

Adoption #3

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William Marrion Branham

"... in the days of the voice ..." Rev. 10:7

Introduction

The remarkable ministry of William Branham was the response of the Holy Spirit to the prophecies of the Scriptures in Malachi 4:5,6, Luke 17:30, and Revelations 10:7, and many other Bible prophecies. This worldwide ministry has been a continuation of the working of God by His Spirit at this End time. It is in the Scriptures that it is spoken that it would be necessary for a ministry to arise to prepare a people for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We pray that the printed Word will become written in your heart as you prayerfully read this message.

While every effort has been made to provide an accurate unabridged transcription and/or translation, the English audio files are the best representation of the sermons spoken by William Branham.

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Adoption #3

1 ...Brother Neville. Good morning, class. We're very happy to be back again to greet you again in that all-sufficient name of the Lord Jesus, trusting that you've had a great week of his praises and blessings.

Just coming in this morning I met a little boy there, and he gave me a little plaque of the guarding angel watching over two little children. And I didn't know that that was the Daulton ... little Daulton boy.

2 And here a few weeks ago, or a few ... about two weeks ago, there was a father, Christian father, asked for his teenage daughter that was not yet a Christian. Or, he was standing in the prayer line, and the Holy Spirit said, "I give you your child." And here she is this morning, saved and baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, sitting on the platform, just as the Holy Spirit said. And the other children are all sitting around. I know the Daulton family's happy.

3 See the little lady there that they had prayer for the baby last Sunday, thought was going to die. I see it's still with us this morning, and we're so happy for that, sister. They thought it had muscular dystrophy, and it didn't have it. So we are very thankful.

4 See all of our good friends. I remember this man here coming to me in a special interview at Chatauqua one time, I believe it was. I had breakfast with you and your wife and children, I believe, or you and your wife, or children, yes, too. Middletown, where we all.... I forget that name, so I just call it Chatauqua. Yes, sir.

Many of my good friends.... Brother Charlie Cox and Sister Nellie over here, who's been a second home to me, and nothing but ... it could be my own children. I go down there ... it's where I spend most of my time of relaxing, is down there. He's the best squirrel hunter in Kentucky when I'm in Indiana. And so Indiana.... And Charlie, I'm telling you, I'm just longing, feeling awful much like I ought to catch a few of them crappies or striped bass before I start up in there. I really feel like I could stand it lots.

5 Brother Parnell ... Arnett, from South Carolina, and Brother.... Well, just so many different ones here from different places, that come in this morning to visit with us.

You know, we don't have any regular membership here. We just have fellowship one with the other, while the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

6 Now, we are having a wonderful study, just glorious. And we are ... at least I know I'm enjoying it, and I know all you are enjoying it too. I get

started sometimes through the day to speak about it or read about it, I get about two verses, and I get started through the Scriptures and the first thing you know, I've done been from Genesis to Revelation, still going.

And, you know, I'd like to take a time where we could get on the book of Hebrews, and take just like.... Well, when squirrel season comes in, like Septem... about August, you know, and go on through until time to go overseas, just each night on the book of Hebrews, or the book of Exodus. How God, Exodus, bringing out his people out of Egypt, an exodus—very beautiful type of us now getting ready for our exodus. It's ... oh, it's such a beautiful thing. The whole Scripture just ties together, and it's one big story.

7 Now, this morning we're still in the book of.... We was going to take the first three chapters of the book of Ephesians—Paul's letter to the Ephesians at Ephesus, trying ... positionally placing the church. And just before we approach it, could we just spare another moment or two for prayer, just before we do.

8 O Lord, our God, we are coming into thy presence now, as unworthy as we are; yet we know that there is a blood sacrifice there waiting, cleansing us from all uncleanness, and presenting us before the Father, blameless, faultless. Not nothing that we could ever do to merit this, but because that Jesus has done this for us, we bow humbly to his presence and his name, asking that You'll send the Holy Spirit this morning in our midst. And as not being a theologian or knowing how to set scripture in order, but just enthused and grateful to the feeling of the Holy Spirit as it moves through my being, may it bless all of us together as we read thy written Word, that it might become to us life eternal. Grant it, Father. We ask it in Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake. Amen.

