

DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACHING SERIES

NOTICE: *To our readers who have called or written to say that they appreciate our series on Revelations, we would like to say that from time to time, the Lord leads us to change the subject. We feel impressed to teach on something that perhaps we did not bring our clearly in times past. One reason for that could well be that the writer, himself, did not understand it fully. By reading your letters and speaking with you on the phone, I am made aware of the need for further teaching on some of these vital doctrines. No one who hasn't tried to teach what Paul and our Prophet, William Branham taught, can understand the spiritual battle involved! We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with demon powers that are allowed to try and stop the Message. However, He that is in us will never allow the Message to be stopped or changed. We press forward with full assurance that "What is written" will, in every case, overcome any and all hindrances. And so, it is that your questions call for a change of subject from time to time. In this month's issue, we will teach more on the doctrine of "ADOPTION," which is actually the doctrine of "TOTAL RIGHTEOUSNESS," for without this Revelation, we will go through the horrible Tribulation! Adoption is our final stage of spiritual growth.*

Also, we use this opportunity to express how we feel toward those of you who help support the work here. There are so many worthy projects around that we feel humbled that you would send to us. The God of all Glory is taking note of all you do. Thank you so very much!

Br. C.W. Wood

Our subject will be "ADOPTION" or God's placing of His Bride into her

ADOPTION

"Are We As Righteous As God?"

By C.W. Wood

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spiritual position of authority. She must receive her free Gift of Righteousness, which Gift raises her up to her place of Adoption. The question has been asked, not by just one person, but by many, "Are we truly as righteous as God?" The scriptural answer to this question is so startling to our natural minds that we cannot help but question the statement at first. To use a worldly expression, "It is mind-boggling!" So mind-boggling in fact, that there is only one sure way to accept it and that is because "It is written!" For Born-Again People, the Scripture will have the last say; it is our absolute. That is to say, the Holy Ghost in us, who is, "The Word," will not end up questioning "The Word," as it is written.

It is our most sacred duty to show that the reason for the "Cross of Christ" was to return us to the place of total righteousness that we held in Heaven, while still there in our Theophany Body. It is to show that, by faith, we must believe that by the Cross we have been returned to the place of total righteousness that Adam enjoyed before he fell. This place, this position, is called "Adoption" by Br. Branham. We must show that the Blood of Jesus has never lost any of its power to totally cleanse! To what degree do you believe you have been cleansed and forgiven? Are you part-way cleansed, are you half-way forgiven, or only three-fourths forgiven, or nine-tenths righteous? Do you suppose that God's Blood could only partially cleanse, and that at some point He stopped before its perfect work was done? No, never!

He that started a good work in us will never abandon it before it is perfectly done. (Phil. 1:6)

As I have traveled across the country, asking the all important question, "Are you as righteous as God?" I have many times seen the incredulous look that crosses the face of some. You can almost hear their thoughts, as they think, "Is such a thing possible? May I say that it is so possible and so scriptural, that the Lord is going to hold us responsible if we don't believe it! Do you remember a statement Br. Branham made when he declared, "There are no white-black birds, and no drunk-sober men?" He was not speaking of birds or alcoholics, but of the truth that we are *completely righteous* or else *completely unrighteous*! If there is one jot or one tittle of the Law that God has not forgiven us for breaking, then we are still *unrighteous*. James 2:10, "**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**" Our most gracious Lord, knowing how we would struggle with His plan to restore us to total righteousness, has given us much written word that confirms this truth. We must *read it, believe it, and then act on it!*

II Cor. 5:19-21, "**To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**"

20. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray you in

Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

This is the hour for this Scripture to flood our souls. It's been in the Bible all this time, but now it is being revealed and received by Born-Again People. We have been *made* as righteous as God! You must decide, is this statement true or false? Is this not as clear and understandable as it could be said? We have been made the righteousness of God! To deny this is to trample His precious, powerful Blood under our feet! Now, we know that none of His Bride would willfully do that, and that is why this doctrine must be taught until the revelation comes! God has done it, and not we, ourselves.

