse 8 please.

#### **Matthew 4**

**8. Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.**

That is taking Jesus.

**9. And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.**

Well, now before you go into the response of Jesus. Now, this is important... if you notice we’ve been focusing on how the believer can actually receive from the Lord. And let’s give this backdrop for those who are just joining.

We’ve simply said that the God that we serve... The Bible says in James Chapter 1 is the God that gives liberally unto all men without finding fault. Now, people have painted the wrong picture of the true God. The true God is not the God where you can actually say if I convince him by the way I live my life. If I convince him enough in the way I pray. If I am consistent with my prayer life or consistent with my Bible study or if I do this and do that. Maybe I can convince God to give to me. That is not the true God that we serve. The Bible says He is poise. He gives liberally without

unbraiding. It means without finding fault in your life. So the reason why we don't reason is because something about us not something about him.

And then here we see the devil offering Jesus, he said I will give you all these things. This is a bit of contradiction because we were teaching about how you can receive from God, how you can lay hold upon the benefit of the cross. And here is the devil coming to Jesus, offer to give him, Can you see? Offer to give Jesus whatever because... Don't forget the Bible talks about Jesus that all the powers in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus in Acts Chapter 1.

So here was Satan coming to Christ and says I will give you these things. And then if Satan is saying he is going to give you something when he is supposed to resisting you from getting something. There is something about this. Because don't forget we talk about Satan in our previous episode, we said he is a master schemer. He will use everything in his arsenal to make sure that he drags us out of the will and purpose of God.

So here we see Satan doing something we didn't think Satan should be doing. We would think Satan would try to stop or hinder Jesus from getting whatever belongs to him. But here is Satan coming to offer, to give to Jesus.

And we need to look at the motivation. What is the devil trying to achieve? Every single temptation that was targeted against Jesus was meant to achieve something. And that is what we are going to actually find out on today's Knock Out series. What did he want to achieve by offering Jesus to give him something when he should be resisting or trying to limit or restrict or oppose Jesus from getting something

So that is what we see there. But he actually offer Jesus these things on a compromise. The last phrase that you read says if you will fall down and worship.

So Satan is saying let's do an exchange. I don't care if I give you anything. It doesn't matter if I give you something Jesus as long as I can get worship from you.

Now, I want you to take note of that today. Satan is looking for something there. It means something is more important to Satan than you getting what you are asking for. I repeat that, something is more important that the devil wants from everyone whether believer or unbeliever. Satan want something. And that thing Satan is willing to exchange that thing for you having what you are even asking for.

Now, I repeat that, Satan is looking for something and that thing is important to the devil much more. You know some Christians often think that the most important strategy of the devil is stop them from getting what God wants them to get. Some

Christians think that the most important strategy that Satan will adopt against the believer is to oppose you, is to resist you to make sure that you don't get the goodness of God in your life. But may I say this, that seem not to be true.

Something is much more important to the devil, that the devil is even willing for you to have what you are asking for as long as he get that thing. He told Jesus, I will get you what you want but I want something from you Jesus. I want worship. I want you to bow down. It means worship and bowing down to Satan is much more important to the devil than actually resisting you from getting what you are asking God for. That is what we are looking at today.

We are looking at the most critical of the temptation against Christ Jesus when Satan is demanding worship in exchange to making sure Jesus has whatever he actually was asking for.

That is what we are looking at. So please look at that.

Take note of that statement.

Now, go to the next verse,

**10. Then saith Jesus unto him, get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

So well Jesus responded again from Deuteronomy Chapter 6. We've been looking at this in the past few days where Jesus was using the weapon of the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God.

So as a believer, for you who are believing God for something. Making demand for something and believing God to receive what is really yours according to the covenant of Christ. Let us see the implication of this temptation. How does the enemy drag the believer in regard to this type of temptation? For the Bible says Jesus was tempted in all points as we are.

Before we explore this, we need to look at a different dimension of this temptation. Don't forget we are looking for the purpose. What does the devil want to achieve? What was he trying to drag Christ Jesus into? Because you need to know that, that is the very same thing he is trying to drag your life into at the moment.

Now, let's look at Luke Chapter 4.

We look at the account of Luke of this same discuss between Jesus and the devil and by the grace of God we start to glean what the spirit of grace want us to know and for us to walk in victory over the enemy.

Now, look at Luke Chapter 4 you can read from verse 5.

It is the same event but with a different dimension from Luke.

#### **Luke 4**

**5. And the devil taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world, in a moment of time.**

**6. And the devil said unto him, all this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto to me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

Now, the devil said something. He said all these things had been delivered unto me.

Now go on,

**and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

The devil says I can offer it to anybody I wanted.

Now, I will say Satan if you just want to offer it, just offer it. But it's in exchange.

Now, see what he says, what did he says next?

**7. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.**

Well, it means Satan said am not really that concern about stopping you Jesus from having those things. All I just want is bow down, is worship.

Now, the question you want to ask us today is what is the connection between having things and the worship of the devil? Now, we need to explore that connection according to the scriptures.

Now, you might be wondering does this apply to you as a Christian. What is the relevance? What is the connection between this and you? I mean especially for somebody who is born again. For somebody who is actually operating by the New Life in Christ Jesus. If you are born again, you are redeemed.