9 Now I might say in here, first, that if any time that I might say something that would be disagreeable—not setting just right, maybe absolutely wrong to your teaching, or something that you could not agree with—I'm trusting the Holy Spirit, that He'll make it so seasoned and so sweet until there'll be no offense at all, see; that it'll be through love and fellowship, that that's what ... it's meant that way.

And this all began with a sermon last Sunday (I believe it was last Sunday morning) as "The Rejected King." Has anybody got the tape yet? I think they've got them, and you can have them if you wish them—"The Rejected King."

10 Now just a few days and we'll be beginning up at Middletown, Ohio. We want all that has their vacation stationed for that time to be sure to meet with us there, because we're expecting a great time of fellowship at Middletown, Ohio. Dr. Sullivan is the chairman, I think, of the committee.

And there'll be five nights of it. I'll be preaching as the guest speaker at the International Convention of the Interdenominational Church; and then after that will be our own meeting, from then on. We have got it staged till the twelfth, but under the understanding that we may go on through even another week after that. Just depends on how the Holy Spirit leads. We all want to be led by the Spirit. Just what the Spirit says do, then do it quickly.

11 And let's remember while we're obeying the Spirit, one great lesson that we want to learn, is never be hastily. See, take your time, have faith. If we have asked God anything, remember, God answers prayer. He does it in his time, the way it's best, makes it work just right for us. And if that isn't so, then what are we doing here this morning? What are we claiming Christianity for? If this isn't the Word of God, then it isn't true, then we are found among people most miserable.

I am so glad to join hearts with many here that know that this is the infallible Word of God. Then it is every word the truth, every word of it, every phase of it. And with the grace of God, have been privileged to view the land to which someday we shall travel.

12 Yesterday.... People don't know what depressing times comes with this type of ministry. I got real depressed, and I said to the wife, "I wish I could just go on."

She said, "Why do you say that, Bill?"

I said, "Oh, here I have troubles and things."

And then seemed like the Holy Spirit said, "Are you trying to bypass them? Are you trying to dodge them?" See?

"No," I said, "just let me stand right up in the face of all of it and face it out. See, just...." See?

It's so much better. Honestly, truly, I say this by eyewitness, that just after this life is over, we enter a land that's beyond anything that anyone could think. And if there be any strangers here, I trust that you do not.... I pray to God that you do not consider me a fanatic. I want, if anything ... is to be honest and to tell the truth. And what good would it do me to tell something that was wrong when there's so much that's here that's truth? Why do we have to tell anything wrong about it? See? It's just truth.

13 And no wonder.... I believe Paul was caught up into the third heaven, and he saw things that it wasn't expedient for him to speak of. And one day he said, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, or has it either entered the heart of man, what God has for them in store that love Him."

Oh, we're just living ... we're living in a dump pile down here, that's all. Just a rubbish heap full of smoldering smoke from filth. Even if we are not contaminated with it ourselves, we are living in it, where the smoke is coming from smoking embers of sin. One of the most sickening things I can think of is an old city dump a-burning. Was you ever near one? That horrible, contaminated smell of smoke coming up through all kinds of filth—and you get a breath of it, and it just turns you around.

14 I remember having to go down to New Albany, down on the ... below 18th Street, there where the old dump used to be. And I'd have to collect down in there and read meters. And I just dreaded the day when—that was Route 18—when I had to take that down in there, because it was ... to smell that horrible smell. Yet, laying out on there was bodies of rats and dogs and everything, you know, that was smoldering, and that old smoke coming up through it.

Now, yet that is what this life is compared to, at its best. Just a smoldering ... sin just smells from everywhere, as it was, spiritually speaking. But, oh, where the wind is blowing free, and everything is lovely, and peace and joy and eternal life, just across the river! But we're in a battle, so let's not just lay down and say, "Let's hurry up and get over there." Let's bring every one with us that we can bring. Yes.