I Cor. 6:9, "**Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God....**" You may agree with this Scripture in you intellect without realizing actually who the unrighteous people are! According to God's Word, they are the ones who have not, as yet, received God's offered "Gift of Righteousness"; by faith. Those who receive the Gift by faith are then *adopted*.

Rom. 5:17-19, "**For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**

18. **Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

19. **For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.** Notice the Lord's logic! If because of Adam we were lost, born into sin, then because of one man, Jesus Christ, we were brought back to the place of righteousness. In God's

great mind, this was only fair! So He offers us the free Gift of righteousness. Our part is to receive it, and worship the Giver!

QUOTE: ADOPTION, PAGE 43, "What does the word "unto" mean, the word "unto"? It means that something we're coming to, unto. "I am going unto the fountain. I am going unto the chair." (Br.) Humes, you get that? "I am going unto the desk."

Now, He predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according as His Own good pleasure of his will,

How much pleasure? Whose pleasure was it, whose goodness? His Own. His Own good pleasure of His Own Will!

Now, what is "adoption?" Now let me get this now, I don't know whether...I won't have time to get through this, but I'll hit it. Then if there's a question, you can ask me a little later on sometime in the message....?.....Listen. Your adoption is not your birth. Your adoption is your placing. When you were borned again, John 1:17, I believe, when we are borned of the Spirit of God, we are sons of God. But we were predestinated. Now here's what I'm trying to get you to, for this sons of the last day, you see, to see. We were predestinated to (unto) adoption.

Now, now here we are. Now, this is what hurts Pentecostal a little. They say, "I got borned again! Praise the Lord, got the Holy Ghost! Fine. You're a child of God. That's right. But yet that ain't what I'm talking about. See, you were predestinated unto adoption. Adoption, it's placing a son." (End quote)

"Placing a Son" is to put him in the spiritual position of complete and total righteousness, so that he is no longer under any condemnation. It's the place of spiritual power and authority; our name on the check is as good as Father's! He is as perfect as Father, Himself!

QUOTE: INNER VEIL, 1951, "God looking through the Blood, He doesn't see you no more as a sinner. He sees you redeemed. Amen. You're redeemed because He's always seen you through Christ. That's the reason we can be perfect. Not perfect in the sense of sinless, we're perfect in the eyes of God when we're in Christ. That's the reason He said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

Paul in the 10th chapter of Hebrews trying to explain the law having a shadow of good things to come, not the very image of the things. Could never make the comer unto perfect. Because God was looking through animal blood. But now he looks through the Blood of His Son. Perfection come by Jesus Christ.

Now, I'm not perfect in your sight. You may not be perfect in my sight, but what about in God's sight? There's where it lays. And if you're borned again into the body of Christ, then God looks upon you as perfect as Christ was Himself. Amen. Nothing you can do: it's not by any works you can do at all. It's by grace God has give you this offer, and if you've accepted it, in the sight of God you are perfect, redeemed, washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Without fault, without blemish, without spot. Isn't that marvelous?" (End quote)

This is the Prophet's explanation of Adoption. In this spiritual condition we can enter the Kingdom, because there is no unrighteousness in us. We have received "The Gift of Righteousness" as seen in Rom. 5:17.

Do you agree with this Word, that many have been made righteous (As many as can believe it?) But, then we will ask you, how righteous has God made us? (We understand that we will always have "The Law of Sin in our flesh (Rom: 7:23) that renders us unable to always keep God's Holy Law Standard, perfectly.) Even so, how righteous has God made us? Does He

not recall His own Word that says, "No degree of unrighteousness shall enter the Kingdom?" (I Cor. 6:9) Surely then, He had planned to make us perfectly righteous, and if "Perfectly Righteous" in God's eyes then there is no way to go beyond that point. That brings us to the very scriptural truth that He has made us as righteous as Himself! Do not think that we have been made Deity, so as to be worshipped! Not at all! We only worship the "One" who made us to be righteous! We are to "claim" His righteousness which is Perfect. If His righteousness is perfect, and we claim it for our own, by faith, then are we not as righteous as the One who offers the Gift? Surely! This is to be *adopted* through the great Gift of God.

