

# ***The Power of Jesus Resurrection***

## ***Part 2***

We will continue to speak in this message about the remaining obstacles that were at the entrance of the tomb of Jesus that might hinder reaching to him and may deceitfully work to hinder spreading the good news of His resurrection. We already spoke about the old tradition represented by the stone at the entrance, and here are the remaining two other obstacles that may oppose the church today and work to hinder the spread of the good news of Jesus victory on death. We must know that Jesus resurrection power is real and can overcome whatever hindrances may come in front of us.

***2, 3 - The manipulative corruptive church leaders represented by the seal and the persecution represented by the guards: "62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard." (Matthew 27:62-66)***

The chief priests and the Pharisees they wanted to abolish any possibility of Christ resurrection from the dead. They were assuming that his disciples would go and take him out from the tomb and claim that he rose from the dead. So they went to Pilate and requested him to give order for the tomb to be secured. Pilate he knew very well the Pharisees and the chief priests how they are manipulative in attitude and had great jealousy toward Jesus, so he told them ***"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." (Matthew 27:65)***

Not only that but when Christ resurrected on the third day and the guards reported that, still the Pharisees they wanted to oppose that and hinder the good news of Jesus victory over death. Let us read what they did according to ***Matthew 28:11-15 "11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."*** The chief priests and the Pharisees had the following wrong attitudes:

***A- Accusation against Jesus and his disciples:*** They accused Jesus as a deceiver and accused his disciples that might come and steal the body of Jesus and make false proclamation about his resurrection.

***B- Cheating:*** In the form of using money to bribe the guards in order to change their witness and testimony.

***C- They were liars:*** They put words in the mouth of the guards and instructed them to say lies.

Now a day inside the church many leaders who take position and authority inside the church but they corrupt people. They know the word of God very well but they do not practice the truth because they need to give up their positions and certain privileges that they are happy to have. It is a very discouraging fact today about the church that those who lead are corrupted, and accuse badly genuine workers who are not willing to please them. These bad leaders they use their position, lies and money to pervert the truth.

In spite of all that we are still called to preach the gospel in such atmosphere. Even there are liars and false teachers and manipulative pastors who know the truth but they keep their hand in corruption to keep receiving their privileges, God still wants us to be honest and truthful to Him and to the people and live in honesty living and proclaiming the message. The power of Christ Resurrection will enable us to combat all these evil forces inside the church and we will receive the victory and will be able to preach the message and reach new people and make new disciples.

The early church believers and disciples (for example Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons) were feeble in position, reputation and resources in comparison to the chief priests and the Pharisees, but God was with them as he is with us today and the power of Jesus resurrection worked for their behalf as today is working and aiding us to combat all lies, manipulation and corruption, and the message is preached!

Furthermore the Resurrected Christ combated the acts of the Pharisees and encouraged his disciples and motivated them to go forward and spread the message, ***"19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:19-21)*** The same Lord will do the same for us today and will continue to inspire us to reach new areas with the gospel.

The Resurrected Christ further more appeared and commissioned others to continue to do his work, ***"3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born." (1Corinthians 15:3-8)*** This word of God should encourage us that the same Lord will continue to reveal himself to others, will change their lives and commissioned them to serve Him with us.

The other obstacle that had faced the early disciples and faces us today is the persecution and this represented by the guards. Pilate was the source for the guards at the tomb of Jesus. But Pilate would not do that unless the chief priests and the Pharisees are the people who invited him to do that. In the same way, persecution will come from the non believers, but the corrupted and manipulative leaders have hand in that. They were the one who recommend Pilate to crucify the Lord because their interests got affected with Jesus sound teaching. The non believers will not know the details of the body of Christ unless people from inside who are jealous and angry with the truth will report to them and invite them to harm. The corruptive church leaders will use the non believers and government of the countries and nations in order to harm and stop the true followers and disciples of Christ who delight and live the truth, ***“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” (2Timothy 3:12)***

The early church was persecuted by Pilate and Herod prompted by the Jewish, but Christ resurrection power prevailed over these forces. Paul in his letter to the Philippians he mentioned to them the following ***“All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household.” (Philippians 4:22)*** The Romans soldiers who crucified the Lord, now their country mates are saints and faithful disciple of Jesus.

Paul said and desired the following as we can read in ***Philippians 3:10 “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”*** Paul delighted and desired:

- A- ***I want to know Christ:*** Paul wanted to know about Christ’ justification and sanctification.
- B- ***I want to know the power of his resurrection:*** What we described in this message is the impact of Christ Resurrection and what can do to us. Let us desire as Paul to know and experience more of that.
- C- ***The fellowship of sharing in his sufferings:*** We will experience more of Christ resurrection power as we are willing to humble down and share in His suffering.
- D- ***Becoming like him in his death:*** Learning and willingness to be like Christ, to imitate him by full submission of our will to God, forgiving those who hurt us, and surrendering to his plan and purpose.

***My dear and beloved:*** The way you see things and understand events in the light of His word can mark and bring great victory in your life. God is with His church, His disciples and He is with us to combat whatever corruption and persecution that we may face from hypocrites who knows the truth but delight in worldliness and wickedness, as we agree to pray

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging word to me. Lord I put in your hand the following obstacles \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I trust you that you can handle this obstacles and you can remove it from our way so that we can continue as workers and Church of God to testify about your goodness to others. Lord continue to encourage us and provide for us*

*and gives us the joy and the strength so we can continue spread the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection. This is our prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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# Jesus christ



## The Bread Of Life

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***“1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”***

***(2Timothy 4:1-8)***

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