Well, you can say that does not mean it apply to me. Well, let see what the scripture says because to this particular topic we are dealing with today, is very critical as you might probably begin to follow us to see what we are talking about.

So does this apply to you? What is this worship of Satan? What is the connection between, you getting the things that God wants you to have and the worship of the devil? What is the link? The reason am asking that question is, does it mean that if Jesus actually received those things from the devil? Does it mean that you are bowing

down to the devil? What about if I don't bow down? What about if I get those things? What is Satan trying to achieve?

Now, I will take you through quickly to the book of 1John Chapter 5. We are going to look at this, how this applies to you as a Christian, and apply to you if you are born again and you are believer in Christ Jesus.

Look at 1John Chapter 5.

And quickly you might want to look at from verse 14 and I want you to read from verse 14.

### **1John 5**

**14. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:**

Don't forget that is about using the power of being able to ensure that God hears you when you pray. So he says if you ask anything according to God's will he hears you.

Go on please

**15. And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

Oh! That is answers to prayer. Praise God!

Go on please

**16. If any man see his brother still in sin, a sin which is not unto death. He shall ask and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say he shall pray for it.**

**17. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.**

**18. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.**

Now, he says there is a way Christians can keep himself and the wicked one cannot have any access to his destiny.

Now, how?

Go on please,

**19. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.**

So when Satan told Jesus that all these things have been delivered unto me. Have you noticed Jesus did not dispute the fact that he was lying. Here, the Bible says the whole world lies under the power of the wicked one. Satan knew what he was talking about and Jesus did not dispute that fact.

Now watch this. He says, you need to keep yourself.

Go on please

**20. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. That is the true God, and eternal life.**

**21. Little children keep, yourselves from idols. Amen**

So we see the connection. The very last verse that the Apostle John wrote to the believers in 1John Chapter 5.

Now, if you noticed he said that we know that the whole world lies on the power of the wicked one. But he said something about the believer. He said he that is born of God keeps himself and the wicked one does not touch him. He says if you keep yourself the wicked one cannot touch you and the last verse says keep yourself from idols.

Here goes the connection. He's simply saying that when Satan told Jesus to bow down and worship him. Satan wasn't saying actually I want you to just prostrate and go flat. He was simply saying here that as long as somebody is connected to idols. That is why he says here, the wicked does not touch the believer because he keeps himself and the next one says keep yourself from idols.

Am simply saying to you. If you have any idol around you. If anything becomes the idol. It automatically gives the room to the enemy to gain access. That is why he says the wicked does not touch him because he keeps himself and he says well keep yourself from idols.

So this is the connection. Satan was asking Jesus as it were to make an idol out of those things, because he knows if he does, Jesus will automatically be bowing down to him. So bowing down to the devil is not just prostrating flat before the devil. Is about the fact that Satan knew he was going to gain inroad into Christ as long as those things he was talking to Christ about become the ultimate for Jesus Christ.



So it means, here we see the link of why Satan thinks, Jesus making an ultimate out of those things, or automatically Jesus bowing down to him. So here was Apostle John saying keep yourself from idols.

We are going to explore this further today anyway.

Yes you might want to differentiate to our viewer what idols meant in this 21<sup>st</sup> century from 7<sup>th</sup> century. You know people might just be thinking do I have any graven image around me? I don't have a shrine so I have kept myself. You might really want to help our viewers.

Thank you for that. I think that is going to take us to Matthew 6. Because we are talking about Pagan Christianity.

What is the devil trying to achieve with Christ Jesus. And the Bible says He was tempted in all points as we are.

Look at Matthew Chapter 6. I want you to look at Matthew Chapter 6 and we see what Christ had to say.

Now, look at Matthew Chapter 6, you can read from verse 31 please.

### **Matthew 6:31**

#### **31. Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat?**

Now, take no thought. Let this not fill your mind. Can you see? Let this not fill your mind. That is what he is saying.

Go on please,

#### **or what shall we drink?**

Now that is two.

#### **Or wherewithal shall we be clothed?**

Three.

Now, He says don't let these things fill your thought. You can put this way. Don't let this be the ultimate. Don't let these things be your very foundation, your driving points. Don't let these things be what gives your life meaning. Can you see that? Don't let these things be what make your life significant. Don't let these things be the reason why life is worth living. Don't let this be the definition of your life. And why is he saying that?

Watch this!

Verse 32

### **13. For after all these things**

Now, watch that word! Watch that word!

#### **For after all these things do the gentiles seek.**

Now, you see that is the KJV translation. If you have the NIV translation with you, the New International version. The Greek word that was actually translated gentiles. The NIV says “for these things do the pagan” the NIV specifically use the word Pagans. And the reason why he use pagan is because the root words that was translated gentile is the word pagans.

So here was Jesus saying this is how you know the pagans, the idol worshipper. What is Jesus talking about? The idol worshippers! I thought Jesus you were talking about eating, drinking and putting on cloth? What kind of link does that... in fact some translation call it heathen. These are the things that the heathen seek after.

And then you are wondering, you look at Matthew 6:33 and you cannot find any graven image. You look at Mathew 6:33 you can't find any shrine. You look at Mathew 6:33 you don't see any place where people are bowing down and prostrating before an idol.

And Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:33. He says well, if your life is completely filled up with about what shall we eat? What shall we drink? And what shall we put on? And you are wondering is Christ Jesus saying you shouldn't be concern about those things? That is not what he is saying. He is talking about if those very things are the things that give your life meaning. Those are the things that gives you definition. That is why your life is worth living. Those are things you seek after. That is your pursuit system. That is what your life is all about. He says well, this is what makes pagan, pagans. That is what makes pagan. What makes a pagan, a pagan is not what they are bowing down to. He said automatically indirectly you are bowing down because why?

Watch this!

Satan told Jesus, when Jesus responded to the devil. He says the Lord your God shall you worship and only him you will serve. Those are two different words. Worship and serve are two different things. Jesus responded to the temptation of the devil and says your Lord your God shall you worship. The word **worship** means He will be your supreme. He will be the most important. He will be what makes your life. He is your definition. He said, shall you worship and only him shall you serve. **What is your supreme is what you actually make all your effort to satisfy.**

That is what he says only him shall you worship and him alone shall you serve. So Jesus says when you see what the pagan are serving, when you see what there life is all about, you can tell what they are worshipping. So I can tell what somebody worship by what they are serving. I will break that thing and make it simpler.

Worship and serving are two different thing, but one point to the other. Because when I see you serving, serving means all your effort here and there. All your thinking process, all your life what is it all about. That is all what you serving. What you are serving can point to what you are actually worship.

Here he says when you see the pagan running after these things. When you see them serving these things, you can tell what they are worshipping. That is why they are call pagans. And he says to you and I, you cannot afford to be like pagans, to be like a pagan Christian. A Christian whose ultimate, whose life definition, what defines you is something other than the value and the identity that Christ gives you.

Because you see we have a system in us as humans. We just want to justify our existence. And the Bible says if anything justify your existence. If anything makes life worth living for you, if anything is just what your life is all about other than the grace of God, he said that is paganism. It's deeper and is broader than just bowing down to physical altar.

Here was a strategy of Satan in that third temptation. He was trying to turn Christ into a pagan. He says Christ Jesus let's talk about these things. I will offer them to you. I want you to make it supreme about your life. And Jesus knew that Satan was demanding worship and He says you can't get it from me. Jesus told Satan, you can't get that worship because the Lord your God only him you worship and only him you will serve. And that is what we see the strategy of the devil in that place.

It's good that the Lord is bringing this up to the fore, in this Matthew Chapter 4 because all along, those people when they are thinking of the devil hindering them, stopping the answers of the prayer, we can...even thinking about Daniel and is hindering much of the heavens and everything. It's like about stopping them from receiving. All about they see the devil just positioning, they thought all he is does is just stop them from receiving. But these throw a light into.... this Matthew Chapter 4 was like No! It's not even about just receiving. He want something in substitute, in exchange. He doesn't mind if you receive if he gets something much more important to him.

So people needs to understand the workings, to understand what he does. How he does his things, to know that he wants something and we need to really pay attention

to that. Beyond you thinking that he just want to stop you from receiving, that he is making an offer. There is an offer on the table for you to exchange and when you substitute something. It shows that if you really have something, you really need to be aware that there is something you have that the devil wants.

So it's different from you even trying... somebody stopping you from getting something. I think that should just revolutionize our thought pattern about how we see ourselves. There is something in you so much more important than what you are grasping to even get. So all your prayers has been Lord you want to get this, you want to get this, you want to stop the devil from stopping you to get some things, whereas you should even understand and know the value of things that you carry that may make the devil to want to trade in, also that thing that you are asking for.

So you really need to understand. So we are orientating our values system to understand that there is something we have, and that is about the worship and service, our devotion which is much more valuable. What are we devoted to? Some people don't really know. It's much more valuable than all these things. Much more valuable than the sum of all the things that you are seeking for, that you are actually praying against the devil for.

So the Luke account of that episode was...he said all these things I freely give. The devil was saying I really don't care much about more, I don't care, is of little value compare to what I want from you. That what you are able to give. The worship and the devotion is very important. And this episode is calling you off the pagan Christianity.

Thank you for that insight.

Now, listen for believers and Christians who are hearing this. Jesus is calling us to something, he said, you know what? What makes pagans pagan? He said "for these things do the pagan seek for." I call your attention to that word. I thought what makes a pagan a pagan is the fact that they are in a shrine. Yes they are in a shrine but the shrine is deeper than you think. He said the shrine is simple, as long as anything becomes the reason why we live life.

What makes you jump out of the bed in the morning? What makes you think that yes! If I have this, then life is fine. He said, whatever... if that thing is not the grace of God. If it's not the identity that Christ gives you. He said watch it! That is pagan Christianity. He said these things pagan seeks after. That is what makes them pagan. That is what define... They are pagan because something else defines them. It doesn't matter what you are praying to God for.

And have you notice before we go to the next verse, I call your attention to 1John Chapter 5. Immediately John teaches about the fact that if we have confidence, that if we know that he hears us, we know that we have the petition we received. As soon as John said that, the next few verse says little children keep yourself from idols.

I know I have taught you how to get the answers. I know I have taught how to have confidence towards God. I know I taught you how to receive from God (1John 5:14). I know I taught you that. But also am also telling you that, well, as you are receiving what you are getting from God, nothing can take the place of the identity that God gives you in place of whatever you receive from the Lord. And he says keep yourself from idols.

