

Expose 84 K48

The gods are not to blame

Good morning world, this is Expose 247 and we are here serving the Master's interest from dawn to dusk. And so we are glad that you are part of this big plan, working together with him.

And so this morning we are going to continue from where we stopped. Yesterday we discussed pagan Christianity.

And so we are believing the Lord that as we unfold God's Word, the scriptures this morning, that there's going to be strengthening of the people's mind and ankles bone will receive strength. There's going to be restoration. There's going to be a renewal. People are going to be refined by God's will. And so whatsoever that was not so from the beginning in our life will be restored, set to the factory setting using the manual of God's Word today.

So you sit back, you might want to share this with your contacts so that they might partake out of this blessing this morning and just grab your Bible as we look into God's Word.

Thank you viewers for joining us today on this Knock Out series. Again I will like to actually make you understand where we are focusing on at the moment.

We are looking at the third temptation of Christ Jesus, where the devil decided to take it out with Jesus.

And then, before we go home to the scriptures, I will like to remind you that the study of the temptation of Christ is the study of your temptation not just Christ, because Hebrews 4 remind us that Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

It will mean that the only way victory we have over the enemy when it comes to working in the purpose of God for our destiny is to understand the points at which the enemy attacks the believer. And the very point he attack us is the same very points in which Christ was attacked. And it's in that same understanding, we are looking at the temptations of Christ. And at the moment we are on the third temptation of Christ.

And the summary of yesterday's transmission was this, that the devil was willing to offer Jesus everything Jesus wanted in exchange for worship. So we saw that contrary to what you might have thought that the devil's greatest plan for humanity is to stop you from getting whatever you ask him for. That is not it. You might be surprised that

the devil was willing to exchange with Jesus. He says I will give you all these things, if you give me worship. So that is what we began to look at yesterday.

And so today we are making progress with that. And if you missed yesterday's transmission, please we will ask you to go and look for what will titled "Pagan Christianity." We look at that and we saw how a Christian could actually get themselves in that kind of situation.

And the purpose of the devil when it comes to temptation is to drag us into unbelief. And once we have unbelief, it can knock out our faith. So that is the bottom line of all these transmission.

So today, I want you to follow us quickly to Isaiah Chapter 44. We are going to make progress from there today, and we'll see how these affect you as a believer in this 21st century what we are talking about.

Isaiah Chapter 44

Read from verse 17 you will see this

Now I will read Isaiah 44:17

Now see what it says,

17. And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

Now, if you follow us yesterday, you will notice that this particular verse today is actually throwing more light. You say yes somebody, I know this sounds a bit very stupid to so many people.

I mean this sounds a bit very foolish for somebody to go all the way out, the person cut down the tree, he was the one that, in a way fashion the image. It sounds a bit very stupid for somebody to do that. That is what we think. People say oh yes, how can somebody cut down a tree and craft out an image of the tree, and you say to the tree you are my god? It will mean that the tree is nothing, is just tree. It's just carbon. That is what it is, but somebody decided to make the tree which is just purely tree, somebody decide to give power to it. And that is where the worshipping actually came from in the traditional sense of it.

Again we are not interested as it were in trees. We are interested in something deeper than just cutting down trees.

But if somebody cut down a tree and then tell the tree that you are my god... now watch this! Why are you my god? I want you to deliver me. Some of you will think how can somebody decide to do that? How can somebody be so stupid to do something like that? Well if you think so, have a rethink about it. Because yesterday, we began to throw more light to say well what we do, what Satan was trying to tell Jesus in that third temptation, Satan was inviting Christ into a kind of understanding that simply says, you know what? If you can give worship to what is not even god, because here is the case. This is a tree it's nothing. But because somebody said to that tree deliver me.

Now, people don't say I want to worship the tree, but if you can say to anything deliver me. Now, the question is what do we look to when we are asking God for something? For example, when people are praying to God and say Father I want you to give me this thing this year. I want you to bless me with this. I want my family to be blessed with this. That is not the problem.

The question is that thing you are asking for, that thing you are seeking God for, is that something you are going to speak to and say well once you have this, once I have this in my life, I am not a nonentity. This is what makes me valuable. This is what makes my life what it is. You are the one speaking to that thing deliver me. Deliver me from uselessness. Deliver me from worthlessness. You are the one telling that thing deliver me.

And the Bible says once you do that, you are asking something that is inanimate, you are asking something that is nothing, you are giving it the power and the position of lordship in your life. And that is what he is saying here. He says somebody cut down a tree and he says to that thing deliver me and once you do that, you confirm power unto that thing. You give it strength. You give it lordship. You give it authority.

And then we began to look yesterday about what are these things? Well if you ask me the question. Anything! anything! anything could be it. It could be anything. In fact, for some people is there children. Some say well, as long as my children are doing great. As long as my children are successful. As long as my children are the things I wish them to be in life, then I think my life as a parent is not worthless. If you say such things or you carry such mentality you are speaking...children are just supposed to be children but you can give power to it and you can give strength to it. And you

can speak to what is nothing, and call that thing my lord, just because you said deliver me.

And this is where we see where authority or lordship is confer unto things. And here is what Satan was strategizing on Christ. He says to Jesus Christ, he says if you will bow down and give worship, I don't really care what you have. I can offer you things just give worship to those things. And that is what we see in this Isaiah 44 verse 17. This is what led to the development of idolatry in the physical and the same thing that leads to the development of idolatry in the spiritual. Same foundation, same concept, same understanding and that is what we see there.

So good morning Linda, I hope the Volume is good for you now. It seems today episode and yesterday episode was just about redefining what idolatry is in this 21st Century. Because some people are thinking that it might be far removed from them. They are far away. They felt like they are more civilized, and so it is not a besetting sin for them.

