

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 10

Title: Gospel For Every Day Life

Hello viewers this is Exposé 247, we are so happy to be connected with you today. And we will like you to say we are here again. We will like you to call all your contacts. We want you to share this around, if there is anybody you think will be blessed by this transmission. We want you to draw closer, get your Bible, writing material or whatever you want to share your comments.

So we need to start up from where we stopped the last time when we talked about the Needy Christians. And that is very important.

If you remember some of our transmissions, we had one transmission called Pagan Christianity. So if you had watch the Needy Christians, you might just want to do a quick refresher course on that Pagan Christianity in one of the Knock Out Series.

But today we want to move on, I don't want you to forget that we are on John Chapter 4 we are talking about the Bucket Ministry, the woman at the well. So the woman at the well is such a long series and is going to take us through most of the time the Ephesians, even to take us through the gospel. You would have seen that.

So today I want to welcome you again, and I want to say I know you are being blessed by all of these transmissions and so today one more to be blessed again.

What will you like to say to our viewers?

Now viewers, I don't want you lose track of where we started, where we are and where we are going in terms of this aspect of the Bucket Ministry Series.

Let me just recapitulate and summarize where we stopped so we know the reason or the purpose of what we are going to achieve today.

In the last transmission we came to a conclusion and the conclusion is that one of the things that the gospel does to a believer is to bring a believer to a point where you don't receive information for your life from your ground. That is where we ended with Luke Chapter 12 where Jesus gave illustration of a man whose ground was breaking forth and he brought forth in his ground. But that was not really the purpose of the ground in his life, the man want something beyond the ground breaking forth. He wanted the ground to minister to his soul.

And the gospel, what it does to you and I is, it disconnects, it separates who you are, your identity, your value, your meaning in life, it separates that from whatever ground, whatever thing is happening around your life. Jesus becomes the only person that minister to the core of your soul and that is the reason why he went to the cross to achieve that. Your ground, environment, circumstance, situations, your connection, your relationship, people around you, what you have, what you don't have, they don't have that right to minister to your soul. And that is where we stopped with lots of illustration. Please check on that particular transmission to get more insight.

I will like to remind our viewers that even from that passage we were able to demystify and most people actually thought that oh! this is just the passage for the rich people, for those whose ground brought plentifully, whose stocks and investment is doing well and feel, this is not for us, this is not for me, I don't have this kind of thing. But we find out that all these ground, whether it brings forth plentifully or not, it speaks.

And I think just to emphasize what you said in that same Luke Chapter 12, we found out that as he addressed the ground breaking forth of the man in verse 17, 18. Once you go on to verse 27, 28 it began to say don't worry about what to eat and what to drink.

So is as if Jesus didn't just minister or talk to those who think they have, he also ministered to those who think they have not. So in the same Luke Chapter 12. So it wasn't about the circumstance that was the focus of Christ about what is ministering to your soul.

In other word, the ground could have been saying oh! You don't have anything, since it is not bringing forth plentifully, so what do you do? You are so worthless, so what is the purpose of God and New Creation in your life? The ground can speak forth anything whether it brought plentifully or not.

And one of the way to test, if you really understand the gospel. One of the way to test if you've allow the gospel to actually deep down to you is when you begin to understand the implication of this thing we are discussing.

Follow us quickly as we go on today, you know as a continuation of the very last statement we've made, don't forget we came to this from work and rest.

There was a particular verse that we read before and now we will draw out the implication of that verse.

I want you to go quickly to Isaiah Chapter 60.

If you notice we read Isaiah 60 in our past two or three transmission. And the reason we read Isaiah 60 is to show you by the Word of God that even work activity will still take place at the New Heaven and the New Earth. It will still take place.

So work was before the fall of man, we've established all these.

Look at what Isaiah 60 verse 6 says... this is work in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

What does it say please?

Isaiah 60 (Amp version)

6. A Multitudes of camel from the eastern trading tribe will cover you Jerusalem, the young camels of Median and Ephah, all those from Sheba who want to trade will come bringing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

Watch that! That is the key phrase. They brought gold, they brought frankincense. They brought all these things. He mentioned camel. All these are the produces of agriculture, animal husbandry, animal rearing. He talked about gold, mine all the work activities of men. And he says when they were bringing all these things, he said there was an ultimate purpose; for the praise of the Lord.

He says to proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Can you see?

This stands in complete contrast to the Luke 12: 17 man. The Luke 12: 17 man needed his ground to produce because he wanted that to minister to his soul. But this particular Isaiah 60 verse 6, these ones, they went into agriculture, they went into animal husbandry, into trading, they went into mining, gold and frankincense and ultimately, these ones are not waiting for the produce of work to minister to their soul. He said it was to proclaim the praise of the Lord.

And may I say this, the only reason why the work of your hands will be completely to proclaim the praise of the Lord, is because for you, you are already satisfied.