The verse says the sorrow shall be multiply they that follow another god.

Again we are trying to figure out, what does Satan trying to achieve with Christ with this temptation? We are exploring further. Follow us quickly to Luke Chapter 12.

What was Satan trying to achieve? The Bible says Christ was tempted in all points as we are. So this is our temptation not just Christ's temptation. It is our temptation. Look at Luke 12 and then we begin to explore from verse 15.

## **Luke 12**

**15. And he said unto them, take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consistent not in the abundance of the thing which he possess.**

That is an old English. It means he says, you couldn't actually talk about a man who is great. You couldn't talk about a man whose life is effective. Again he says, a man's life doesn't consist in the volume or in the abundance of things he possess. He says hey! Watch this.

Have you noticed when he gave that instruction. He wasn't talking either to the rich man or to the poor man. When he says take heed, you know He didn't say rich man take heed or poor man take heed. He said take heed. It was a general instruction to all of humanity, that hey! You cannot actually put a label and say this man is a very important man because of what he possesses. Or you can say that man is an insignificant person because he doesn't possess. He say you can't do that. You cannot turn what he possesses to his identity.

Now, this is very important because he is going to teach something very important,

Now, the reason why we are talking about this, is Christ is saying as long as you then come to a conclusion and say this person... for example money should be money,

riches should be riches. That is all it is, and that is all about it. But when money then becomes a means to put a label and say that person is successful, this one is not successful. This one life is useless, that one life is not useless.

He says when we come to the point we begin to derive and create value and significance based on what is being possess or what is not possess, he says here come... that is why Luke 12 is the analogy of Matthew 6. He says here comes paganism. Here comes where something replaces the centrality of identity other than Christ, other than what God gives. And here he says a man's life doesn't consist in the abundance of what he possesses.

Now, before we go on, let me says this. This does not just apply to unbelievers. We are talking about pagan Christianity. We are talking about the fact where some Christians do get to the point, atimes they say that minister is successful, and they say that other minister is not successful. And you ask them a question how did you know that? Well, they actually confirm identity using the things he possess.

He says when get to that point, we are actually deriving our sense of value, we are giving our worship, supremacy, ultimacy, something that is good we turn it to an ultimate thing. And He said, in that case, here comes paganism. So Christ said when we see pagans, you see what they are trying to serve, you can tell that is what makes a pagan a pagan. Here he says you can't do that. Your life does not consist in the abundance of what you possess. And that is what he is saying.

Yes, we are not calling you to self-neglect and for you to just run away from responsibility, bring your head in the sand and feel like oh! I just have to run away from this or run away from life and not even think at all about it. And not to put on dress or eat or drink, I don't need to care. As parent I don't need to care for my children and get something for them. That is not what we are talking about.

And I want to draw your attention, if you follow us last week on our last transmission on Audacity of faith. I was blessed by that and I just want to enjoin you to go to our page if you missed that transmission to look for it. "**Audacity of faith**" where we shared the example of Abraham where in the book of Hebrews Chapter 11 talking about he was looking up to the city whose builder and maker is God, looking for the city that has foundation.

But here the scripture was saying in that same account in Hebrews 11. He was making tent, building tent around. And we know that he has 312 servants living in his house. He was doing well and still looking for that blessed hope which is Christ. And we find out in that verse, differences between promises and promises. That the promise is

about the blessed hope which is resurrection. So it was like a balance of the gospel of now and later. So some people all in the cause of their looking up they couldn't make use of what it is now.

So I will like you to go into that transmission to even understand the healthy balance of what we are talking about here. Not for you to just run away from responsibility. You can look for the blessed hope and yet not losing sight when we are.

Now, what the devil will do, Satan strategy is simple. Either he tries to stop or hinder somebody from actually walking in what they have actually being grace to walk in by the grace of God. And if he is not able to stop someone. What he tries to do is, like he told Christ I will offer you those things, but please I need you to put your identity in those things. If you can as it were, get those things and bow down and make something good an ultimate thing in your life. Satan says anyway you are still within my control. That is what we see there.

So Christ says in Luke 12:15, you cannot put your identity in the abundance of things that you possess. And you can put it in the other way. You cannot put your identity in the absence of things you don't possess as well.

So in actually fact, Jesus was not against the abundance of things. No! He wasn't saying that. Because some people actually have read into that verse that, is against abundance of things. So the moment they see abundance of things, they feel oh! It is wrong. So is not about the abundance of things, but thinking that your life consist in that abundance of the thing, that is the problem,

Have you noticed is not about abundance of things you possess? It even weigh beyond money, it weight beyond anything. It could be anything. You could turn anything good into ultimate thing. That is an idol. It doesn't matter what it is. I repeat it doesn't matter what it is. For some people even its morality. For them it's about the fact that they think the reason why their life is valuable, the reason why their life is so important and they think that God is favouring them is because they think they are living right.

Morality is good, holiness is a must. It is very important. We are called to a life of holiness. We are called to a life of purity. The Bible say whoever has this hope in himself, purify himself even as he is pure. But if that which is good becomes what you worship, here comes a problem. If that which is good become what you turn to an ultimate and say unless I have this my life is worthless. Hey! You are actually putting your trust and your confidence in the abundance of thing you possess.

