

A PERSONAL VISIT WITH OUR READERS

By C.W. Wood

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Due to the work-load in our office, we have not been able to get out the last two monthly sermons. Also, part of the reason is that my wife and I felt the need to take a week off. We have traveled more this year than ever before, but it was always to preach the Gospel. We felt that we should take a few days off from the pressure, and it would help us in the work when we returned. As it turned out, the trip helped us in two ways, one of which was unexpected! We visited our family and old friends in Seminole and in Seymour, Texas, and in Hobbs, New Mexico, where we lived for almost 19 years.

We greatly enjoyed our time with them, but it wasn't long until we began to feel like "fish out of water". Our minds were back in the little office in DeWitt, where we knew the work of answering mail and getting sermons mailed out was getting further behind. So, one way the trip helped us was the reunion with distant family and the second unexpected way was that we found we are not happy unless we feel that we are striking some blows for the Kingdom of God. We discovered what a great blessing it is to be in the quietness of our office, out of the hustle and bustle of the world's programs, seeking the Face of our Lord, and preparing sermons. We found that the true, spiritual vacation is working each day to bring people to King Jesus.

And so, we are very glad to be at our post of duty and to know that every day is to be considered a vacation when we are doing His work. You might say that we now understand that our vacations are

to be "working vacations." Concerning the series of sermons on the Book of Revelation, I want to say that we do not claim to understand it all, and we stand ready to be corrected by the Lord if we get some of it wrong. We give each of you the right to your own views and have no quarrel with you because of it. When you do not agree, please do not put us out of the circle, and we promise the same to you. The Lord is even now in the process of bringing us all into unity. Our duty is to love each other during the process.

And so, we want to interrupt our series on the Book of Revelation to say some things we believe the Lord has laid on our heart. We would like this to be a personal visit to each of our readers. May we enter into your home and be allowed to speak to you personally? For one thing, we want to thank each of you for your support of the work here, both spiritually and financially. As you know our goal has been to preach the Gospel without charge. Even so, many of you have apparently felt led to help us. We are very thankful for this. With all our heart we believe that the Lord will cause us all to share alike in whatever rewards our united efforts in the work can bring. To the many

overseas who are struggling to live one day at a time (some even for daily food), we say, never fail to request the material due to your lack of money. As God sends our needs, we will mail it to you. We hope you in the States will follow the same rule. There is no charge for our books, or the single sheet sermons. May the Lord never have to charge us with holding back His End-Time Message because His people can not afford to buy it! Our Lord owns it all, and He always supports His own projects! We intend to continue the teaching on Revelations (the Lord willing). What a mighty undertaking it is, and without the Revelation given to our Prophet, we would never attempt it! Even then, we proceed with much caution, always with our ear turned toward the Holy Ghost Teacher. Brother Branham's teaching, like the Scriptures themselves, cannot be understood without Revelation. We must know what is meant by what is said, both in Scripture and the Message. Therefore, the natural mind, without the Holy Ghost within, will end up on many side roads. The Holy Ghost is not an option; He is a *must!* God does not intend to hold up His Gift of the Holy Ghost until we have reached some certain stage of spiritual growth,

but rather desires we should receive Him in the beginning of our spiritual walk. With Him in our soul, we climb the spiritual mountain. "Without Him we can do nothing." But with Him the world itself is our harvest field. In these last, precious hours, the End-Time Message is circling the globe, looking for the last seed to be quickened into Eternal Life! Not only Bride Seed, but also Foolish Virgins who are being presented the Message now, and who will turn to it after the Rapture, and cling to it as their only hope of Eternal Life! We do not scorn them, for they also are our Father's Children!

Our prayers are daily for all people who should be saved, those who are in the Message, as well as those who do not know that our Lord has sent a mighty Prophet. We are about to see the end of another year, if Jesus tarries. No man knows what tomorrow holds, except we know the world will wax worse and worse from now to the end. But, in the midst of the great falling away, God's Bride is experiencing a mighty revival. We here are not waiting for the revival to start; we have been experiencing it for some time. We also know that this is true around the world, in the hearts of God's Bride.

