

DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACHING SERIES

All professing bride Christians will agree, in theory at least, that it is our duty to honor and glorify Christ before the world. But there is wide differences of opinion as to how we are to do this! Some think that to belong to a church that preaches God's end time message, take part in its various activities and support it financially is all God requires! Others suppose that honoring the Lord Jesus is to speak to others about Him and be engaged in personal work. Still others believe that if they are faithful to hold an office in a message church they have honored the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of these things are good, but few seem to realize that we honor Jesus, as He would have us to, **only** when our lives have been turned **completely** over to Him! The bride's duty in these last hours of time is to walk in subjection to His revealed will. We must make His word in 1 Sam. 15:22 our daily desire and plan. **"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."**

We are not where we should be at all until we have sought His will daily and are striving to obey it! Satan is deceiving some today by leading them to suppose that they are ready to be raptured while their **hearts** remain **unchanged and self** still rules in their lives. Ps. 119:155 **"Salva-**

Believing The Message

vs.

Living The Message

By C.W. Wood

August 2012

tion is far from the wicked, for they seek not Thy statutes." One of the surest ways to miss the rapture is to be found doing what our **flesh** wants to do, and refusing to do what we **know** we should do.

Do you sit in a message church and say "I know him," that is to say "I am born again," and don't walk in all the light He has given you? Then listen to 1st John 2:4 **"He that sayeth I know Him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."**

What could be plainer than that? **"And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"** (Lk. 6:46) Obedience to the Lord in our daily walk is the scriptural way to glorify Him.

James 1:22 **"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."** There are many hearers of the end time message, regular hearers, reverent hearers, and even interested hearers, but sad to say, what they hear is not always put to work in their lives.

And God says those that are not "doers" of the word de-

ceive themselves. One is made to wonder how many such there are in message churches today? They are perhaps not hypocrites, but are deluded! They suppose that because they are so clear on understanding the message that they are ready for the rapture! They suppose that because they listen to the sermons of a man who made the Bible a new book, that they are born again! Not so in every case!

We are only born again when we take that prophet's message into our hearts and strive to live daily by its teaching! Otherwise our increased knowledge will only increase our condemnation. Luke 12:47 **"And that servant which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes."** There are those who are ever learning more mysteries, but whose lives are still being lived according to what they want, or do not want to do! They live according to their own will.

They attend meeting after meeting, and take in sermon after sermon, and read message book after message book, yet

will not lay aside their own will and take up the will of the One they claim to love!

God has sent us his revealed word through the prophet William Branham not only to “teach” us, but also to “direct” our lives in the way we should go! To make known to us what He requires us to do! The Lord Jesus said, **“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”** (John 15:14)

The great, glorious and mysterious miracle of salvation is a transforming work of love in our heart and mind! Our understanding has had God’s light shined upon it; our wills have been changed from loving the world, and its sin, to loving God and wanting to please Him! In all of the Bible God only acknowledges those that love him, as the ones who keep His commandments. Love is more than emotion, it is also a principle and action toward the one loved! There will be deeds of love done toward the one loved. **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.”** (I John 5:3)

And so we see that obedience to God amounts to the heart seeing His Lordship, and His right to command, and seeing our duty, then doing it! The bride of Christ is called to engage in mortal combat with the flesh, the world and the devil. We use the word “mortal” because we will either get the victory over these three or they will destroy us!

If we are not living a victorious life over these three, then we are not yet ready for the rapture! I John 5:4 says, **“Whoever is born of God overcometh the world.”** Nothing but a God-given faith that comes by the new birth can overcome the world. This faith will cause the heart to be occupied with eternal things, and we will be delivered from the influence of those things that are of the world, the flesh and the devil!

The eyes of faith see the things of the world in their true color, and understand that they are empty and vain, not worthy to be compared with the great and glorious things that wait beyond the curtain of time that the prophet told us about. When we can say, **“There is none on the earth that I desire beside Thee,”** then we are ready for the rapture.

I pray you can see that our concern is to get the message believers ready for the rapture. How is it with you, as you have read this far in the sermon? Do the things of this world still charm you and get you excited? Take away from the unregenerate the things of the world that He loves and He is miserable and wretched. The born again man’s joy and satisfaction come from spiritual things that can never be taken from him!

We pray that you will not treat these questions lightly. The honest answer will give you an insight to the true condition of your soul. It will in-

dicate whether or not you are deceived by thinking you are ready for the rapture. Don’t forget friends, thousands times thousands that think they will go up in the first resurrection will not go!

QUOTE: IT IS THE RISING OF THE SUN, PAGE 6, “Satan doesn’t care how religious you are, or HOW RIGHT YOU ARE IN YOUR DOCTRINE; IF YOU MISS THAT LIFE YOU WON’T COME UP ANYWAY. No matter how religious, how good, how many churches you’ve belonged to. IT DOESN’T MATTER ONE THING (doesn’t help) UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN. (End quote)

And so, we must be duly warned that there is a SYSTEM OF RELIGION even in our Message churches that is geared to suit those who have seen a Prophet, but who have not submitted to His Christ and received the Holy Ghost. As I listen to God-called ministers in our Message, I hear a great concern in their sermons and sense anxiousness in them for their congregations. They know that a man is either “DEAD OR ALIVE” as far as the Rapture is concerned. There are no “white black-birds” and no “drunk, sober men.” They fear lest any of their people die unchanged in their Soul (nature) or that the Rapture catch them so.