For example, if you are flying they will tell you something that in time of emergency if you are in the plane, they will say emergency situation if you need to breathe and maybe something happened, there is a crash or there was decompression in the plane, they will say put your face mask on. But they will always warn you, don't do it, unless... don't do it for somebody else, not even a child until you've done it for yourself first. Do it for yourself first before you do it for somebody else.

Now, think about that. The only reason why somebody can bring the result of his work to the praise of God is because you already are satisfied. If you are not satisfied, you will not have the capacity to bring the produces of your work to the praise of God because you yourself are in need. Can you see?

That is why in our last episode, we stopped there. We see this people all what they are doing, all their activities is completely for the praise of God. May I say even though it

doesn't say that in clear term, the sub-text of that particular verse, these people are in rest already. They are satisfied. They don't need their work to scratch them anymore. They don't need their work to be a means of meaning for their life. They don't need their work to define how valuable or important they think their life is. To them they are in rest. They are satisfied. Something must have ministered to them for them to say, whatever work we are doing now. This is just for the praise of God. It is not for us anymore. We are already satisfied.

In other word, their work, their trading, their ground is not speaking to them anymore. They allow the voice so that it can speak for God and speak for his praise. If you have not disengage it from speaking to yourself, it cannot be in that capacity. Free to speak praises of the Lord,

Thank you for making that point.

But most people who need things to happen, most people who needs something to take place in their life. Most people who need to have situations, externally speaking to be great for them so that they can have a meaning for life is not because they want it to, is because we have to be satisfied.

That is why the Psalmists said in Psalms 23, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want or let's say I will not become needy or I will not be like somebody who is crazy about his ground breaking forth because already the Lord has become my shepherd.

Unless the Lord becomes a man's satisfaction, you can't even advise him and say let your work goes to the praise of God He doesn't have what it takes because you need to be satisfied first before you can somebody else.

So if you are not satisfied with the result of redemption. If you are not satisfied with what Christ calls you. If you are not satisfied with the exchange at Calvary. If you are not satisfied with your life in Christ Jesus, you will want to use everything around you to satisfy you first.

So everything around you will have to speak you. Speaking to your soul. So money will be speaking to you. You will become needy. And that is why we said that unless a man rest he cannot work and that is why God brought Adam to the point of rest before he began to work in Genesis that we did before in previous transmission.

It is important. That is why you are a danger to your generation and everyone is a danger to their generation unless they are satisfied in the Lord first before they begin to work. If they don't, they will use their work to satisfy themselves.

Now, again we've said this in the past. Let emphasize, when we keep saying work it means any form of activities either outside the four walls of the church or even within the

four walls of the church. It makes no difference. Every activities will always be engineered to satisfy us unless we are first satisfied in who Christ calls us, in what Christ did for us at Calvary.

So we see these people in Isaiah 60: 6, these people have been immunized if you want to use the word, because all the works of their hands was just for the praise of the Lord. They don't need it anymore. You don't need it when you already have your lot... they don't need it any more.

Until we grow to that level in which...

That is what we by the grace of God, I am believing the Lord to achieve though this Bucket Ministry Series. That is the purpose. That is why we are on this transmission, to make sure that we as believers in Christ will begin to walk in the reality of what Christ paid for on the cross. And one way to test that is your reaction to your work. That is what we see there.

Now, quickly I want to show you something by the Word of life.

Let's go to Genesis Chapter 11, look at verse 4 and let's a contrary indication to what we just read in Isaiah 60: 6.

This is a very popular Chapter in the Bible

Genesis 11

4. They said come let us build a city for ourselves

That is construction engineering. People are going to build a city. We said before to build a city, they had to arrange God's creation. You have to put brick, stones, this is you rearranging creation to come up with an infrastructure. This is building engineering at work. So these are people who are set to work.

They said come let us build a city for ourselves and a tower.

Look at that. Let us build a city...

Now, compare that to Isaiah 60:6. Isaiah 60:6 says they did the work for the praise of the Lord. This one says let us do the work and ultimately the purpose is about us.

And a tower whose top will reach into the heavens and let us make a famous name for ourselves

Ah! Ah! Can you see that?

Go on

So that we will not be scattered into separate group.

ok, so that we don't lose our identity.

Now, you can see... you could actually place Isaiah 60 verse 6 and Genesis 11 verse 4 side by side and compare and contrast.

Can you see?

In both cases, they were at work. In both cases, they all set to work. But the people in Genesis 11, their work ultimately was meant to come back to them. In fact, they said let us make a name.

Think about it, how many people today whether believer... Sadly enough believers...because we have unbelievers, that is something we should talk about...

Let's focus more about believers. You that you were washed and sanctified.

I think that was even the style of Jesus when he was addressing them in Mathew 6, he was saying the heathen seek after these things.

That is believers, they need to make a name with their work. So when an unbeliever is working it's not about work, he needs to make a name out of it. He needs to become somebody of value or somebody of substance or somebody of significance before his own eyes and other people. This was how to make name for ourselves.