In the matter of Divine Healing, it matters not how the love and mercy of God longs to heal us, no matter how He suffers with us when we are sick (the same as we earthly parents suffer when our child is suffering), no matter how sincere He is about His promise to heal us, it does us no good until we believe it! In the same way, His six hours of indescribable suffering on the Cross, in order to make way for His righteousness to be credited to us, it will do us no good until we believe it.

Our Father wants to have an adoption service for each of us. We are admonished to **"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you"** (Mat. 6:33) To be without His righteousness credited to us, as a Free Gift, is to be void of any righteousness at all. Isa. 64:6, **"But we are all** (and here the Prophet Isaiah included himself, *we are all*) **as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away."** It takes the Free Gift of Righteousness to bring us back!

Rom. 9:30-33, **"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which**

followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith; but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33. As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Israel could not keep all the Law, therefore they were not declared righteous by God. On the other hand, the Gentiles who believed that the Holy Blood of God had wiped out their every sin were declared righteous by God. He honored their faith in His Sacrifice! It is still the same today

Rom. 10:1-6, **"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**

2. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into Heaven? (That is, to bring Christ down from above.)

Paul prayed for Israel to be saved! They were ignorant of the truth that trusting in God's sacrificial Blood was their only hope of Eternal Life! They

supposed that keeping the Law could win God's approval. It was not God's Law that was flawed, but they themselves. They could not hold up its Perfect Standard. Still today, modern Pharisees are going about to establish their own righteousness!

Rom. 10:7-10, **"Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)**

8. But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved.

10. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

There is only one righteousness accepted by God. It is His own righteousness, imparted to those who understand they cannot earn it, and must, by faith, receive it as God's Free Gift! (Rom. 5:17)

Gal. 2:21, **"I do not frustrate the Grace of God; for if righteousness come by keeping the Law, then Christ is dead in vain."**

Will we frustrate God by not accepting His Free Gift of righteousness?

Eph. 6:14, **"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the Breastplate of righteousness."** Without it our sins are showing.

Gal. 3:6, **"Even as Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness."** Without faith in God's Plan to impute His righteousness to us, we will never be counted as righteous!

Phil. 3:9-15, **"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of**

Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Heb. 5:12-14, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not strong meat.

13. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...

To be unskillful in the Word of righteousness is failing to understand God's Plan about our righteousness, without which no man will ever be counted as righteous! Those in Church Natural, without the Holy Ghost Oil, are not understanding God's Message. The Message is, "I have made you to be righteous, even though you can never earn it, if you will only embrace my Plan. Abraham had a Revelation of

God's Plan, as seen in the following Scriptures.

Rom. 4:1-9, "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?"

2. For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3. For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7. Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness."

Our faith, even as Abraham's, is counted unto us as righteousness. But let it be said that without faith in God's Plan we are yet without righteousness! Which side of the fence are we on? God will have no fence-straddlers! Are you on the side of being as righteous as God, or do you suppose He has left you less than perfect?

QUOTE: INVISIBLE UNION, NOVEMBER 25-1965, "This is my message to the Church now as you...as we go off the air just in a minute. You are standing, if you are standing on God's Word and with God's Word.

Every amen, every jot, every tittle. Where are you standing? I am trying to tell you: Pull away from those shucks and get out here in the wheat where you can get ripe before the sun. I hear the coming of the combine. You are standing complete, justified like you never did it in the first place. Hallelujah! Talk about a Thanksgiving. I feel real good. I am more thankful for that than anything I know of. You are the pure, virtuous, sinless Bride of the Son of the Living God. Every man and woman that is born of the Spirit of God, washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ, and believes every Word of God, stands as though you never sinned in the first place. You are perfect. The blood of Jesus Christ." (End quote)

Paul taught that we have been chosen in Christ before the world was, to be Holy and without blame before Him in love. We were predestinated to be adopted. To be adopted is to be declared Holy and without blame before Him in Love. To be adopted is to be "accepted" in the Beloved for Eternity.

Eph. 1:4-7, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6. To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

To be adopted is to be brought to the place in our faith, where we accept our sinless state before God, as was made possible by the Blood of His Cross.

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