Some people have actually work their own interpretation into that verse 15 and says because he mentioned abundance of things. So they just move to paucity of things. And so they just say oh it must be the lack and scarcity of things, and they actually assume identity.

So it's not like oh am running away from the abundance into the scarcity. It's about the identity. So if you are making boast based on the scarcity, some people are proud of how few things they have. And it is even having identity, their life will consist of that. Their own standing, they use their own point of standing among their brethren is because am in the village. Because I don't even have much things like this. So they are using that as a point. So the scriptures say nothing should be... nothing! Whether abundance or scarcity, Christ should be all in all. So we cannot glory in the lack and we cannot glory in abundance. We only glory in Christ. That is the thing.

You see there is something as you are talking the Lord just led me to a particular verse where the Apostle Paul said, for I glory in nothing. The Apostle Paul said I glory in nothing except in the cross of Christ, by which am crucify to the world and the world is crucify to me.

Watch that! Can we say that? Can we say we glory in nothing? We have Christians who glory in something. Some says you know what? The reason why you cannot compare me to you in the ministry or in the faith is because of this. And they point to something. It's not that the thing is bad. That thing is not a bad thing. Even they have spiritual metrics.

Some even talk about the fact that do you know I have been in ministry for the 25 years. Some even says am a father in this land. The Bible say if you glory in anything, that thing itself might not be bad. That is why the Apostle Paul says for I glory in nothing. Somebody like Paul shouldn't be saying that. Paul had things to glory about. We all know that in the New Testament, nobody wrote epistles as much as Paul did. Nobody has as many spiritual sons as Paul did. And nobody actually took the gospel far and wide. Do you know that back then in time of Paul we have evidences from the scriptures that Paul took the gospel beyond Asia even up to Europe; Macedonia. Paul went far and wide. A man of great charisma and great grace.

And Paul said, you know what? I will glory in nothing. The reason why he said that is, I won't the devil the worship he is asking for. Because we now see from the scripture... the Bible says anything that are being sacrifice to idols sacrifice to demons. It means every time a Christin makes anything good ultimate, they are just at the door step of the devil. And that is why Satan wanted the worship from Jesus in Matthew 4. That is the whole point of that temptation.



So Paul said I glory in nothing. No matter how good it is, I will not turn that thing to ultimate. I will never glory in nothing except in the cross of Christ, by which am crucify to the world and the world is crucify to me.

We know that Paul had a lot of things to glory about. He even listen his credentials, roman citizenship, and all sort. How learned he was, who he sat under. You know he learned under lord Gamaliel. Some say do you know who I sat under? And that is what the glory in. And if you glory in something, that things become what you actually derive your sense of worthiness from. That is worship. That is what you are serving.

And that is why people go to all the length to service that thing. Because what you worship you serve. The Bible say we can't afford to do that. That is pagan Christianity. A Christianity that derives its identity from anything else other than the grace of God. That is why if you notice, in 1Corinthians 15 that is why Paul could same I am what I am by the grace of God. Watch that word! My identity is what I am. Paul could put his arm on his chest, I am what I am by the grace of God.

Now, if you are asking the question, what grace is he talking about? Well, the grace that simply says he that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we can become the righteousness of God in him. It means am right, I am who I am because of what he gave me. I received it from him. I couldn't boast about it. That is why the Bible say 1Corinthians 6, if you have received it, why did you then boast about it? He said, that is what the grace of God is. I received this identity, it was given to me. I didn't achieve it. I didn't service it. I didn't deserve it. It was just given to me. He said if you have that kind of identity you are insulated by grace.

But people all over the place most Christians can't even say such things. We boast in things "spiritually things" good things" nice things" but we boast in them and give those things worship. And we derive a sense of significance from those things. And what makes it so strange is it becomes a generally accepted concept when it comes to the church. People just look at it and say yes, those are the people that are making it. Those are the people that are there. The Bible say we must boast in nothing except in the cross of Christ by which we are crucify to the world and the world to us.

So people even use the result of their prayers and their faithfulness and boast on so many sort of things. All different kinds of ... We only have the metric of the grace of God. That is the only point to talk about it. That's our talking point. We are talking about the cross, the crucifixion. I don't want to say anything except Christ. He is only our taking point. And our bragging point is about the cross. So the resurrection, that is the only thing we can talk about.

So we have nothing no matter how good and how worthwhile it is, we cannot afford to use that. And we will not allow somebody to label us with it, because some people label us with it. They label us with those results. Your life does not consist in those things. You have to resist the labels, resist the titles that want to attach you to things, even though it is very good things. You have to resist. The title is about you are attach to the cross in which am being crucified and the world is crucified unto me. That is the only label that we can carry.

Now, the question you want to ask today which is where we are actually looking at is to simply say, is there something that we look at and say yes that is it? Is there something we run after because he says the pagan runs after these things? Is there something that we are running after that once we hit the ground running, if I can get that, people will know my life is not useless? If I can get there, people will know that my life is not worthless? If I can get there, people know that am a person to be recon with? Whatever that thing is, that is what you idolize. And the Bible says the pagan do those things. That is pagan Christianity. Anything other than the grace of God giving us a sense of meaning and value as Christians.