This writer is convinced that the Bride Revival will be different than the one God gave the denominations through Brother Branham. In this denominational revival, the people's faith was mostly centered on Brother Branham. God allowed him to pray the "Prayer of Faith" for them thousands of times, and they were healed. But sad to say, the Word did not anchor in many of them, and they didn't understand how to keep their healing. Of course, we speak generally, and know that

some did receive the Holy Ghost and continued in the Word. In this writer's opinion, this revival was to see who, out of the denominational systems, would agree to follow the Word rather than the doctrines written on the walls of their churches. Some agreed to follow the Word, but the majority rejected it. For their rejection the Bride Revival is now passing them by. They are missing Revelation that brings Rapturing Faith!

What then is the Bride Revival? If it is to be different than the one to the systems, in what way will it be different? Without question, it took several years after God took His Prophet home before the Bride began to transfer the faith they had in Brother Branham, back to the Lord Jesus Christ. But, as this writer can testify along with many of the rest of you, this transfer is now reaching a climax. We have painfully learned that when Brother Branham left, Jesus of Nazareth did not leave! He has remained in Word form. Where once we desperately needed the Prophet to speak, "Thus Saith the Lord" to us, we now turn with our whole hearts to "Thus Saith the Lord" in the Scriptures.

With grateful hearts, overflowing with love for this Christ who has come into our hearts in Spirit-Word form, we give Him His rightful place in our lives. As each day dawns, we understand more and more what He has done for us, and this understanding increases our love for Him. The Word declares that "**Faith worketh by Love.**" (Gal. 5:6) It could be stated in this way, "We trust our God to the same degree that we love Him. The more we love Him, the more we will trust Him. This is a spiritual check point. The doubts that we entertain

concerning His Word (promises) can all be wiped out by an increase of our love toward Him!

We were born sinners, yet having a God-given conscience which repeatedly warned us we were wrong. Even so, many of us continued down the pathway of sin, earning judgment and destruction daily. And truly judgment was hanging over our heads by a rotten thread so to speak. But our Lord, who well knew our predicament, chose to head off our judgment by creating Himself a flesh body like ours. He lived on a sin-cursed earth without sin, not for Himself, but for us, so He could bear the judgment we so well deserved. Our sins could not be just forgiven; they had to be paid for first!

What is the Bride Revival? What does it consist of? Is it a revival that will attract the attention of Church Natural? Will it be received by the masses of lost people that walk our streets today? I don't think so, because generally speaking, they have had their chance! That is not to say that any person cannot turn and believe what God did. Surely they can, but Jesus said, "**They have closed their own eyes.**" (Matt. 13:15) the greatest miracle on Earth is not the healing of a twisted body, or limb, but the healing of a twisted and tormented soul. The revival that God gave the denominational systems was the bait on the hook (healings) in order to further the salvation of souls. The Bride Revival is to bring the individual *faith* of those saved ones to *perfection!* Matt 5:48, "**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.**" (This speaks of Perfect Faith and not a perfect flesh body.) The Bride Revival will be a revival of the Revealed Word, sent to

produce this Perfect Faith for a Perfect Rapture! We know that the time is growing very short for one to be skirting around the City of Refuge, without entering its Gate. One within a few feet of the Gate will still be lost!

Where once the Bride sought the Prophet and other anointed men to pray for them, we are now at the place that we, ourselves, should be the ones sought after to pray. In December of 1965, God saw fit to take His tired and weary Prophet home. But it was not just to give him rest that he was taken. There were precious results to be brought forth that few, if any, understood in those dark days of his departure. As men rejoice in the freedom that Truth brings, they are inclined to lift up those who preach it. The enemy seeks to divert men's thoughts and affections from Jesus Christ, and fix them upon human agencies!

The work that God would do on Earth is often retarded by these spirits coming on the followers of God's true Messengers. The Lord wanted His End-Time Message to be counted as His own Love and Mercy reaching out to the lost humanity. He wanted it to receive the impress of God and not man. (This was also the hope and prayer of our beloved Prophet.) But the eyes of men had been turned toward Brother Branham as their hope. He was removed that the eyes of all men should then be turned toward the Author of all truth and mercy, the Lord Jesus Christ. His enemies stated that God had removed Brother Branham to stop his false doctrines, but they were soon to learn that his absence accomplished a work that his presence would have failed to do.