So we need to open our hearts to see what idolatry mean in the New Testament and see what it is for us today. And so whatsoever we are looking for defense. Some might not see that word like that and say deliver me, but when you know that you are looking to something, maybe your career as a defense, (saying deliver me. Please don't make me look useless in my life) for security, for standing, for justification, for why your life is worth living, to define yourself and you want to make that mark. You look into all those things to make mark and you find out that you are actually saying deliver me. That is what you are saying. So with your Job and the way money is coming, and you are saying this money deliver from shame. You are looking at it to deliver you from shame, likewise in the same category, like in that Isaiah 44 that was saying deliver me.

Thank you for that insight.

Now, let's say this before we progress to the next stage. You cannot blame the tree. The gods are not to be blame. You cannot blame the tree that was cut down. It is not its fault. Somebody gave him power. The authority of lordship was transfer to that inanimate object. We transfer the power to it. We transfer the control to it. And here we come, we called it the ultimacy of the temptation of Christ on humanity.

So you can't blame the tree, you can't blame the graven image. It is not his fault. It's nothing. In fact, the Bible says we can read that quickly which is, 1Corinthians Chapter 8. You cannot blame the gods. You can't even blame whatever you give

worship. You are the one that give power to actually will such authority over your destiny.

And if you look at 1Corinthians 8:4, you will see what the Bible has to say there. And you wonder why are we talking about this today? Because you might be wanting to listen to how I can get my prayers answer. If that is your focus, yes I want to make sure that when I pray, I need the strategies that I can adopt in the place of prayer to guarantee answer prayer. That is very good. That is very important.

But listen if the devil cannot stop you from getting answers to your prayer. What the devil does is, he re-strategizes. What he does is, he then says can I just make that answer to be something that gives you meaning in life. And if the devil can achieve that either. He thinks, he has actually succeeded. And that is why he tried that as a third approach to actually make Jesus to fall out in terms of walking with the Father.

Now if you look at the 1Corinthians 8:4, can you read that please?

1Corinthians 8:4

4. As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

Can you see? An idol is nothing. We said the falling tree is nothing. The tree is nothing. There's nothing about the tree. I mean you can't blame the tree for becoming an edifice somebody is bow down to. It is not the fault of the gods. But you see here he says there's nothing in this world. It is nothing. But you see what makes nothing something, somebody empower it. Somebody's perception. Somebody's hope actually turn nothing into something. And that is what we say you can't blame the gods. You can't blame the gods people are worshiping. You've got to blame the people who gave nothing something. And that is what Paul is saying, idol is nothing in this world. But Paul says even though I told you idol is nothing. Well nothing will soon become something.

See what he says next,

4. As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

It means whatever other gods there where somebody makes them so.

Verse 5,

5. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

6. But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Now, see what he says there in that Chapter 8 he says, well they are nothing.

Now let's see Chapter 10. 1Corinthian 10.

Now hold on to that which is nothing and let's come to something. What does chapters 10 says, you can read from verse 20.

1Corinthians 10

20. But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Well, it means he is simply saying that the same thing... if you notice in the previous transmission we had so far. We've been talking about taking your stand in spiritual warfare. And if you join us so far you will notice that spiritual warfare has change contrary to what some of us do think. We always think well you have to bind, you have to cast, you have to destroy the devil, you have to rain down fire and brimstone on the enemy.

Well those things it's good to pray. But you see much more importantly we have tell you in the past few weeks, if you notice in Ephesians Chapter 6 before the Apostle Paul began to talk about praying with all manners of prayer and supplication in the spirit (Ephesians 6:18). What he did prior to that was he began to teach the believer how to take our stand against the enemy. So really, he talked about standing from Ephesians Chapter 6 from verse 10 to verse 17 before he talked about praying with all manners of prayers and supplications in verse 18.

It will mean that running to the place of prayer to scream and to shout should be done only by somebody who is taking their stand. If not you will be praying backward that is why please I will encourage you to look for one of our transmission where we said

“Stop praying backward” The reason we are looking at this today is to simply say, one of the ways to take stand against the strategy of the devil is never to give worship or devotion or consecration to anything other than the grace of God in our lives. If we do, we will become an easy prey for the enemy. So Satan knew it was effective strategy, so he tried that on Christ Jesus.

Now what we have read in this 1 Corinthians 10 tell us ... Now, 1Corinthians 8 and 1Corinthian 10 seems to be contradictory, but they are not. Because Chapter 8 say an idol is nothing in this world. Your job is nothing in this world. Your children are just children. Your money is just money. Your ministry is just your ministry. Your beauty is just your beauty. Whatever it is, is just supposed to be what it is. But what the devil does is to try to give power to do that thing. Is to try to give authority to what is nothing and make it something.

So Chapter 8 says an idol is nothing. And Chapter 10 says well, what whatever is sacrificed to idol they sacrifice to demon. So which one is true? Which one is the correct one? But they are both true because we made nothing into something because we give it power just like Isaiah Chapter 44 says somebody gave power to nothing to make it into something.

And as a believer if you intend to walk in victory over the works of the devil. If you intend to walk in victory over the dominion of Satan, this is not a kind of teaching you can brush aside because why? Because the devil can lead anyone to confusion. He can lead anyone to darkness by simply making nothing into something of whatever is in their life at the moment.

And that is why we are talking about this third temptation of Christ Jesus. That nothing in your life demands your devotion. Nothing! It doesn't matter how great it is. It doesn't matter how good it is. It doesn't matter how nice it is. We have to be like Apostle Paul. Apostle Paul said I will boast in nothing. Can you see? Except in the cross of Christ by which I am crucified to the world, and the world is crucified to me.