Do you know as simple as giving to charity, as simple as giving to people is, it can achieve the same thing. Some people the reason why they want to give to others, even to give to the poor is that they want to prove themselves that they are a nice person. Can you see? They want to prove to be known for it. But that is one thing, but I'm even talking in term of you trying to convince yourselves that you are a good person.

So am not just giving because I want to give to help the poor, that is what it looks like on the surface. But there is a sub- text to that giving. And the sub-text to that giving in some cases for most people is all about me. Because I want to know that am a good person. I want to know that am not as bad as people think I am. I want to know that am somebody that has compassion for others. I need my giving to minister to me. Can you see that?

This is what we see these people doing. It has to fulfill me. It has to say something about who I think I really am. I need it. I need somebody to receive that gift from me.

So ultimately you think is about people that are being giving to, but really is all coming back to the person. That is why these people say let's us make a name for ourselves.

So whatever we do, the construction is not themselves, the building is not themselves, what people see outside is the edifice. You might be seeing the edifice, you might be seeing the constructed building, that is what you see. But what you don't see is that they

said the building is supposed to speak a name for us. Is supposed to be our justification. Is supposed to make us know that our life counts in the ground scheme of things,

So there is nothing wrong with construction business, there is nothing wrong in designing cities, its beautifying. It's just about the purpose behind it.

Now, you don't need to tell us the purpose, you don't need to even tell us and say but the purpose is always hidden. If you've not make Christ your life, that is why Colossians 3 says when Christ who is our life shall appear. Unless Christ is my life, unless I am defined by who Christ is unless I am defined by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. Unless I am defined by the acceptance of the Lord Jesus. Unless I am defined by the justification that can only be found in Christ Jesus. I don't have a choice about life, I will look at my work to make a name for me.

You know why I like this? Everybody needs a name. Everybody wants to know that they are not useless. Everybody wants a name. That is why these people, they said they want to make a name unto themselves.

So there is this need to have a name. That is why I like that place in the book of Revelation where he says he that to him that overcome, I will give him a name that nobody else knows. Can you see?

That is something to look forward to.

You know why he said he will give us a name. Because we need it. It's a human need. Nobody wants to be a nonentity. Everybody wants to have a name. Everybody want their name to appear on the sand of time and Christ promised that to the overcomers in him.

So this is why as long as people don't get that, they will look for it in their work.

So we see the men in Genesis 11 verse 4, they have to look for it in construction to make a name for themselves. It is not that desire that is the problem. It is how they are going about to satisfy that desire. That is why he said unless we find rest. And for those of us, who are born again, who are in Christ Jesus. We need to understand the implication of what happened to us at Calvary. Unless we do, we will use people, we will use things, we will use ministry, we will use connections, we will use our work to make that name that we have not received in Christ Jesus.

So as an overcomer in Christ, you are promised a name in Christ Jesus.

How sweet of you to juggle our memory back to tell us about how our present is glorious and our future is glorious to, something to look forward. As an overcomer, you will even eat the hidden manna, you have a name and you know, he qualify that nobody has hear of it before. Because people have title that people have abandoned before. They come into a name. That desire is you. There is a right way of fulfilling it.

Because if you do not take heed, every good thing on our pathway here will be corrupted even work, ministry...

Everything! Because we want to get the name from it. We need to have a name from there, because we did not receive the name that only the Father confers.

And so if you have this hope in us, that there is a new name waiting for us we need to purify ourselves. And we purify ourselves in the way we go about our daily engagement with work in the light of the hope.

Thank you for that.

That is why we are drawing this out from these scriptures. That is why we believe the Lord that as we begin to speak forth now, light, grace and understanding is being release unto you in the name of Jesus.

Now, let's go quickly.

You know in our last transmission something we promise our listeners and our viewers and I think we should emphasize that today. You might be saying in your heart, thank you for saying these things, I understand these things but I when I look around, when I look at life, there is a language the world system understand. There is a language people speaks. There are things... how do I deal with my life? How do I deal with my situation? How do I deal with my circumstances?

You know there are two different school of thoughts that seem to apply in the body of Christ. Some people will simply tell you that as a believer you have received the righteousness of Christ. (Romans 8:1 there is therefore now no condemnation for you). And what Christ did for you at Calvary is completely spiritual. It's got nothing to do with your natural circumstance. Just go through life that way, even if you are poor, whether you are lonely, whether in sickness or diseases, no matter what your condition is, just know that everything Christ did for you was completely spiritual. And just be contend with that and go through life.

People might not put that in those exact words, but when you listen to their teachings and their messages and the paradigm and the mentality in some ministry, in some bodies in the church of Christ. That is the kind of thing they kind of perpetuate.

And you see, on the opposite side of the divide we have another school of thought, and those ones will simply say well, the reason why you are born again, you are a new creation in Jesus is because the redemption of Christ supposed to completely revamp your natural circumstance.

It means if you are born again, then money should be in your pocket. If you are born again, you shouldn't be lonely, people should want you to be around them. If you are

born again, life should change for you in the external. That is the whole point of being born again. You see these schools of thoughts are at logger head with each other.