Having revealed the Seven Seals to His Prophet so that the mysteries could be preached, and

when they were completed, the Lord took His faithful servant home. After a few years of silence following Brother Branham's death (perhaps about 20 years), some followers of his had overcome their grief over his loss, and began to feel a new responsibility toward the Message he had brought. They pressed forward with new zeal and began to earnestly study what had been preached. They soon discovered that healing had just been the bait on the hook to bring people to Jesus so that they could be shown the deep mysteries that have been hidden for generations. The great miracles attracted the attention of the Bride, God knowing they would later be returned to the Revealed Word!

Now we see that the main thrust of the Bride's revival is a return to the Word, and not just a revival of Divine Healing. Certainly, those who are being returned to the revealed Word will experience mighty miracles, but now the spiritual temperature of Church Natural is such that it is harder each day for them to expect anything Supernatural! **"They have stopped their ears and closed their own eyes."** (Matt. 13:15)

In our own little assembly, we have seen our Lord performing His Supernatural miracles, but our point is, the denominational systems around us have paid little or no attention to what God is doing. I am sure you have seen the same in your churches. Has Church Natural in your area flocked to your doors to investigate? Probably not! We have seen our God raise the dead, heal the sick, bring life back into a huge, dead oak tree, move material objects from one place to another, instantly deliver people from

demons that had them bound, and other Supernatural acts that can only be classified as Bride Revival. Yet, though we have testified to these things publicly, we have seen no interest aroused in the systems.

We are made to wonder to what degree Church Natural will be affected by the Bride Revival. And not only so, we also wonder to what degree some in our own Message Churches will be affected by it. You may perhaps disagree with this, but I believe the revival can pass through some of our churches and be unrecognized by some. Is this not already happening in some places? We hear testimonies that some of our people are waiting for this revival to start. Dear friends, it started when God revealed the Seven Seals to His Prophet and sent him back to his home church to preach them. It is very true that we were slow to catch on, but how can we deny that this was what started our revival? How can we preach that the Rapture may come any day, and at the same time testify that we are waiting for Bride revival? The opposition of the denominational churches against us in the past has not caused us as much concern and distress as we now are experiencing from the supposed friends of the Message. From some of these professed friends have now risen its worse enemies. The very truths that have in the past brought peace to troubled hearts have now been made the cause of confusion in some places. The true doctrines that Brother Branham taught have not caused any evil, but throughout the world today many are charging him with the flagrant error being preached by some of his followers. The work was not Brother Branham's, but God's and He will not allow it to be corrupted by superstition or

fanaticism. His Called Ones will see it right!

Even so, God has allowed Satan to move, who is now attempting to do what he has tried to do in every true move of God, which is to destroy the people by sending them a counterfeit in place of the True Message. A few men, deeply affected by wrong spirits, imagined themselves to have received special revelations and have now left the fundamental principles of the Message, which is the Word of God as the all sufficient rule of faith and practice. For that unfailing guide, they have substituted the changeable, uncertain standard of their own impressions.

Counterfeit holiness is still doing its evil work of deception, and some in our Message have not escaped this evil. For them we pray, "Lord open their eyes."

Under the guise of our End-Time Message, they tend to divert minds from the Scriptures and lead men to follow their wrong interpretations of the true Message! Fearlessly, did William Branham defend the Gospel from the attacks that came from many quarters. The Word of God in his mouth proved a mighty weapon in every conflict! He warred against every man-made teaching in the denominational world. The philosophy of great scholars lay bent and broken before this one with a seventh grade education. True Christianity was found in God's Prophet, William Branham, in that he received the Word of God as the great treasure house of inspired truth, and the final say of all inspiration. May we all, who love God's Prophet, study to be certain that we have the true revelations intended by our Loving

Father. Remembering that a man who supposes he can never be fooled, has been fooled already!

Br. Branham's enemies, who had seemed pleased at his death, were now more agitated at his absence, as the Message he had brought was reproduced and distributed throughout the whole earth. The denominations saw with discomfort that his teaching against walls of separation was not dying out, but was intensified by his followers. The painful ignorance of many educated ministers has been made apparent as their arguments are met by the simple teaching of God's Word.

Dear Friend, do you know the Christ that this mighty prophet made so real to those who heard and saw his ministry? May you see the Light! Amen.

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