You have to make that resolution today that you will boast in nothing. If whatever you boast in, gains power over you. So Paul said, we said that yesterday. He said all things are permissible but I will not be brought under the power of anything. If you come under the power of anything, you give something to nothing. That is what you do. You animate what is not. You give authority or lordship and that thing drives you.

And trust me, the devil is a bad slave driver. He will drive you to go where you don't want to go. He will drive you to do what you don't want to do. He will drive you to associate with people you don't want to associate with. Because there is something you must have, for your life to have meaning. If that thing is there in your life, you are in dangerous ground. And that is what the enemy will use against any believer who is actually making those things something when they are nothing.

In other words, practically our legitimate needs could grow out of border, out of the proper number dimensions and becomes cancerous by, we overfeeding it. Just like we saw in the text that we have read. And I want to draw our audience to the story of Hannah, Peninnah when she was trusting the Lord for the fruit of the womb, when she needed a child. Before I think you will be able to think that before when she was asking the lord, she was petitioning because she saw what the other woman was doing and maybe I should have a child too like the other woman in the house. So I have a bragging point and I can send my own child and she was vexed for not having a child but it got to a point she felt like this child should not be an idol to me. And so she was able to see the bigger need and say that, having children is not just having children for children sake. There is a bigger need. The purpose of the Lord for having so that she would have people on earth to serve his interest.

So she was able to come from the position of idolizing, of giving birth because we still see some cultures today, you know they are still held by that. They put so much of idolatry into some things that is even legitimate, saying if you don't have children you are nothing. So everybody would do anything because of that.

So we really need to know how to place all these our legitimate needs in the right place. We don't let them go cancerous. We don't over feed them with some excessive significance, no matter how urgent and how desperate we need such things. We need to see them as things as they are and we will not give them huge importance. That is what the devil was trying to throw Jesus into, to give excessive importance to all those things. So that those things become now looks larger and larger to us.

And we really need to be careful in the place of even seeking redress for all these our afflictions and people come to religious places, where they even grow that thing larger and larger and begin to exaggerate the importance, and diminishing the finished work of Christ in which Paul was saying I want to see only this. I only want to talk about this. I want to glory only in this. But they start glorying on all those things. You might

not even understand the true dimension of the problem you have, until you come into some religious places where they magnify... we don't want to magnify our needs. We don't want to give it worship. We don't want to give excessive adulation here. We need to place them where they are. They are things. That is it
Thank you for that insight.

In fact there are some culture that says if you do have a wife, you are nothing. If you don't have a husband you are nothing. And even in some Christians circle, they will say well, if you are a minister of the gospel and you don't have this kind of membership you are nothing. I mean whatever it is. Whatever it is that people look to, to give them sense of meaning. The Bible says we are on dangerous ground. Whatever it is, no matter how legitimate. If Satan will not stop you from getting them, then Satan we have to re strategize and make sure that even if you want to get it, I want to make that thing to be your meaning in life. And that is how Satan get worship. And you don't need to run into shrines to feel like, that is when it has become an idol. You don't need to run into shrine, shrine has been redefined.

Now, that is a very good thing you just said. I want to show you an insight in Acts Chapter 7 verse 41. This Act 7:41, It was Stephen that was actually given a very powerful sermon. You know we all know the case, where they actually created the golden calf. You know when I was in Sunday School back in those days, I used to wonder why on earth will Moses go and seek the face of God I mean get the revelation and get the Ten commandments. And before Moses came back they already make the golden calf. What is it that is so itchy about people, about making an idol?

And then if you begin to wonder that, don't wonder too far because this is right at your doorstep as we are talking. And because the fact is why are people so itchy to just worship something? Why are people so itchy to create an idol? Because Moses was busy trying to get down the ten commandment you wonder why? If you are wondering why? See what Stephen has to give. Stephen was actually recounting that particular event in history and see the insight that Stephen gave us in Acts 7 about that event and that will probably make you think about what we are talking as being applicable to you now.

Now see Acts Chapter 7: 41 what does it say there?

Now read what it says,

Acts 7

41. And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

And they made

Now, Stephen was referring to that event in history, when they were in Exodus. So they make a calf that's what he said.

Now go on,

in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol,

Now well, we know that story

Go on please

Now watch this!

and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

That is it! You can summarize that. That is what it's all about. He says anything... how can somebody make something with his hands... it's your work. You came up with the thing and that is the very thing that you are rejoicing that what makes you joyful, what makes life worth living, what makes life meaningful. He says the very thing they made with their own hands.

So you can think about it, anything somebody can come up with in his own hands, whatever somebody can create. Whatever inventions you can come up with. If that thing, you then create anything and you say yes that it! That is what actually drives me. That is what makes me who am I today. We have to be able to speak like Paul, I am what I am by the grace of God (1Corinthians 15). That should be our vocabulary in the spirit.

It immunizes us against anything that the enemy want to use through the channel of any circumstance in our life. It immunizes us. That is what happens.

So here he says they rejoice in the works of their hands. Can you see? How can you rejoice in the works of your hand? See! Again we are simply saying, be sadistic. Don't get this wrong. We are not saying do not be industrious. We are not saying look

so morose or look so sad. We are not saying don't be happy or celebrate when great things happen in your life. Oh! That is not what we're saying. Please don't get it wrong.

What we are simply saying is this, is there something that if you don't have it, is there something that if you don't possess it now, life is just useless to you? Is there anything that you think unless I have that thing life is meaningless? Well that is the very thing you are serving. That is the very thing that you are devoted to. That is the very thing you are looking to. That is the very thing you are asking to give you, only what God promise to give.