Which one is this? Which one is the one that Christ want us live by?

This is not a question you can take with levity. This is a very important because these are the crux of the gospel. This is very important. That is why we are exploring that.

We've actually deal with the fact that your natural life, your ground cannot be the one to speak to your soul. Let's address the other side of things.

Follow us quickly as we go to 2Corinthians Chapter 8 verse 9.

We've actually mentioned this in the past when we were doing our Knock Out Series on giving. But by the grace of the Lord we are looking at this from a completely different angle. The Lord has given us insight to this in a different angle.

So what does it says please?

2Cor 8

9. For you are recognizing more clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

I like the way he put it. It didn't say that you've not contacted grace. It's about identification, recognizing what you've contacted, what you've actually coming to.

his astonishing kindness

Before we actually continue with 2Corinthians 8:9. I will like our viewers and listeners to understand the back ground of this particular 2Corinthians 8:9, the reason why it was written.

Let's not be carried away and forget the fact that this is meant to be a letter. It wasn't like Genesis or Exodus or the rest that were actually written or documented, or historical record. This is actually a letter from a father in faith to his children in faith if we can put it that way.

And anytime you writes a letter to someone, there is going to be a reason and there is something you want to achieve with that letter, you want to pass an information or communicate a truth, a fact and the rest.

Now, the reason why this was written in Chapter 8 specifically of 2 Corinthians is because they were raising a collection for the saints. The Corinthians brethren were supposed to raise a collection for all the saints and the Apostle Paul began to speak to them to address them to raise that collection to gather for the other saints. So don't forget that is the back drop.

So he is going to tell them in this verse 9 the reason why they have to physically, mark the word physically not spiritually, to give their money or give of their resources. So he is going to give them the reason.

Based on that back drop please listen to what he has to say.

for you are recognizing more clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, his astonishing kindness, his generosity, his gracious favour, that though he was rich yet for your sake he became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich, abundantly blessed.

Now think about this, the Apostle Paul is trying to do something that some school of thought in the body of Christ think we shouldn't do. It looks like a taboo because he is going to talk to them about giving and to the needs of other saint elsewhere.

And then why is he making a reference to their spiritual state? I do agree with you that the grace of our Lord Jesus is not money. The grace of our Lord Jesus is not natural object. I do agree that the grace of our Lord Jesus was for the... you know when we say by grace

Ephesians 2:6-8

For by grace are ye saved through faith. It is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works so nobody should boast about it.

So we agree that the gift of God that he gave us when we didn't deserve. He gave us Christ Jesus. He forgave us in Christ Jesus. He gave us righteousness of Christ. And Christ took our own sins, our iniquities on himself. This grace of our Lord Jesus, is got nothing to do with money. I agree with that. That is in the scripture.

But what kind of attempt is the Apostle Paul trying to make by trying to talk to people who were meant to give to the needs of the saint which is physical and then you were trying to give them a spiritual basis for doing something physical?

Now, this is why I did say we need to read between the lines of the Word. We need to understand the mindset of the Spirit that the Apostle Paul did not say to them that the reason why you need to give to the saints who are in need is because at least I know you have more money than they do. I didn't say the reason why you have to help those who need help is because you are in a better situation physically speaking than they are. I didn't say the reason why you have to be there for others to help them and to do the right thing for them is because you are in a better physical situation. No!

What the Apostle Paul reminded them of.... is the Apostle Paul trying to make a connection between the spiritual and the natural? Because this is a natural thing to give to the needs of the saints. But he reminded them of their spiritual state.

Now, let us go deeper. What was the spiritual state he reminded of? That is what we are going to look at in this case.

There are two things we are going to emphasize. **He reminds first of their state before Christ came in.**

See what he said,

He said you know the grace of our Lord Jesus that even though Christ was rich,

Now what rich there, if you look at it, we know what Christ was rich in, in the Word of life. We know what Christ had. We know Christ had the favour of the Father. When the Father said, this is my beloved son... the Father was pleased with Christ Jesus. Christ pleased the Father. He was obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

So if you want to say this, Christ crossed all the t's and dotted the i's of the laws of God, and God said am satisfied with him. He was rich with acceptance. He was rich with favour, and he was completely sinless. Bible say there was no guile found in his mouth. No error found with him

So all these benefits that Christ had because of the kind of life that he lived, everything that he was rich with, with the Father, everything was given to us.

He says even though he was rich yet for your sake, he became poor.

If you want to ask me, how did he become poor? That is simple question.

In the gospel it tells us, he said my Father, my Father, why have you forsaken me? If Christ dotted all the i's and cross all the t's and he was well favoured of the Father because of the life he lived, because he fulfilled the law of God, what did Christ deserves? The favour of God. What did Christ deserved? The goodness of God.

But he never got all these things that he deserved at the cross, he became poor. He lost it all.

You know what a poor person is? A poor person is somebody who is disadvantage. A poor person is somebody who doesn't have anything of value that society recognizes. Any time they say somebody is poor in society, it means the person doesn't have anything that the culture value, the person doesn't have anything people can put value on. Christ at the cross became like that. There was nothing about him that will add value on.