You might say people say with their mouth, yes I worship God, I serve God but functionally something else is giving us meaning. Bible says it is time to knock those things out. The devil doesn't mind if we get what we are asking for, as long as he can get that sense of devotion and worship from us. Satan think is a good bargain. And that is what he thinks.

Now, that is what we saw in Matthew Chapter 4.

Go back to Luke 12:15

**15. And he said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the thing which he possess.**

**16. And he spake a parable unto them,**

Ok, watch this parable.

The parable is to illustrate if you are still wondering, what is this pagan Christianity about? And again, if you are there and you are wondering, how is this relevant to a Christian? Well, we've see where the Apostle John spoke to Christians and say keep yourselves from idols in 1John 5. We've seen that. So it's applicable to everyone.

Go on please,

**16. And he spake a parable unto them saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully.**

You see, it comes from results. Have you noticed every time paganism is being talked about? It's about results. He says this man has result now.

Ok. Go on please,

**17. And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?**

**18. And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.**

**19. And I will say unto my soul, soul thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.**

It means you are secure. It's a sense of security. Whatever gives us sense of security, that makes you secure.

You see! If you want to say this, let's put it in simple terms. Is there anything that offers to you what Christ claims He can offer? This is where...you see! We have a competition going on here. And that is the reason why the Bible says, you cannot serve God and mammon.

You know, when we used to read that verse, we used to think oh! He says you cannot claim you want to serve God and you want to claim you want to serve mammon. Well, is not exactly that. He is simply saying, if you get from mammoth or you can get from anything else around your life, what God promises, what only Christ promises. See these guy is claiming security. Can you see that?

The Bible says the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runs into it and are saved. For some people Christians in particular, there are things we run into and we feel save as well. Can you see that? We run into some things and we feel secure. Some people when they look at the kind of connection they have, the kind of friends they have, they say yes! I don't think I will run into any problem in life because of the kind of people around me. Can you see that? Anything that offers you what only God claims to offer. Here you go, that is paganism.

Anything that offers you what God can present to you, that is paganism. That is idol worship. So here we see this man talking about security. The man said am secure. But that is supposed to be what only God offers. That is what he said. We that are being kept by the power of God through faith. But some people, a lot of other things are

saying well, we can keep you as well. Some says your friend connection can keep you as well. Some says well if am in that ministry and under that particular great man of God, am kept. Under that grace, am kept.

Whatever you look to and that thing promises to offer you what only God can offer. Here you go, pagan Christianity. That is what he is saying. You are just being bowing down. That what deserves your worship. That is that thing you are serving. You proclaim you are worshiping God, but is that very thing you are actually serving.

So some people are not being kept by the power of God. They are being kept by their followership. Some are kept by their connection, by their numbers that they have. That is it! Some are kept by the numbers, some are kept by their standing in the society, how they are being regard. They are being kept by that. Even by the visions that they have... you know the ministry, the commission and everything. Some of those things are the one keeping people today and even their revelations.

And the reason why this thing is so important, you might think well, does it matter whether I actually worshipping something else? Whether am actually giving my devotion to something else? Well, it does matter because the Bible says what pagans offers to idols, he offer to demons (1Corinthiasn 11). It means he is simply saying every time a Christian begin to functionally look to anything else to give him what only God can give, he says what happens is, you are actually a door step of the devil. That is why Satan asking Christ for worship. It wasn't that Christ would bow down physically. He was just simply saying am asking you Christ Jesus to get your ultimate meaning from those things I want to offer you. So indirectly he knew that if Christ did that, it was going to come back to the devil as worship.

Go on please,

Verse 19

**19. And I will say unto my soul, soul thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.**

Security again! Defense!

**thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.**

**20. But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: Then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?**

Now, this is this futility of idols. This is why it is senseless...

Now, let's say things about idols before we go on. There are two things that will always happen to anyone who actually look to anything, to give them what only God can offer. Two things will either happen.

Is either the idol fails you. Here in this case, God is telling this man what happens when this thing going to fail you tonight anyway? The whole thing is going to fail. Either the idol fails you or if doesn't fail you, even if you get the thing you actually looking to for a sense of meaning, in a matter of time, it doesn't satisfy anymore. Whichever way, it's a double loss. Here he tells this man, this part even say what is going to happen now? This thing is going to disappoint you tonight.

That is why they say their sorrow shall be multiplied they that follow another god. It will disappoint. Its multiplication of sorrows. We are not even talking of sorrow now, we have multiplication of sorrow. That is why the Bible say in Romans Chapter 5, "there is a hope that does not make ashamed." There is a hope that doesn't put to shame. It doesn't matter what people look at today. It's a matter of time, it will put to shame. Either it doesn't satisfy when they get it or it will actually disappoint them.

It's only the grace of God that actually can function on both side and keep you secure. For example when it comes to the grace of God to give you an identity. Even when you fail to achieve or to actually work in what God actually has to work in, there is a mercy of God to pick you up. Only the grace of God, only the goodness of God is the thing you can actually look to and you will never be disappointed.

If you go through others means, because we have found in the same proverbs when he says money is a defense, and if we are not going through Christ as a defense. We also found in that proverbs saying the blessing of the Lord makes rich and add no sorrow. Because there is other way of going about it which you can be rich and have this and you have sorrow with it. So the sorrow of those that follow other gods shall be multiplied just like this certain rich man in this parable.