And it's not only what you have, but what you lack, what you don't have. What you even have. Sometime is something some people have and they look to that I have this. Some people even look at your integrity, their moral standing, their records, I have a unblemish record. We are not saying people should tarnish their image and just go about waywardly. So looking at all those things, all those good point. And people are looking at it. That is what we are watching out for, idolatry. He says little children keep yourself from idols.

You are wondering it's not like little children by age, the apostolic revelation there is not because is addressing them by age but because children get carried away. It is childish. It is not even a childlike manner. It is a childish way of just getting attached to things. You know, they get attached to character. You know, they get **feasted** on it. That is an example. That is why he is using the word like little children keep yourself from idols because some people may feel like maybe is addressing 11 year old. That is not!

But because it was... to be childish is about being **feasted** on character. People are even feasted on spiritual figures spiritual fathers, **feasted** on some particular ministry You see un-excessive attachment to this or unnecessary adulation of these. We are to honour but not like this. We make something out of nothing. We say deliver me. We are the one that spoke to it, deliver me like book of Isaiah says.

So Apostle John is telling us stop being childish. Keep yourself from idols. Give it up. All those characters all those things that you can't do. Just like children will do with Teddy bear and feel like they want to sleep around it. Some people have used some

devotionals like that, used some mantles and all those covering, just give it up. Stop being childish. Flee from idols.

Thank you for that insight.

Again, that is what we are simply saying, the gods are not to blame. They are not to blame. We gave them power. We gave them the right of authority. We fuel it. We are the one that says deliver me. We are the one that look towards them to give us what only God can offer. And then they can't know what God can offer us.

So some men of God has actually begot some men ways by which we have fed them they have almost ego because we have fed them we have look to them for covering, we have look to them for defense. We run into them instead of running into, instead of running into the the name of the Lord which is it strong tower. Some people run into commission and some they are so confident about it. Ok, this is the program of the church, is established this way. So we are not to feed these things. We are not to make an idol out of something even that is good. We are not to make an idol. We have to flee from every appearance of idolatry.

Thank you for that insight.

If you're wondering how is this connected to our faith? How is this connected to our capacity to work in confidence towards God to receive from God and our lives? Well, it is connected on every point. If you notice Hebrews 11 verse 6 says for without faith it is impossible to please God... look at the next thing, he that comes to God... can you see? must believe that he is...

It means He is who he said he is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him not seek things. Not look at things to bring or to give what only God can offer. So it means that the enemy knows, it will undermine the faith of any Christian, if they seek or if they actually focus on or if they look at anything else to give them only what God can offer.

Now, I want to call your attention to 1Corinthians 10 and if you look at 1Corinthians 10, it talks about some things that were writing unto us to whom the ends of the world has come.

If you look at 1Corinthians 10 from verse 6 and verse 7 you will see an insight it gives us there, when it comes to idolatry.

Now see what it says. What is it saying there?

1Corinthians 10

6. Now, these things were our examples to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Go on please,

7. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Now see! Have you notice he's not even talking to people who were in the Old Testament. He was talking to the Corinthians Christians. And if you look at the book of Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says am addressing it to all the saints all over the world.

So he's talking to the saints. He says well you cannot be... neither be idolaters. Why should he be talking to us that we should not be idolater? It means he's saying you can be, there is a capacity to be in our life. There is a tendency, there is a itchiness. Like I said there is a itchiness in us to always look at something to justify us. You see! Nobody wants to be a non-entity. Nobody wants to be a useless person. You want to say to yourself I think my life is not worthless.

And then when you say that, the question I want to ask is what do you think about when you say that? What do you think about when you say I think my life is not worthless? That thing you think about, if it is not the grace of God. If it is not the identity that God can give. That is the thing you are worshipping. That is the thing you are serving. That is how to know. It's not hard to know. If we are right in the midst of the third temptation of Christ with the devil. That is how to know.

And then, see what he says here in verse 7.

Can you read that again please?

7. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

What is about eating, drinking and rising up? Can you see what we say? What is about eating? What is about drinking? What is about entertainment? Rising up to play? What about it?

These are just things. You don't blame eating. You cannot blame drinking. You cannot blame entertainment. You can't blame any of these things. The gods are not to blame. Somebody gave them the power.

Here it's just innocent, eating and drinking and entertainment but the Bible says well as fundamentals and as basic eating, drinking and entertainment is, well if somebody says well, once I have that, once I have this, once I gain that. I know life is not worthless to me. The Bible says you've given to those things power beyond what they are.

In fact there are some place, there are nations, there are countries when you go there, you can see all they live for is entertainment. Once they have entertainment they feel fine. If there is nothing to entertain them, they feel down. They feel depressed. They are not happy. They feel they are no significant. They have to have something to make them entertained. You can see that? That is what we see there. He says all these things are quite basic, can actually be things that we can give power to. They are nothing we can them to be something.

I think Buga is corroborating that, when he says very true. Sometimes we focused so much more on the anointing, healings and powers that we take our eyes off Jesus who is the source. Thank you for that comment.

Some people will be made to congregate around this things. Around the blessings of the Lord, around healing and we give so much power and make idols out of it. Out of variables...good things because ultimate things...anointing and healing and deliverances which are good. They are benefit of the cross. But we know we give too much of emphasis on it.

Some will not even preach Christ at all in a whole year but they have programs all around it. How to solve the problem, how to use this in the name of the Lord and they

become idolatrous. People respond to call to that. But the centrality of the gospel to know who they are in Christ, and to know what Christ is in them, they really drag their feet into all those things. They make idols of all those things. People make them those things what they are. Those things are nothing in themselves. They make them what they are.