In fact Isaiah reminds, there was nothing about him that we should desire. That is poverty please. He became poor. He was rich, he became really poor. There was nothing of value in him that we could desire. Bible says we consider him stricken and smitten of God. He became valueless. He became poor. You know why? Because he had to rid himself of all that because he was going to give it somebody else which is you and I.

The reason why Christ gave it to us, you might want to ask, why did he had to give it to us? Because we are in a deplorable state spiritual speaking. We are bankrupt. We are irredeemable by any form of program, therapy or strategy.

In fact, there is a place in Deuteronomy when he says if a man has a son who is incorrigible, if the son will not listen to his father, it means that son there is no program that can help that son to become better. That was the type and shadow of fallen humanity; you and I.

There was no program, no reformation, no character reformation that could have helped us to become who we are in Christ Jesus. We are so poor. We are deplorable. But what did Christ did? Christ had to take up his own glory, the richness and he gave it to us.

So it means what the Apostle Paul was doing in 2Corinthians 8:9 is to remind them of their deplorable state spiritually speaking.

You know why he was doing that? Because he was telling them that in case you think people you want to help are deplorable, you were also deplorable.

Now, the reason why you can only minister to your natural circumstance by understanding your spiritual status. This is why it's important. You cannot as a believer even last time we said something... we said you cannot allow your natural to speak to your spiritual. But you must allow your spiritual to speak to your natural.

This is what 2Corinthians 8: 9 is saying that even though you think you were going to help people who were deplorable, spiritually speaking you were also deplorable. You can't look at people anymore and think this people is disadvantage, spiritually speaking if not for Christ, you were in deplorable, disadvantage situation. You have nothing of value to be desire of you. There was nothing.

So when you see people in the natural state around you, that was what you were before Christ ministered to you. So it means, it's hard for you as a believer to look down on anyone else, because when you see the poor on the street. They remind you of your deplorable state without Christ. They are reminder to you. It breaks that compassion in you.

So the Apostle Paul was going to help this people physically speaking, but was going to use their spiritual state to minister to their soul.

So we see that, he said you know the grace of our Lord Jesus that even though he was rich and for your sake... I like the word. You were the one that were poor, it was for your sake that he had to lose everything that even though you were poor, now you can now claim that you have a record with the Father. You can now claim that you are God's righteousness. Who are you to claim that, if not for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ?

This is an eye opening moment, because most churches and charitable organization needs to listen to this and we need to bring a correction because we've sat down in meeting and when people want to make case for giving, they have to say you have, especially in some countries where their GDP is higher, and the living index is better.

So people go to give on the basis of yes, people they had it all worse than us. And they use that to evoke compassion and empathy and the people feel like this and that. They feel like yes, that is what a good Christian will do, because we are better off than them. So the sense of seeing themselves better off, than people you are trying to help. They feel like yes, let the haves give to the have-nots. The privilege to give to this.

Even they bring it to the body of Christ, they did not see the quality again, that means they are establishing the classes, the wall that was broken together, they feel let's give. If it were in our days now, Apostle Paul will not be saying that. He will be telling us we that we have, give to the Macedonian because the Macedonians are not equal to you. You have this because they are not equal. Let's help our poor brethren.

Establishing those walls that are broken down. That Christ had told us that he had broken those walls, and the social classes. And so we forget that based on the urgency, they might feel they have case for it because there is an urgency, this is a disaster. How could you say somebody when we see their houses are broken down, they are not in a worst state of. Logically it looks like that.

You are making a very important.

He said for your sake he became poor. You were the poor one, it was for your sake. You were the one that made him poor. You were the one that was poor that made him to become poor because he had to release something to you.

So everybody is all the same...

Even no matter what the substance the Corinthian want to give, they really have something in their pocket, they have something to give out but they were just the same.

And I think there is something that we need to highlight and sound this on the mountain top for the whole world to listen to, that in the kingdom of God, if you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. The motivation for your activity has been overhaul, for your work has been overhaul. Even like in giving that you just said.

It means when you give, you are not giving to somebody who is less than you are, you are not giving to somebody who is in a lower status than you are. You are giving to somebody who maybe naturally mirrors who you were spiritually speaking. If not for grace of God. That is why he says you know the grace of God.

You know the reason why... people do this naturally speaking, when you try to remind somebody where they came from, somebody says today he's become a billionaire and they said well, be humble we know where you started from.

Well, technically that what was Apostle Paul was doing. He said you know the grace of our Lord Jesus. Do you guys know where you started from? If not for Christ who was rich became poor because of you, I know where you started from. You were deplorable, you were sinners. There was nothing to be desired in you. You were under a curse. You were condemned. You were vulnerable. You were attacked by the element of this world. You have no value. Your life has no meaning.

When you are giving to the Macedonian, don't forget where you too came from. This is what the Apostle Paul.... you know the grace of our Lord Jesus that even though he was rich for your sake... that is the word... he reminded them it's for their sake so that you through his poverty might be rich.