15 And now the purpose of these lessons is to anchor those that have already come across the land. The purpose of this study in this book of Ephesians is to positionally place the church where it absolutely stands in Christ. It is a type of the Old Testament in the book of Joshua, where Joshua allotted (last Sunday we had it), where Joshua allotted the land to each man; and he done it by inspiration.

How Moses brought the people out of Egypt (the garlic, leek) out; and gave them a place to where God had promised four hundred years later ... or, four hundred years before, that He would bring them into a place, a goodly land flowing with milk and honey. And Moses led the children of Israel right up to the land, but did not take them over.

And Jesus, to the spiritual, to the people, that we would ... been promised the Holy Spirit since the beginning, Jesus led us up to the promise. But the Holy Spirit came, as Joshua, to take over, and lead and direct, and to possess the land, or possess the church. We find out, basically then, that in our....

16 Now here's where, maybe, people might think that I am rude and trying to disregard brethren. I am not! God be my judge, I am not, see. I'm only trying to point out something that is the truth, see. We have chosen leaders of men, instead of leadings of the Holy Spirit. We have wanted men to allot out our part and to lead us; denominations like

me, said, "Now I know it is." He said, "These American people don't even know what...." Said, "They don't even know nothing." Said, "They're trying to take an Eastern book and make a Western book out of it. They don't even know their Bible." He said, "There's no other name given under heaven, no other name; for everybody was ever baptized ... in the name of Jesus Christ. There's no such a thing as three persons in one God." And that is Brother Lamsa, Dr. Lamsa, the translator of the Lamsa Bible, which is a bosom friend to Eisenhower and all the great diplomats of the world, and everything else. Threw his arms around me, said, "Someday they'll shoot you for that. But," said, "remember, all those people die for a cause."

116 I'd like to be like when old Peter was sitting in the prison. There was a little old boy in there and he was all nervous. And he said, "Oh, what's the matter?"

Said, "You know you're going to be executed?"

Peter said, "Yep."

He said, "Well, you're fixing to die today."

He said, "Yep."

He said, "Well, aren't you afraid?"

He said, "Nope."

He said, "You must be one of them they call the Christians."

He said, "Yep."

Said, "What happened?"

And he told him. He sat down and told him the story. And as it went on, come down, he said, "And I could have been free this morning. I could have went and joined some of their denominations and just lived on, see. I could have been free. But I started out the gate of the city, and I seen One coming, walking in. I knowed who He was. I said, 'Lord, where You going?' He said, 'I'm going back to be crucified again.'" Said, "I come right on back."

Just then they said, "Whose name is Simon Peter?"

Said, "Here I am." [Tape ends here.]

the foundation of the world is to be made known. This is the hour. Sure.

112 Remember, there was never a person in the Bible ever baptized in the name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost. For three hundred years after the death of the last apostle, there was no one ever baptized in the name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost. I've read both "Pre-Nicene Fathers," "The Nicene Council." And from there they've organized what they call the Christian universal church, and made an organization out of it and forced all people to it, which is the Catholic church. The very word catholic means "universal," a universal Christian church, world-wide, one church to cover the world in its Christianity.

They forced people to it. In there they adopted ... they've taken down Venus and put up Mary. They've taken down Paul ... Jupiter, and put up Paul. It's still pagan. That's right. The Catholic church come out of there, and after five hundred years....

113 They got a play going on in Louisville now of Ben Hur. They had the Ten Commandments not long ago. I wish they'd ever take one of the ... if they could, of the fifteen hundred years of Dark Ages. I wish they'd put that on. Fifteen hundred years of pagan persecution, when they forced everybody and killed them, murdered them, strung them up. Put an ox on one and an ox on the other hand, make them either kiss the crucifix or start one this way or that way. I've put my hand, right in Switzerland, behind the posts where they stood there and cut their tongues out and called them witches and everything else. That's exactly right. Right!

114 And that same spirit exists today. It's just the law that holds it down. Wait till it gets its freedom. The Bible said so. Just wait till it shows its colors, it gets a chance to. You might vote it in pretty soon, for all I know, see. It will, it'll come. There's no way of keeping it out. It's got to come. That's right. It's got to come. It's coming. So when it does, you just watch. But, brother, you want to know this one thing: I know who I have believed. Amen. Marching right on, see. That's it.