This reminds me. You see somebody ask a question on our page and I think quite some weeks ago, this bring the insight into the question. Because the person said something, what the Lord led me to pick out of that question is beyond the person of the question himself because the person was asking a question. I have prayed I have sought the face of God. I have been to different ministries. I have actually gone to places where they said, if you come to this household or this particular meeting, this fellowship you will actually have a liberty or a breakthrough in this particular aspect of your life.

And he said I have actually experimented with different ministries and still there is no change. But he said one thing, he said what's the use of my life? Can you see that? He said what is the purpose of life? Life is worthless. Life is useless unless I have those things. Can you see that?

Now, the devil doesn't really care whether somebody has or does not have as long as somebody can think that way. Satan thinks he's actually boxed the person to a corner. Then he said, what's the use of life? He said life is useless and worthless, life has no meaning.

I know there is a very strong temptation to be dragged into that kind of thinking and that is what we are talking about today. There should be nothing that you can look at to in your life, either you have it or you don't have it and you can use that thing as a basis to say life has no meaning. No! That is what we call pagan Christianity and that is actually you giving too much power to that thing in your life.

And what we are simply saying today based on this transmission is to let you know that the Bible says you can give power to things that have no power, and give them authority over your life to drive you here and there.

So we should boldly say like Paul, I am what I am only by the grace of God. If somebody tells you, you are a nonentity because you don't have something. Tell them I am what I am by the grace of God. The grace of God is given to me. God has

qualified me. The Bible says in the book of Colossians, he says who has qualified us. Mark that word. Who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

God said I have qualified you. God says your life now is valuable because I qualified you. God says your life is significant because I qualified you. God says I've put you to sit with Christ in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Your life is valuable. God says his son Jesus, he exchange his Son for you. Bible says He wanted to bring many sons into glory, that is why He was willing to release his Son to death. Jesus said on the cross my Father, my Father why have you forsaken me? Why would Jesus say that? Christ was forsaken so that you can be accepted.

Common! you are valuable. He has put so much significance on your life. So you can then say like Paul. I am what I am by the grace of God. So you can look at anything in life. You can look at whatever people have carve out idols from, you can see well, that does not give me meaning in life. That does not give me value in life. Money does not give me value in life. Association does not give me value in life. Whatever it is does not give me value in life. Children do not give me value in life. My husband does not give me value in life. My wife does not give me value in life. My job does not give me value in life. Where I live does not give me value in life. My location does not give me value in life. I am what I am by the grace of God. This is how to insulate or immune ourselves against making something out of nothing, like carving out idols that we bow down and worship and serve all our life. And that is what the scriptures teaches.

In other words, we are able to respond to all situations by telling we are already made by Christ. Even the purpose of creation is like let us make man in our image. So we are already made and so if you go through all the New Testament you will see who has made you. Who has qualified you. So it is too late for somebody or for something to make you. You are already made.

So you don't need to join an association to be made. You don't need to get something to your life to be made or come under somebody's covering to be made. You are already made in Christ. He has made you. He had made you this. He has made you this. You have it all litter through the scriptures. That is how to immune against idolatry. You are already made so nothing should make you again. You are already

made and he has made you in his own image, into the likeness of his Son. You are begotten.

Begin to look at your status. If you look at New Testament, you will find out who you are. You are already made. You are already seated. You are crowned with this. You are made into this. So what else do you need? If you have this understanding you will be able to respond appropriately just like Christ was able to respond to the devil that really want to give him things in devotion. He says I am already made. I have all these things. If you have that in your understanding you will not be tricked into idolatry like children.

Thank you for that insight.

Now, before we go on, have you noticed that the temptation of Christ, the third Temptation in Matthew Chapter 4 where the devil decided to offer Jesus things in exchange for worship, before that temptation in Chapter 3, the last verse in Chapter 3 of Matthew. The Bible tells us about Christ that when He came out of river Jordan, a voice came from heaven and say that is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Approval from the Father. Approval from the Father who sent him. He had the approval. And so what the devil then tries to do is to say well, Jesus why don't you get approval from the things I will offer you. Make your life valuable by the things I will offer you. It means the devil cannot offer things to us to serve and to worship unless he first takes us out of the approval of the Father.

And that is why we've actually discussed all these things in previous episodes. You might want to actually look for our series that we called the prodigal father series, where we explore all these things, that every time a believer does not rejoice or every time a believer does not actually make themselves to delight in the Lord or delight in the identity that the Lord offers or delight in the values that is in Christ Jesus, (inscribe on you) if you don't rejoice or take enjoyment in that. What happens is, you will look to anything else to give you the very thing that God wants to give you. And then you make an idol out of nothing which means the gods are not to be blamed. You gave them power over your life. Even service to God itself, you can look into it and it becomes idolatry. Even in things like great commission that people even evangelizing it can really become an identity, it can become idolatry. Even your service to God.

I have heard of story, I have read things... I know these things are complicated. It is a bit of nuance way to believe. When it comes to the fundamental point of view, you read stories about people who commit suicide just simply because they were actually caught doing their wrong thing. I mean you wonder how can somebody commit suicide because he was caught doing the wrong thing or he has a secret that will soon be exposed?

Well, there are so many reasons why this can happen. It could be medical reasons. They could actually have lot of tendencies in terms of depression. But I'm not disputing that fact. But what I am saying is to the bottom line of this, in most cases some people that happen to, is because for them the morality, the fact that they have a right standing in the society is what feeds their sense of identity. They feel like oh! Yes, people think I am a great person and that is what makes them satisfied with life. People think I am not a bad person, that is what made them satisfied with life. And as long as that thing is being affected they feel like what is the point of living? I will just rather eradicate myself anyway. As long as that thing is expose, they felt what is the point of living?

And that is what we are simply saying nobody is safe in the arms of idols. You are not safe in the arms of anything else apart from the grace of God.