So this is what he began to do then...

And again would you like to consider and look at this other aspect of Paul and see the ethos of Paul here. For some people even if they got the message right and they got the interpretation right, they use this message to collect for themselves or something that will benefited them...

Well, it mean....

Most people most time when people hear this kind of messages, somebody is collecting for them and you see all the passion he put into it.

Well, I will think the whole purpose is defeated if somebody does that. Because the whole point is defeated if somebody come to the point of trying to use this scriptures to manipulate the scriptures so as to make something for themselves.

Something to benefit from whether directly or indirectly

Work is not meant to benefit you. I don't know how... Christ is meant to benefit you.

Ephesians 4 verse 28, what does it say there?

28. The thief who has become a believer must no longer steal but instead he must work hard making an honest living, producing that which is good with his own hands so that he will have something to share with those in need.

Can you see?

Now, you can see ultimately the purpose was the issue.

I think if somebody decide to use 2Cor 8:9 to merchandize people or to take from people so as to make something for themselves. Such a person has come to the point of where in the book of Timothy, where he talks about people who had conscience seared with hot iron.

It destroys your conscience, because ultimately if you are raising money for the poor or if you are raising money whatever you are, or you are giving money. All these activities, they have to be born out of the implication of the gospel.

Some of you if I ask you a question, why do you work or why do you go to your job or why are you in ministry? Can you categorically answer that question using the understanding of Ephesians 4:28?

He is saying this man, he should go and work but is not about you because for you already, you've been ministered to, you've been sorted out.

If you notice, he didn't say to the man because this what some people interpreted Ephesians 4:28 and I think its not what the scriptures intended using 2Corinthians 8:9 to interpret Ephesians 4:28

Some people think the reason why this man was supposed to work and the purpose of the work to bless people is because he already had enough money. That is not what he said.

He didn't say let him go to work and be a blessing to others because he has enough in his banks. That is not what he said.

Now, what he simply says is, because by the time people got to work, people don't go to work just because they have enough money, they go to work because they want the work to minister something to them.

In some cases, it ministers a level of good standing in the society for some people, because by the time they were able to acquire some things, people look at them differently, even those who don't acquire something, those who make a change in the world, those who make a change in the environment, those who probably find a cure for a diseases. They might not be rich necessarily, for somebody who actually invented something for the generation, it doesn't have to be that they are rich, but the fact is, they've made a name. People will not forget them.

In fact, some people do dangerous taunts that they know can kill them, but they say at least if I die, I know I have made a mark. People work because they want to get something out of it. But here was Apostle Paul saying to this man in Ephesians 4:28 is that you are going to work but you will get nothing out of it, others must get something out of it. The reason why you will get nothing out of it, is because in Christ Jesus you got everything out of it.

Christ is your life, Christ is your meaning. Christ is your definition. Don't forget the fact that you were poor but Christ brought all of Christ and he gave it to you so that you can no more say that I am needy. You can't say you need work to do anything for you anymore. So that is why he said, do it and blessed others with it.

Now, this is where the whole point is, and if you notice one thing, this is why this kind of man in Ephesians 4:28, trust me if people don't accept his ministry of his work, this Ephesians 4:28 man, maybe in the process of actually trying to bless others, if somebody criticize him, if somebody spoke against him, you will notice that he will just be cool. He will not flair up, he will not go crazy about it because it's not about him. It's about to bless people.

Do you know why some people in the midst of doing their work, the reason why they cannot withstand opposition, and the reason why they cannot withstand criticism is because all the while, the work was not about the people, the work was about themselves. So that is why they fight hard, if anybody will say anything or do something that will goes against it. This is the reason.

So you can really test if what your work is doing is just to minister to others or you are ministering to others so that it can come back to you.

That is why the Apostle Paul began to interpret the gospel to the Corinthians brethren in 2Corinthians Chapter 8 verse 9. You know what he was trying to do? He was trying to deliver them from such an ungodly mentality that exist in the culture around them.

And what was he doing? He simply said this, let's start by saying that you guys were poor, you can't even look down on those that you want to help. Let's start with that. You can't look down on any more.

And the second thing is...

Let's go back to that...

What is the last phrase there?

He became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich...

Now, he says first you were poor if not for him. Now because of him, you were rich. Now, you've actually gone through two circles now. You had the status before now you had a new status. And he says Christ is the bridge between the two statuses.

Now, if you are wondering about this rich, please I will advise you to listen to this transmission we did when we talked about Luke 12:15 up to verse 27, about the man Bible says this will happen to the same person who is not rich towards God. (The last two transmissions)

We said ultimately every work that we do, every work that we engage ourselves in this world is ultimately supposed to achieve something. I repeat that slowly so there is always a purpose to work. What Christ does is, he gives you the purpose. He gives you the benefit of the purpose.