Go on please,

Verse 21,

**21. So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

**22. And he said unto this disciples, therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.**

**23. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.**

**24. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls.**

**25. And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?**

**26. If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?**

**27. Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

**28. If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?**

Now, if you are wondering why are we talking about this today? What is this got to do with unbelief? Here you can see the connection. He says when you see people living like pagans, it will actually mean that there is so much unbelief. That's what you can see there in verse 28.

Can you see? He makes the connection between paganism and little faith. We can see the connection. You are wondering why are we talking about this? So one of the way that devil try to make sure he drives unbelief into the life of so many Christians is this way of actually switching what we worship.

I will say that again. One of the way Satan drives unbelief to attack our faith is to switch what we worship. That is the devil strategy. So that is what we see here. The Bible says when you do these things and you actually do like the pagans do, and you have something you are devoted to, that drives your life. He says well, it shows an expression of unbelief or your little faith. You can see that. That is the connection

Verse 29

**29. And seek not ye what ye shall eat,**

Can you see? Don't make it an ultimate.

Like we said before, you will think Christ is saying don't seek after what you are going to eat. The reason you will know that you cannot oversimplify that particular Luke 12:29 is simply this. In Thessalonians if you notice the apostolic instruction in Thessalonian is, he that does not work should not eat.

He wasn't actually dissuading people from thinking because if you are going to work means at least you are thinking. You are making move to get a job to do. Even the Apostle Paul himself, he was a tent maker. To be a tent maker, the Apostle Paul said

in the book of Acts. I labour with my own hands. He said I provided for the needs of those around me. Paul said that in Acts Chapter 20.

So we know that they are making conscious efforts even as Christians in the Apostolic time to actually put food on the table. Look at Ephesians 4, he said “he that stole let him steal no more, let him work with his hands, that which is good. So that he can give to them that is in need.” (Ephesians 4)

So there is nothing in the Bible that says you as a Christian should not consider or re-strategizing or making plans and moves for you to think about what to eat or drink or to put on. You should think about it, and you should make plans on how to work towards it. He is not saying that. What he is saying is, I don't want you to give your worship, I don't want you to get meaning of life out of these things. I don't want you to ask those things to give you what only God can give. That is what he is talking about. That is paganism. When you look to things to give you what only God can give.

And that is the reason anytime you live that kind of life, those things they drive. That is why you see idols are slave master. I will say that slowly idols are slave master. They are slave drivers. Which means, there are some things you will not do, something you will not say, some ways you will not act but when your idols drive you, you do what you never believe you could do. You will lie when you didn't plan to lie. You will fight when you didn't plan to fight. You become violent when you didn't plan because somebody has just touched your idol. That is how you will know what drives you. That is why the Bible says you cannot give your devotion to anything else. Not in this world!

There was a time I was meditating. I say why is it that there are some places, there are some churches or some ministries where the man of God or the Pastor does something that is so terrible and people say well, you know what? It doesn't matter what the person does, we are going to stay anyway. The reason people do that, things that doesn't make sense, once in a while is because the very thing that defines my life is what is in this place. And I don't really care what happens, because this is what I want and it is in this house, I must stay anyway.

You see things that drive people, things that makes us go crazy uncontrollable. The Bible says those things can drive us as long as they become our ultimate. Our drivers. Slave drives what is what idols are.

He say I don't want you to have any slave drivers in your life. The Apostle Paul said something. He said all things are permissible but I will not be brought under the

power of any. Idols put you under their power. They are your slave masters. He said, I don't want what you want to eat, what you want to drink and what you will put on to be what drives your life. To be your slave master. It makes you do things. It makes you say things. It makes you go where you should not go. It makes you connect with those you should not connect to. That is how you know an idol is at work.

So here was Jesus facing the devil in Matthew Chapter 4, in Luke Chapter 4 and the third temptation was simple. Satan says Christ I want to be your driver. I want to be your ultimate. He says I will exchange...I can let you have what you want to have. I can give you things, but I just want worship and devotion.

Satan wants something much more important to him than we ever think. And what is more important to the devil is devotion and worship. And the devil might not come to you with two horns or three horns whatever or black face whatever or some kind of regalia that we think he does. What he does is, the devil come through things, through circumstances, through situations. That is why the Bible says in 1Peter 5... cast your cares on the Lord for he cares for you. And the next thing he says is the devil is going around like a roaring lion.

So you wonder what is the connection between the cast your care upon him, am quoting 1Peter 5:7 "Cast your care upon the lord for he cares for you" and in verse 8 there he says the devil is going around like a roaring lion?

So it tells you there is a link between 1Peter 5:7 and 1Peter 5:8 between the cares and the devil going around, there is a connection. So that is how the devil moves. So here the Bible is saying don't actually give your devotion and your sense of meaning with things you are going to eat, or drink or put on. Because why? He knows if you do you are giving your worship to something beyond those things, and there is devil at the back of them. And that is what he is saying there.

So in other words, the devil is in the details of those things of what he wanted. That is it! So when he was asking Jesus to worship him, he is not asking Jesus to bow down and prostrate. He is saying I need you to give your devotion to those things. I will offer you. If you do you will automatically you are bringing back the worship to me. That's what the devil was trying to strategize on Christ. That is what we see there but Christ was victorious.