You are right about that because in psychiatry we learnt about some theory around suicide. One of those theory I remember well, is about people that have high value self-esteem. They have a good standing. They are even more susceptible. They have a lot a lot to lose. Because of something that happened, those are people who are prone to suicide apart from the other theory as some other causes. So we have those people that really are something to offer. Something that people... good standing and they feel like if this thing happened to me then I can't...what is life all about? That is what happened. And that is what idols do. They are terrible slave masters. They drive us to where we don't want to go. To do what we don't want to do.

So here we see in the scripture in 1Corinthians Chapter 10 telling believers neither be ye idolater. He says they rose up to eat, to drink and to play ...things that are so basic being given power to become something else in our life. And that is what we see there.

Now, quickly let's go to Matthew Chapter 6 again we are looking at this insight... and please don't forget we are talking about how to take our stand as believers so that we don't become susceptible to the enemy. This is spiritual warfare we are talking about here.

Matthew 6 you can read it from verse 19 and let's see what he says there.

Matthew 6

19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,

You know the reason we are looking at this verse today. It's one of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible, when we talk about laying up for yourself treasures people think about the fact that, ok, either some things I will do here so that I can actually lay some things for myself in heaven. People think there are some things I can do as a Christian and you can build your mansions in heaven.

Let's see what the scripture has to say in this in the context of idolatry for this kind of verse.

Now read it slowly,

19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

He is simply saying I'm asking you not to put your investment here on the earth. And he tells you the danger of investment here. He says when you do, that investment is liable to being corrupted. He says it doesn't matter what you are looking to. It doesn't matter what you are putting your hopes on. It doesn't matter what gives your life meaning. If that thing is not the grace of God, he says that thing is susceptible to being corrupted. It doesn't matter what it is. Think about it. It's susceptible to corruption.

So let's go on please.

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal;

Now, it is a bit concerning because he says... so he's telling the believer, I will tell you the right investment to make. You have two kind of investment. You can decide to invest here or invest there. But what is still not very clear to us is what's this investment? Where do I put this investment? How do I throw my investment up into heaven? This is not very clear enough and because of that people have subjected this to different interpretation. But let's see what the scripture has to say in the light of idolatry.

So what is he saying next?

Watch verse 21 closely

21. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Ok.

So now he tells us in clear term. All I'm talking about is your heart devotion. I am not asking you to throw anything into heaven. I am simply saying if you want to know where your treasure is, your investment whether you are investing here or you are investing in heaven. He says all about the investment is about devotion. Where is your heart? Where is your heart devoted to? I am not asking you to say well if you spend 10 pounds here or ₦10 or whatever kind of currency, whatever it is. I'm not saying well if you give to somebody then, that money goes to heaven and go there to wait for you. He says No! I'm only talking about your heart devotion. What do you devote your heart to? What do you look to? If what you look to, to give you meaning is here on earth, he said it's subject to corruption. But if what you look to, to give you meaning and significance is not something we can find here. He says that is how we know where your treasure is.

So putting your treasures in heaven or putting your treasures on earth is all about your heart devotion. The heart devotion defines it. This is what he is talking about. And he warned us about making an idol. He gives us a very stern warning. Jesus said to you, and is saying that again. He says I want you to be insulated. I want you protected. I don't will not protect you. They will actually disappoint you when you need them most, because they are subject to being corrupted. They are subject to be broken into

and to be stolen. They are subject to that. And I want to insulate you. I want to protect you. I want to guide you. And I'm simply saying don't do it. Don't give anything your heart devotion. If you do, you put your treasures here. But if you put your heart devotion in something that is not here, and the question is, what is that thing that is not here? That thing that is not here is the grace of God. It's not on this planet. It's not here. The system of this world does not work on the grace of God. You can't find it among men. He says if that is where your heart is devoted to, you are protected and you are guided. And that is how we know, how you put treasure in heaven or you put treasures on the earth. And that is what we see there.

I hope this verse 21 has clarify and then straighten out every distorted thinking. You know people have run off with this verse of the scripture saying when they want to raise offerings, so you better put it here because when you put it into the offering basket and so it's protected. Some people have actually literally take this thing that you can use to build mansions and pay for their bricks in heaven with this kind of verse. And say don't put it here. We can see that it is all about devotions. So what clarify whether you it here or there is just about where your heart is. That is it. So where your heart is will determine whether you have your treasures in heaven or on earth.

So it is possible for some people to have so much of investment in this place and then their treasure is in heaven. And it is very possible for somebody not having anything here and their treasures is on earth. And that is. It is about what are you looking to for meaning? That's all.

So literally we cannot just look into somebody and say ok, look around you, you really have it in heaven or earth. What you say or what you don't say or what you have or what you don't have. It's just about where the heart is. Where is your devotion? Where your heart is?

Now, if you are wondering how do we know that? If you go down Matthew 6 there is further clarification. If not for time we could have read that all through. But we can still look at verse 24.

Look at Matthew 6:24, the same Chapter just look down few verses. What does he says there?

Matthew 6

24. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God, and mammon.

He's talking about idolatry. That is what we are talking about. He is talking about idol worshipping. He says you can't serve two masters.

for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God, and mammon.

So here we come. So it means... that is why I said in the context of our Expose today in this Knock Out series on pagan Christianity, talking about the fact that the gods are not to be blame. You couldn't blame mammon don't do that. You can't even blame the investment of the earth. Jesus couldn't care less if you have billions or whatever amount of money you have in investment.

And this investment is not just about money. It doesn't matter whether you are rich in anything in your life. Some are rich in friends. Some are rich in good works; morality. Some are rich in association. They have connections everywhere. Some are rich where they are located; their standing in the society. You can be rich in anything. It is all encompassing. It doesn't matter what you are rich in. That is not the concern of Christ.