What will work do in our generation? What will your substance do in our generation? It will give you a sense of meaning. A sense of impact, a sense of value, a sense to be recognize with, a sense to be reckoned with, a sense that you are somebody who has something. And what does Christ do to you through the gospel. He tells you, you have everything.

I like that verse that says that his divine power... that is spiritual. That is not natural.

His divine power has given unto us all that we need for life and godliness. And when people read that kind of verse, they start looking around their environment, they start looking at their face in the mirror. They start looking at their connection. Are you sure I have everything for life and godliness?

The reason why such verse don't make sense is because we missed the point.

When he says all things you need for life and godliness. The question is even whatever you do in this world, what do you want to achieve with it? You have so much connection, what do you want to get out of the connection? You want to destroy the sense of loneliness right? You want to destroy the sense of vulnerability?

You see when he says all you need for life and godliness, it is all that people do in life, there is something they want to get out of it. Christ gave you everything they want to get out of it. That is what we are talking about. The summation of what you need for life.

There is this African proverb that says that if we are going to look for money and we find honour on the way, let's go back home because if we find the money what would you use the money for? You will try to get honour. That is even a proverb from men who are even in their fallen state.

Christ is simply trying to say to you, what are people trying to get out of life, out of relationship, out of marriage, out of singles, out of being rich, out of not being rich? What are people trying to get from ministry? What are they trying to get? They are trying to know that their life matters. That is what they want to get out of it. That their life matters.

And am telling you that your life matters because my life matter to the Father and I gave you that benefit. Can you see? He says I will keep you as the apple of my eye.

See! Christ matters to the Father. That was why Father was satisfied. He says my beloved, am well pleased. The Father said your life matters to me and he is saying that to you that you matter so much to the Father that the Father was willing to give up the son

so that he can redeem you. That is how much you matter to him. He was willing to put the son's life at stake, to seeing him being mutilated, his visage was marred beyond form. Isaiah 53, 54. He was completely marred beyond form just because the Father wanted you, so much love.

See! Can you see? You matter so much to the Father. And that is the voice that some people want to listen to because of what they are doing. That is the voice that some people are hitching to listen to by every activities they are trying to do, and that is the benefit that you get out of your new life in Christ Jesus. But you see ultimately what Paul told the Corinthians brethren is what we are saying to you today.

What did he says?

but you are recognizing more clearly

Recognizing!

That is what we are here to show you, so that you can recognize clearly today. So that it will immune you, and allow you to do work as it is in Isaiah 60: 6. So when you bring your work, whatever you do, it is up to the praise of the Lord. That is what your work becomes. That is what we see there.

So we see the Apostle Paul trying to minister to the natural state of believers by using the spiritual as the platform to speak to their natural life.

So people that often says that if you are a believer, your spiritual life has nothing to do with your natural life or with your physical life, whether you are sick, whether you can give or you cannot give. It's got nothing to do with your spiritual life. Just know that Christ had redeemed you and that is it...

Well, we cannot say that because the Apostle Paul was going to tell them to give, which is a physical thing but he was going to talk to them from the spiritual angle.

So what do we see them? He told them they were poor if not for Christ. And he told them they are rich because of Christ.

Now, what does that mean, the second point (they are rich because of Christ)

He is simply saying if everything you got by grace, that you don't deserve... you know what grace mean? You don't deserve it, you get what you don't deserve and that is not the way the world operate. You know that?

Grace works contrary to the world system. In the world system they try to make sure, you get out of the world system what you put into it. Can you see? People begin to give salary in the place of work, atimes the salary you get is based on your experience, if it is 5

years' experience, don't expect to get the same salary as somebody with 25 years' experience.

Even some they even get worse than what they qualify for...

Well, in some cases its so terrible in the world, that you even get lower to what you deserve in some cases... and some above their salary and they are not getting out of it.

Let's say in a fair system in the world, they try to give you what you work for. Your experience, your educational qualification, your degree. How much experience, how much exposure you have. More so more connections because some people recruit based on the connection- who you know...

The world system tries to repay you and say this is what you deserve to get out of work. But in the gospel, in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus, what is the message? What is the theme? What is the purpose? What is the focus? Is to say come and get everything that you don't deserve. There is nothing about you that is valuable any way.

That is why Romans 5 says for while we were yet sinners. It wasn't that there was something about us, that Christ will say I see potential. There was no potential. We had no potential. So if we had no potential, so what will be the motivation? We had no potential, while we were yet sinners, with no potential, Christ died for the ungodly. That is what it says.

So it will mean this is what is called grace where Christ gave everything up for people that had nothing going for them, complete stalk sinners.

And he says if you understand that is how grace works. He said for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus that whatever state you are today spiritually speaking had nothing to do with your contributions.

Now, you are made rich not because of what you did. Now, you are made rich not because you actually said well, because of where I was born.

You know now, people are made rich for so many reasons. People are made rich naturally speaking today because of probably where they come from, or the kind of country where they are based, maybe because of better GDP in that country. You know some people today are poor not really because they don't know what to do if they have money, but unfortunately for them, where they find themselves, conditions, opportunities are just not there.