The spiritual change from death to life is the greatest of all changes, and nothing short of

this will avail to get us in the Rapture. To entice people to change their doctrine and come into the Message is not enough. To believe the Serpents Seed, One God instead of three, baptism in Jesus Name, to see the sin of denominationalism, and to accept Brother Branham as the Prophet of Mal. 4:5 is well and good, but that is not proof that we are Born Again.

QUOTE: IT IS THE RISING OF THE SUN, PAGE 12, "I'm afraid today that too many of us are not getting people to Christ. We're getting them to a church, to a theory (getting them to change their doctrine) but we must get them to Christ. He is the ONLY ONE, and the only One who has LIFE." (End quote)

It is not just a change of doctrine that we need, not just a little patching up and turning over a new leaf, not just a new set of church rules to abide by, but the planting of a NEW NATURE within us. It is the creation of a NEW BEING inside of us. The natural birth is no more necessary to the life of the body than is the spiritual birth to the life of the soul. Many will not like this message. They would make the door wider, or climb up some other way, but the Lord Jesus who gives the New Birth, is the only way.

We may take up new doctrine and a set of Holiness Church rules, and lay aside some of our most obvious sins, but we cannot change our own hearts. The

Ethiopian cannot change his skin, or the leopard his spots, neither can we put life into our old wine skins! This sermon is not to condemn one single Message Believer, but to let us check ourselves to be sure we have the LIFE along with the correct DOCTRINE. If there is one who is in doubt concerning this Holy Ghost baptism, let him at once flee to the "Fountain of Living Waters" the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall receive. Do not suppose that you are shut off from mercy, but ask Him (Luke 11:15) "**Do not rest from your prayers until God has satisfied you, he will give you to drink. Cry mightily unto Him and He will quicken you and make you alive.**" Remember there are only two classes of people, as far as the rapture is concerned, those who are DEAD in their old nature, and those who have been made alive by the New Birth.

This Prophet, William Branham, who lived under that Spirit of Love, looked with his Eagle eye and saw the very grave danger that his followers were faced with. He saw that there were actually two groups in his church: One with the doctrine AND THE LIFE, and the other with ONLY THE DOCTRINE. We can know that he prayed earnestly about this situation, and the Lord gave him a modern day parable that I would like to bring to your attention.

QUOTE: IT IS THE RISING OF THE SUN, PAGE 16-17,

"But, now for instance, what if we were going to go back to Tucson this afternoon, and each one of us had a . . . was going to go in a big Cadillac, brand new, and all the seats were made out of doe skin . . . and the floorboards were plush, the steering wheel nickel plated and had diamond studs all over it and the engine was mechanically tested to be exactly the right engine, and the wheels all had bearings and greased up, and the tires were all puncture proof and blow-out free, all been tested scientifically. They had been pushed off the assembly line, both of them, and both of them filled up with gasoline. That's the running power, the gasoline, because in it is the octane. But, now when you're going to start them, although BOTH OF THEM LOOK JUST ALIKE, but there's one of them don't have any spark, any firing power."

CONTINUING QUOTE: "Well, you say the power is in the gasoline Brother Branham. But, I don't care how much power is in the gasoline, unless there's a spark there to manifest that power, unless there's a power there to confirm that that's gasoline, it just might as well be water. No matter how much theologians claim, how well you got your church set, how much education you got, how much like the Bible (you are), until that sheaf wave, until the Holy Ghost comes upon that person to quicken that word

(the gasoline represents the Word, It's the truth) but without the Spirit, it won't move."

PAGE 17, "It might be in a gasoline can; it could still be water! (End quote)

What a unique way to show the difference between the two groups in the Church. So many have their gas tanks full of gasoline (Word). The perfect Word has come, and many of us have memorized it. Sitting side by side, the two cars (groups) look exactly alike, obeying the dress code, quoting the same scriptures and statements of the Prophet, and even having forsaken much of the world in order to be received by a Message Church. Yet, there is no real life, no spark, no Holy Ghost, only a religious form that breaks down under pressure. The word they have is true, but it takes the spark to make it real to the heart, so we can live it.

It is written, **"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."** (I John 2:15) Surely the differences in the character and conduct, the desires and the pursuits of the

saved will let us know them from the unregenerate who still seek the things of the world. By their fruits we shall know them.

The Holy name of Jesus Christ is taken upon the lips of thousands who have never taken His yoke upon them. Speaking about them God says **"This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me."** (Matt. 15:8)

People, the red light is flashing, the countdown is over, we have come to the end of the Laodicean church age, it is midnight to the religious church world, but the evening light has come to the bride! No doubt you are aware of the most recent accomplishment of science, in that they have landed a vehicle on Mars! That happened over 350 million miles out into space! How did they do it?

Only God knows, but we know He allowed it for one more sign to His lovely bride, that our trip to the wedding supper is about to take place. You

might want to read the prophet's message on "Count Down" again! In it He shows that God always shows a sign in the heavens concerning what He is about to do in His true church.

The end of this church age is upon us, man has been on the earth for about 6,000 years. An age of peace is coming soon, but first God is going to shake this world! It is clear that all the things taking place now are no accident. It is all for a purpose. God has not been caught off guard! Unfortunately, it takes hard times to make most of us give serious thought to God. Get ready true church, He is coming very soon. Amen.

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