That is not what Christ is talking about. People think he's talking about money. No! He's not talking about the riches. What He's saying is service. What are you serving? That is what He talked about in verse 24. He says nobody can serve...

So he wasn't talking about the riches. He's talking about what are you serving? What are you devoted to? What do you look to and say deliver me like in Isaiah? What do you tell and say deliver me? Give me meaning. Don't make me nothing. Make me something. He says give me value. He says that thing you look to, is what Christ is concern about.

And he simply tell us in this place. Once you look to anything to say deliver me, it means your investment is here. So it's not about money. It's not about the things you have. It's about your heart. He says wherever your treasure is, your heart will be. So all we need to figure out is what is your heart devoted to? What do you look to? What do you focus on? What do you say if I have that, life is worth living? He says that is where your treasure is. So that determines where your treasure is, whether is on the earth or in heaven. It's not about how much in your bank account. It's got nothing to do with that. And that is what we see there.

So this morning we are been encouraged to realign our focus... of our heart on things that are heavenly. And so we cannot afford to be tied down to here. Where we have rust. Where we have thieves do break in. So we need to realign our heart to where it should be. And we give our heart devotion that it should be... the focus that we should have.

And then let's say this. A stern note of warning for those that might want to read into the scripture what it doesn't say. The gods are not to blame. Don't blame the treasures. Don't blame the treasures. Don't blame riches. Don't blame mammon. Don't do that! You cannot blame my mammon, the gods are not to blame. You cannot blame mammon. Somebody spoke to mammon and say you are my god, deliver me according to Isaiah that we read. It was somebody that give him power. We gave him power. We gave him the strength to save us. We gave him the power to say well, deliver me.

And that is why some people with boast to their friends and say you know what? I will tell you who I am. Do you know who I am? When people say do you know who I am? They are thinking about something that they have. They are thinking about some kind of resources that they do have that others don't have. That is why they make such statement. The Bible says we are the ones that gave those things power. And he says here that don't blame the gods. They are not to blame. We animate them. We gave them power to do to us what only God says he can offer us.

So don't blame mammon, it is not the fault of mammon. Somebody serve mammon. If mammon is not being served. Mammon will still be money. If money is not being served money will still be money.

Have you notice in the time of Paul in Acts 17 when Paul got to Athens. He saw so many gods. In fact, the Bible says Paul was distressed within his spirit because he saw a city full of idols. And it's the same thing. Full of idols! Idols everywhere! Even to the unknown god. Idols everywhere! It is not any different in the 21st century even in the church. Pagan Christianity! Idols everywhere! But some people it's excellence in ministry. You see they say yes we are excellent. We are known for excellence. They say that. We are excellent. And they say yes, this is what makes us different. This is what makes us the best. And when people say that, you wonder is it Christ or excellent. Oh! Yes Christ want us to be excellent.

Definitely in the book of Daniel, the Bible talks about the fact that Daniel was ten times better than his contemporaries. He has an excellent spirit. As a Christian you've got to be excellent but excellence must be excellent. Excellence should be excellence. But when somebody talks to excellence and says excellence deliver me. Excellence give me meaning in life. Excellence give me value. You have given excellence a god capacity.

So excellence is now a god now. It is now something you can say this is why we are not like every other person. This is who we are, we are excellent. When it comes to that point, the scripture says you have spoken to a graven image. And you are saying deliver me. (The works of your hands). He says they rejoice in the works of their hands (Acts 7:41). They took satisfaction in the works of their hands.

And that is what we are calling the believer into today, to say common the gods are not to blame. Excellence is not to be blame. We are not blaming excellence. Excellence is just meant to be excellent, but when excellence goes beyond excellence and becomes something else. The Bible says that is just pagan Christianity. And that is what we see the scripture says there.

It's good that you mention that, because we have some people in a bit to correct their fault finding mission and they think of bringing correction into things that are happening in the body of Christ and in some other places they start blaming things. So they have fashioned against healing. They have fashion against deliverance, fashion against prosperity, fashion against excellence in ministry. So instead of just saying that the gods are not to blame.

So they now start blaming those things and say No! We need to run away from excellence in ministry. We need to run away deliverance and all those things. We need to run away from healing, we need to run away from deliverances. All those things. They start blaming each and every one. So we are fashion against... we have people again healing, against deliverance, against wealth, against excellence in ministry. All in the name they taught that was a problem.

So today there is a correction coming in, resetting us to the owner's manual, the Word of the Lord that says they are nothing. Those things. Those things are nothing. You cannot blame having a child or having a spouse. It is the will of the Lord for this things to be done. We cannot put blame on it. We cannot put blame on all those things. An idol is nothing in this world. It is nothing. Somebody makes it what it is. It is nothing. We should not inanimate this. We should not animate all those things. We should not animate all those good things and made them gods to us. That is it.

Thank you for that insight.

Now, quickly we've seen what the scriptures has to say about the fact that the gods are not to blame. Somebody gave them power to be who they are and to do what they are doing.

Let's go quickly to Timothy 6 to see another insight into this particular thing we are looking at this morning.

1 Timothy Chapter 6 you can read from verse 17.

1 Timothy 6

17. Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

Now, watch that word Trust! Trust! That is the word trust! He's saying yes I think this is satisfying. This is life. I am living the best life now. And he says tell them not to look at riches as that. Let money be money. Can you say that? And for those who don't have anything, for those who are poor physically speaking. Let's poverty just be poverty.