115 There's the time when the writer ... when I told the writer of the Lamsa Bible, when he looked and seen that ancient sign of God, just exactly, that exactly, three little dots in it, I said, "What's those?"

He said, "That's God in three attributes."

I said, "Such as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?"

He looked at me. He said, "Do you believe that?"

And I said, "Yes, sir."

He said, "I seen that discernment the other night. I thought you was a prophet of the Lord." Said, "God bless your heart." Put his arm around

Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of Christ, Pentecostal, and different denominations, to set an organization as an example, and we follow that. But we are....

Nowhere in the Bible are we to do such as that. There isn't one text of Scripture in all of God's Bible where He ever organized a church, or where He ever spoke of an organization. Not one place in the Bible—but always contrary to it. He doesn't want us to be fashioned like the things of the world. He wants us peculiar, set aside.

I don't mean now to be silly, as we call it. I mean to be a called-out people, oh, a blessed holy nation, living lives that's above reproach, acting ... behaving ourselves just like He would, working in us, for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

17 Now, Wednesday night.... Many of you wasn't here Wednesday night, but we got into the ... I believe it's the third verse, or the.... No, it's the fifth verse: "...unto the adoption...." or placing of the people.

How that God, trying to place his people.... And when God places one, then all the whole church wants to be like that one, have the same kind of things, do the same things. We are cut out different. We're made different, we are natured different, and we are positionally placed different—each one for a different work. Maybe one for just a little kind of a work; another for a large work. I believe it was David or one of the prophets, I forget now, said, "I would rather be a doormat at the house of the Lord, than to dwell in the tents with the wicked."

18 Now we're going to stop just a second on the adoption, the fifth verse, trying to get down as far as we possibly can on it. But now remember the theme, it is altogether on placing. How many understands that? Let's hear you say it with one word [Congregation repeats after Brother Branham.]: placing the body of Jesus Christ positionally in Christ where the Holy Spirit is leading us. There you are, now we got it, see. Positionally placing us—the book of Ephesus is to do that.

19 And watch this master teacher, Paul. The first thing he does is knock out all the idea of falling away, knock out all the idea of ever "being a Christian today and tomorrow I'm gone, and the next day God's condemned me and the next day I'm back again." That's nonsense! Now this is ... this book is not addressed to evangelistic teaching, evangelists' sermons. I don't touch this on the fields. I bring this to the church, for Paul addressed it to the saints: those that are called, and preserved, and are filled, and are set aside, and are in the Holy Spirit, already in Canaan's land. He's trying to tell them, the first thing, get it out of your mind that you're going to get lost and you're going to do this, and you're scared of this. Don't be scared of nothing, for he's trying to tell you where you're at,

who you are, how you're standing.

20 Now, you might do things wrong, and every time you do anything wrong you are going to get paid for it. Yes, sir, you'll reap what you sow! But that has not one thing to do with your salvation. When you are born of the Spirit of God, you've got eternal life and can no more die than God can die. You're a part of God, you're a son of God.

I was born a Branham. You might make me some other name. Some other name won't make me one less—I'm still Branham. I was born Branham, always will be Branham. I may be so disfigured some day, drawed with arthritis, or have a wreck and all tore up till I look like an animal, but I'll still be Branham. Why? Branham blood is inside.

21 That's what you are. And as long as God has made you.... Now remember, I'm not talking to those outside of Christ; I'm talking to those that are in Christ. How do you get in Christ? By one Spirit. Capital S-p-i-r... which means "By one Holy Spirit we are all baptized into one body." How do we get in? By water baptism? How disagreeable I am with you Baptists and you Church of Christ. Not by water baptism, by no means! I Corinthians 12 said by one Spirit (Holy Spirit) are we brought into that body, and are just as safe as that body's safe. God promised it.