But don't forget this is not the temptation of Christ. It is your temptation. The Bible says he was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

I believe the Holy Spirit has flooded our understanding with this insight. Knowing fully well, that even those things we are seeking the Lord for, the devil could hide



under those things and those things can be exchanged, substituted for devotion and worship.

And so just like you make the connection between 1Peter 5:7&8. The reason why he is asking us to cast our cares upon him for he affectionately care for us because, the devil is hiding, roaring around those things, looking for whom to devour. It can be an opportunity for the devil to come in. And when he comes in like that, he wants to substitute. He wants those things to even become your devotion. That is why some people they will do anything just to have something. Even they might feel like they are going about it the right way. As in going about it, they are not going to seek withes, herbalists... but it drives them crazy because of that need. They can do anything all in the name of the Lord for the need. Some people even drive them into things that they will not do all in the name of solving that particular need.

And we see that temptation in what we discuss today, that the devil is ready to offer. It's nothing to him. He is ready to offer but he wanted something.

So I hope those things you are seeking after will not become your lord. It will not become your slave master. You are not giving your devotion to those things. So they are much more important than those things itself. The devotions and the service attach to it, is much more important than those things. The devil doesn't care to give us things anything way.

And I think that is what that temptation is showing that beyond those things are the things that attach to it. We can have the identity attach to it. We can have devotion attach to it, which is much more important that the things. So I hope you are going to look at all those things that you are asking the Lord for, things that you desire, things that you really need. We are not denying that you need to live by food and drinks and have something on. You know they are the basic essentials and some other things you may need and know that you will not let it become your label.

You see, even for that man he doesn't have a name, his wealth has become his identity, saying a certain rich man. They can even call him by any name. We know that he is not the only rich person in the Bible. We know Abraham is rich. We know Job is rich even among the people in the east then. They have their name. But we found out for this man, his wealth has become his identity. It has become an identity for him. So what we have or what we don't have, we should not allow it to become our identity. To become our label, to become our devotion and what we are known for.

We are being called today that all our bragging point, we have just only one bragging point. That Christ and him crucified. Nothing in us. And then what you quoted about what Paul said. All things are permissive whether to get much or get less, but I shall not be brought under the power of anything. Nothing will drag me as a slave master.

It is a very important verse for us to think about. All things are permissible...some feel like some things are not even permissible for them. They have read their own to that Luke 12 verse 15 was telling them that they are going to run away to anything that leads to abundance. So fine, they want to run into scarcity. But whichever way you cannot allow to be under the power of any. You have to work your life to the point that nothing drives you. Learn to be abased and learn to abound. Some can abound but cannot learn to be based. And some can learn to be based but they cannot handle that. You should be able to handle both. You should not be brought under the power of any.

You don't get any label from even good works, even morality as good as it is. You can't say well, we are the one actually doing the right thing, that is why we are happy. Even from result, people says you can't argue with results. No! It is not about result. Have you notice, the Bible says the ground brought forth plentifully. That is why he began to attach it to himself. So having result in whatever you are doing, be it any endeavor, be it spiritual, physical is nothing.

So we are talking about the Christ, the crucifixion, the glory of God, the grace of God is just the only talking point. In fact, some will say I know I should not associate with those people, but I think because like we say these idols are driving, they are slave master. I know I should not associate with those people, but you know what? They have the very thing that makes my life thick. I don't have a choice. We are just being drag along. That is why the Bible say we are only in safe hands when we are in the net of God's grace.

Some people even run into some religious places for security, for covering, for defense. Because for them that security is the most important thing for those kind of people. Even they run into some revelation and insight. But it is quite different from running into the Lord himself. And that is what we are telling that nothing, no matter how good and worthwhile it is, should be your idol.

Today we address the worship and devotion. And we have been able to marry the word pagan and Christianity together. Sometimes you feel there is nothing...Well, John says keep yourself. He says little children keep yourself from idols. He was talking to Christians and he taught them how to receive from the Lord.

He was talking to the people, the Christians and he was saying keep yourself from idols so that the wicked one does not touch you. That is the link there.

We hope this has blessed you today.

So we want to appreciate those people that have shared, everybody that has joined us people we cannot even see. We know you are there and we know you are blessed. And we want to say thank you for joining. We pray that you will live the truth of this Word.

So we will like you to share this, we will like you to fall back on this and listen again. Should you have any questions or comments please hit us back on our Expose 247 page where we can get all those questions and we trust the Lord that with you together we can respond. And we will be able to bring clarification, illumination on this issue.

So till we see you again, 9am UK time tomorrow as you we continue on this series. We hope you will be able to join us and we you are going to tell your contacts again to join us.

Please feel free to listen to our episodes, all of our transmission on our page. Because some of those transmission are not Expose 247 like our ministrations.

And tomorrow by the grace of God we will be ministering in Chapel House Christian Center in Chorley Lancashire. So if you are within the greater Manchester, in Lancashire region. You are invited to join us. We should start ministering from 11:30 am or there about.

And if you are not able to make it down there tomorrow morning. You can join us live for a Facebook live transmission. We hope that by the grace of God, to transmit live that ministration.

We hope that you will join us.

So 9am UK time we will continue.

So we want to say as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

God bless you.

Bye!!