I repeat that, we need to let poverty be poverty. And let riches be riches. But when poverty becomes you saying I am useless, because you don't have. So you've given what we call power and authority to poverty. So you are saying I'm useless. If you asked why are you useless? because I don't have money. Oh! oh! That means you've actually spoken to poverty to give you an identity, to lord it over you now. That is what the scriptures is calling the believer to. That is the place of Christ in your life. He is one that name you. That is his place.

Bible says in Colossians 3 he said when Christ who is our life shall appear. Christ who is our life. Christ who is your definition. Somebody asked you, who are you? The Bible says they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh and its affection. Who are you? You can simply say please say, I am what I am by the grace of God. If you can say that, it means you have been insulated against this thing we are talking about.

And here he comes he tells the rich people, again this is not about riches. It is about tell them not to trust. Tell them not to get meaning from it. Tell them not to do that. He didn't say tell them to abandon their money. He didn't say tell them not to be as rich. In fact, the Bible says that Christ became poor so that we through his poverty might be made to rich. It is the will of the Lord that we prosper and be in health even as our soul prosper (3John2). It is God's will. But he's saying please don't look at anything and trust. He says well, tell them not to trust in uncertain riches.

See! Uncertain. That marks what Matthew 6 says about the fact that that they can be corrupted. He said moths... they can be stolen. Uncertain! That is a word. In fact, we are not simply saying that somebody can lose the money even if the person dies physically speaking, what happens to the money? He couldn't take it to eternity. He says it's uncertain. Uncertain on every grounds.

So go on please,

nor trust in God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

Can you see? Tell them to trust in the Living God who gives them all things to enjoy.

18. That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Verse 19

19. Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Can you see that?

Now people then look at this, because he's simply telling us. He says there's nothing you can do to lay in store for themselves a strong foundation against the time to come. Then you are wondering how come somebody lay in store for themselves a strong foundation? Is it going to throw the money up into heaven or is it going to....

No! What he's simply saying is, I told them not to trust in uncertain riches. Can you see? Where your treasure is, that's where your heart is. Can you see? The trusting.

Now, you might notice in the next verse he says tell them to do good works, to be ready to distribute. The reason why he said that is, if you didn't trust in those things there are some kind of actions that will be commensurate with the fact that you don't trust in those things.

That is why if we are worshipping an idol, if we are bowing down. If we are giving power to something that is inanimate and making it animate. There are some things about our actions, our decisions that will show what we are bowing down to. So is not simply saying that to get to lay for yourself a strong foundation against the time to come, I'm saying go and give to the poor. That's what it seems that is saying. But you cannot read it in isolation. He says tell them not to trust. It means if you don't trust in them, there are some actions you will actually get into, to show that you don't trust in them. And then, that is how he says you can lay for yourself a strong foundation. So the strong foundation, as it were, is just talking about where your heart is. That's all. It's about your heart. Your heart disposition. And that is what we see there.

And if somebody is telling us that, he's having a trouble to know where is my heart? Where is my devotion is? maybe is saying the right thing... we may use the analogy of the drunken people to see who is addicted. So what is that thing that when they take it off from you and how do you react and behave? So when you have that thing or when you don't have that thing. Are you sure furious? So we'll be able to see your

attachment to that thing. So the attachment to those things. Do I really have the devotion because the things might be around you and yet you are not devoted to it. And they may be with you and you are devoted to it

So you just have to judge, does this drives me crazy, in the presence or absence of it? Does it provoke you? That is it! And he was able to give them the actions to it. Trust the Lord, and so be willing to do this. Be willing to communicate, ready to distribute, to show that you are not trusting in those things. That there are things on themselves just to serve. They are just service agents. Those things and the riches there.

In summary it means one way to know whatever idols control one, is to see something you cannot do without. Something that if somebody take away from you, you feel naked. If they take that thing away from you, you feel life is now useless. You feel vulnerable. Whatever it is, that is a very thing that is driving us, not the grace of God.

Even if you have no have the thing, some you are gasping for, as if you are running out of breath to have it. I am nothing unless I have them... the way you run around about it. The way you can make prayers, some people can afford to do all kind of fasting for this thing, gasping for the thing as if it's their breathe. You know the way you go about it, and the way it is being magnified in your heart and everybody is living for that. That is pointing to what idolatry is. And we have redefine what idolatry is, in our 21st century beyond what we thought it was in 7th or all these earlier centuries to know what it is.

And so today we are being encouraged that the gods are not to be blame. Somebody said to them deliver me, and they became something. And so we are calling you out of pagan Christianity today. Calling you out not to give power to those gods and to blame those gods for whatsoever. It's just to check your devotion, to check the state of your heart and see where is the focus? Where do you have your treasures on? Where do you give your observant to?

And so with those things, those legitimate things, you really have to take the power off them and say No! you will not be my god. You will remain as things as you are. You remain are as the benefit of the cross but they will not become your lord. You will not begin to worship healing. You don't begin to worship miracles, or worship service about this.

So we hope you are being blessed by this. We want to appreciate everybody who has given comments, everybody who has shared this. We do hope that you will be the living epistle of this Word. You will be the ambassador, people will be able to read this; what we have shared in your life.

And so we do want you to join us again today around 11:30 a.m. this morning. We will be on live transmission from Chapel House Christian Centre Churly Lancashire. So if you are within the region, you can join us. But if you're not you can join us on live transmission. And if you will not be able to see that, if you don't have that time you can get to the page later in the day to see what the transmission is about and be blessed as well.

So throughout the week you can be watching out for us on our page. We will try to bring some of our videos into your timeline through our page so you can be blessed by it.

So till next week whether we see you next week 7 p.m. UK time or 11:30am for our next transmission.

We want to see as you have received Christ Jesus, the Lord so walk in him.
God bless you.

Bye!!!