22 How could God judge Him again, when He went to Calvary? Going up Golgotha, He was beaten, bruised. He could not heal, He could not even speak a word hardly. Because why? He had the sins of the world on Him. Not because that He was a sinner, but He was made sin for me and for you. All the sins of the world from Adam until his coming rest upon his shoulder. And God was not punishing his Son. He was punishing sin. See how horrible it was? He was making a propitiation. He was making a way of escape for all those that God by his foreknowledge knowed would come. We're going to get into that in a few minutes.

23 Now then when you're.... By one Spirit we are baptized into that body—one body, which is Christ—and we are safe forever.

Now, there is where it seems to strangely strike, especially the Arminian believers, that they all have to do something that to merit theirself, or some meritorial something. How can it be by two things at the same time? It's either by grace or by works, one. It can't be by the same thing ... it's ... by two different things; it's got to be by the one.

24 I just can't see nothing else but the grace of God. That's my makeup. I always did believe in grace. I'm just grace all over, that's all. It isn't.... Even in my life, when I was a boy, I couldn't see nothing, just grace, grace. They said, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." That's an awful expression. But I don't care whether you scratch mine or not, if

God only had one name, and his name is Jesus. That was his Son. He took the name of his Son. God ... now, Jesus, the body was a man. We know that. That was the Son of God that was overshadowed. Now we do not believe in the oneness type, the people that says God's like your finger. We believe there's three attributes of God. Three attributes of God, God manifested in. But there's one God, see. That's right. We do not believe.... We believe in the.... Let me make it like this, we believe that God lived in three offices. He had an office on earth one time.

109 (Now, you women go to this side, and you men go to this side, that's getting ready. And they're getting ready for baptismal service now.)

110 And, now, God had three offices. One of them was called the Fatherhood, or the Father dispensation; the other one was called the Sonship; and the other one was called Holy Ghost. Now, today, what dispensation is Father working in today? [Congregation says "Holy Ghost."] Holy Ghost. What was He in the days gone by? ["Jesus."] Jesus. What was He in the days before that? ["Father."] But it was just one God. Is that right? He's Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Those three, those three offices of one God. One God.

But now, Father is not a name. Is that right? I want to ask you. Now I want to give you Matthew 28:19, where Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, teach all nations, baptize them in the name [n-a-m-e], name of the Father...."

111 Now I want to see how well you know your Scripture. Tell me when I get off the line. And He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned. These signs shall follow them that believe. In my name they shall cast out devils [Is that all true?], speak with new tongues, take up serpents." Now I'm going to quote to you, Matthew....

Now listen. I ask any historian. Now this is on tape, so this goes to all the world. I ask any historian to come to me and bring me any text of Scripture, any text of ... not Scripture, any text of Scripture or any history, any verse of history that ever showed that any Protestant, that anybody, ever baptized in the name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost until the Catholic church ordained it in the Nicene Council. Now that's on tapes that goes across the world. Thirty-seven different languages they're translated in. I'll pay your way across the ocean. That's right.

"Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" is a false, bogus, Catholic dogma, and not a Christian baptism. Right. Luther brought it from the Catholic church, with catechism. Wesley adopted and it come on. But this is the day of the manifestation of the sons of God, when the mysteries that's been hid since

And Jesus said, "And they're every one dead. [Dead means "eternal separation."] They're every one dead. But I say unto you, that I am the bread of life that come from God out of heaven. A man eats this bread of the Spirit, he's got eternal life and he can't perish. And I'll raise him up in the last day." Oh, brother, isn't He wonderful?

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful, wonderful?

Isn't Jesus our Lord wonderful?

Eyes have seen, ears have heard, what's recorded in God's Word;

Isn't Jesus our Lord wonderful?

106 Is that right? We see his discerning Spirit going through our midst. We see Him performing miracles and signs and wonders. We hear it written right out of the Word here, and see it confirmed right out there. Oh, my!

Eyes have seen, ears have heard, what's recorded in God's Word;

Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

107 In another two minutes, or three, there'll be a water baptismal service rendered here. And those who are going to be baptized, let the women go over here, and the men over on this side. And now the men to my left, over here on this side. And the women over here. There'll be sisters in there with clothes ready. And if any man or any woman here this morning that's convinced that you believe in the Word of God, and you believe that God keeps his promise, that if a man will thoroughly repent of all of his sins....