So the point we are trying to make is, atimes when it comes to life, being rich is subject to so many factors. So many factors are responsible.

But you know one thing? In Christ Jesus, all of us, all of humanity are in the same point of poverty. Nobody not any one can say I actually had a leverage. There is no leverage. There is no privilege person in the gospel. For by grace you are all saved through faith, all of you.

Romans 3 says for God has concluded all men under sin. So there is no leverage, there is no privilege when it comes to the gospel. All were poor, all were depraved, all were deplorable, all of us was involved.

And he says if you know that, that the richness you can claim today in the gospel to simply say now you are now in God's righteousness, now you are God's perfection in Christ, when you are making those claim, I know some of you will like to say I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

Let's not forget that you are only making that claim not because of you or what you did, because of what he did. He said if you know you are made rich that way, how then do you consider giving?

So when you are giving to others, you cannot say you want to give to somebody just because you are qualify to be given to.

These are the sub text that the Apostle Paul was passing to the Corinthian brethren, so that in your giving you don't feel like, I can give to this one, because this one is better, that is not better. You can't because you understand what happened to you as well.

So what Apostle Paul is trying to do is to affect what they do physically speaking based on the spiritual understanding of what happened to them in Christ Jesus.

So what happened to them in Christ Jesus, wasn't physical, but they are supposed to interpret their physical response to life based on their spiritual understanding of what happened to them in Christ.

You might think we are talking about giving, giving is not our focus for this evening today, that is not the point. We are only using this as an example, that as a believer in Christ Jesus, the understanding of the spiritual transaction that happened to you at Calvary should impact on your natural life.

That is the point we are trying to make. It should impact how you respond to people, it should impact how you treat others. It should impact what you do on Monday morning in your place of work. It should impact how you relate with people. It should impact how you do your charitable work. It should impact your life, your marriage, your family, your singleness. It should impact everything about you. Even though what Christ did for you was not physical but that understanding should flow out of your natural life.

That is what the Apostle Paul was trying to do with them in 2Corinthians 8: 9. So we see that connection there.

I hope today that your eyes are open and you will be able to see clearly, recognizing clearly like Apostle Paul was saying here that we can be able to understand our spiritual state and how it affects our physical before and after.

How our spiritual state should inform our physical state. And that is what we are using this 2Corinthians 8 verse 9 to do.

And so we will like to say for last time that we hope you will join us next transmission as we continue on the Bucket Ministry as we continue to know. You have to know the establishment, we are establishing work and we came from Genesis Chapter 2 and 3 to see how Adam started and how the New Creations in Christ Jesus through the letter of Paul today, to see how work should be done.

And then we were able to see for the believer who was once a thief, what was the purpose of work, it was retool for the man to know that the purpose is for others, is not for you. The work should not speak to you. Because everything that needs to speak to you has already been said to you.

You are sorted out, you don't need that. Everything that you need to hear, Christ had already said it all through his Son. It was in the book of Hebrews that henceforth all the prophet and everything, the summation and everything. You are sorted out already. You don't need your work to sort you out. He spoke through his Son to us.

So you have everything that you need to hear. So your ground should not speak to you, whether it brought forth plentifully or not or it was scarce, it cannot speak to you. And no matter what you do, it cannot speak to you. And the charitable and the way we approach it, and the motivation for it, and the reason why we are saying this, we are trying to establish this, we could not see ourselves different from other brethren and say we are privileged because we are all on the same page.

Let me just say one thing as we round up, this is very important. You know, if you notice Ephesians Chapter 4. You might take your time to go and read all of the Chapter, we only focus on verse 28. We don't have all the time in the whole world to read every single verse, we could have shown you the connection.

You might see that the Apostle Paul in Chapter 4 of Ephesians was talking about put off the old man, and put on the new man in Christ Jesus which is created after God in true holiness and righteousness. Think about that!

And few verses after, he began to speak to this man that he that stole let him steal no more... that is why we did say any gospel that does not draw out the implication for your

natural life is not the full gospel, because he was talking about new man in Christ Jesus. To be able to relate to what he has done to you spiritually.

And that is spiritual, but even though I told you is a new man in Christ Jesus, if you do understand the grace of our Lord Jesus, how does it affect your work in verse 28 of Ephesians 4?

That is why we are in this Bucket Ministry series. If you don't forget this, go back to our very first episode, we mentioned that. The vision behind this Bucket Ministry is to draw out the implication of the gospel for your life naturally speaking. What is the implication of the gospel?

So the Apostle Paul did a master piece in Chapter 4 talking about the new man and then he says let's talk to the guy that want to go to work in verse 28, who was going to work naturally speaking, how does the gospel affect that man.? That is what we are doing, showing you the implication of what happened to you at Calvary for your life.

So stay with us as we draw out all these implication and how our spiritual understanding inform our physical life in our next transmission. So your natural life should not inform your spiritual, but your spiritual must inform your natural. That is the gospel.

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

God bless you.

Bye!!