Now, the blood hasn't done a thing yet. No, it's just your faith in God. And God's calling, just "whwww, whwww, whwww," calling you. That's what's doing it now. "Whwww, whwww." "I've never been baptized." "Whwww, whwww." "Well, if I could just start and do different." "Whwww." That's the thing—start. Then you do different after you make your start, see. You got to turn around, get started, see.

You say, "Well, I never seen it just like that."

108 Well, brother dear, I want you to show me one scripture where any man ... I've offered this for thirty-one years of ministry around the world, before bishops and so forth, where one person, one person, was ever baptized any other way but in the name of Jesus Christ. And everyone that wasn't baptized in Jesus' name had to come and be baptized over again in the name.

yours needs scratching, I'll scratch it anyhow. See? Grace. Yes, sir. Grace works by love. If you need it (regardless if you never done nothing for me, that don't have one thing to do with it), if you need it, I'll do it anyhow. Grace, because that you need it.

25 I needed saving. There was nothing could save me. There was nothing I could do about myself. I could no more save myself than nothing. But I needed saving, because I believed in a God. And God sent his Son, made in the likeness of sinful flesh, to suffer in my place, and I was saved. By grace alone was I saved. Not one thing could I do, or you do, to save yourself. And those who He foreknew before the foundation of the world....

26 We've been into it. Last Wednesday we pictured God in his Elah, Elohim, and showed that He was self-existent. But inside of Him was fatherhood, inside of Him was different merits, such as a saviour, such as a healer. That was all in God, and God was self-existent. But being that He was a saviour, He was a father.... He didn't have an angel, He didn't have nothing. There wasn't nothing but Himself. He was self-existent. Nothing else existed but God.

But being that He was God, then there must be something to worship Him, because He loved worship. And his own being created creatures to worship Him. (Now, temporarily, let's hit it again. Temporarily now—we won't go through the whole thing, but you'll get it on the tapes.) But then because that He was God, He made angels, and angels worshipped Him. Angels still worship Him. Why, the angels that stand in the presence of God have six sets of wings ... six wings. They carry two over their face, two over their feet, and fly with two, in his presence, crying day and night, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." That's what the Scripture says. They worshipped Him. Now that created something to worship Him.

27 Then inside of Him was an attribute of saviour. How could one of those creatures, when there was no sin or no thoughts of sin, how could one of them be lost? It couldn't be. So there had to be something made that could be lost, so that He could be a saviour. Inside of Him was a healer. Do you believe He's a saviour? Do you believe He's a healer? Well, what if there wasn't nothing to save or heal? See, there had to be something made that way.

So now, He never made it that way, but He put man on free moral agency: "If you take this you live; if you take that you die." And every man that comes into the world is still set with the same thing. God, by his foreknowledge, knew who would and who would not. If God being....

28 The question was asked yesterday by a theologian, to me, that's been attending the meetings or hearing the tapes. Said, "One question." He

said, "Then is God omnipresent?" Then he said, "He can be everywhere?"

I said, "He is not omnipresent in the way that the word speaks omnipresent. He cannot be a being and then be an ... omnipresent. If He's omnipresent, why would you pray for the Holy Spirit? If He's omnipresent, He fills every crack, corner, crevice, every cell, fiber, everything else there is." I said, "Why did He hunt for Moses, if He's omnipresent, at the end? Why did He run up and down the garden of Eden, crying, 'Adam, Adam, where art thou?' if He's omnipresent?"

He's omnipresent because He's omniscient. He knows everything because He's infinite. Being infinite makes Him omnipresent. Being omnipresent, then, being infinite, then.... He sits in the heavens, He abides in a place because He is a being.

29 By being infinite, then He knows all things: knowing every time a gnat bats its eye; know every bumblebee, where he goes into the comb to get his honey; He knows every sparrow that sits in the tree; He knows every thought that's in your mind, because He is infinite and omniscient. That is, He ... not only is He infinite, He's omniscient, He knows everything. But He is a being. God is a being, and out of this being begin to bring forth these.

30 And sin, I said the other night, sin is not a creation. There is nothing created but perfection. God created all things good. Sin is not a creation. Said, "Well, that's the very creation of sin." You've heard that. But that's an error. Sin ... there's only one creator, that's God. God could not create sin, because He's holy and there's nothing in Him to make it. Sin is perversion. Not creation, but it's perversion. An adultery is a righteous act perverted. A lie is the truth told wrong. Any sin, any sin is righteousness perverted.

31 Therefore now, God sits.... He's already manifested Himself, He's God. He's already manifested Himself as a saviour. Man was lost and He saved him. He's already manifested Himself as a healer. Don't make any difference what people say He isn't; He is, anyhow, just the same. He's a healer, He's a saviour, He's God, He's eternal. And He has a purpose. And his purpose was in the beginning to make creatures that would love Him and worship Him.

And He made creatures, and creatures fell. And then God, by his infinity, looked down through the stream of time and saw every man that would be saved. Every man. He knew it by foreknowledge. Therefore if He, by foreknowledge, knew who would be saved and who would not be saved, He could predestinate. So the word is not such a bad word after all, is it? He could predestinate, because He knew who would and who would not. Therefore, in order to catch those who would, He had to make a

And you know what happens? He said it's impossible for them to ever enter in. They have sinned away their day of grace. The Bible said so. I know that's rough, but the Bible said, "Have tasted the heavenly gifts, and counted the blood of the covenant wherewith...."

103 They say, "I believe in sanctification, a good, clean, holy life."

Sure, but when you seen the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and the baptism and all these other things in the Bible, and you have done what? You've counted the blood of the covenant wherewith you were sanctified an unholy thing. What in the world brought you up there, man? What kept you from being a low-down sinner? What took sin out of your life, and smoking and drinking, and women and things out of your life that shouldn't been there? What did that? The blood of the covenant! Then you come up close enough to taste the grapes from the other land, and ashamed of the gospel? Afraid of your denomination? God have mercy! Yes, sir. "Counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and done despite to the works of grace. It's impossible for him to ever enter into the land."

104 What happened? I ask you. Now, I'm a typologist, and any man that knows the Bible is a typologist. Did one of those men ever hit that promised land? Not one of them. Who done it, who went over there? Those who went first, come back and said, "We can take it."

"We can have the Holy Ghost because God said so! Peter said on the day of Pentecost, if I'd repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, I should receive the Holy Ghost, for the promise is to me. I'm willing to do it. Mine, the promise is mine." You get it? "Now the promise is mine. I receive it. It's mine!" Sure it is. They was the only ones.

"Oh," you say, "but, Brother Branham, in the resurrection...." They won't be there. "Oh, they won't?" No, sir. Jesus said....

105 They said, "And you're making yourself as great as Moses, and you said you was ... you saw Abraham." And said, "And Abraham's been dead ... why, you're not over fifty years old, and you say you saw Abraham?"

He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Oh, my! The I AM, ever-present, eternal God. Not yesterday, not tomorrow; I AM, see. Ever-present God, the Elohim, I AM. Then they took up ... they was going to kill Him then.

They said, "Well, our fathers ate manna in the wilderness for forty years. God rained bread right down out of heaven and fed them. They went to church and they were good church members for forty years. ["My old mama died right in this church," and everything like that.] Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness for forty years."

promised land?], and unto your children and to them that's far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Don't let this hurt (closing), please don't, see. There you Pilgrim Holiness and Nazarenes, you come right into sanctification, walked right up here to the spot to where you even could see the grapes, and then turned and went back. See what's happened? That's what's the matter. You never walked over into the land. Show me one Nazarene or Pilgrim Holiness, or any of them, on the grounds today, having great healing campaigns and signs and wonders done. Show me one. You've settled down with Egypt, went back to the garlic pot. You stopped at Kadesh-barnea. That's right.

101 Watch, let me give you a spot in Hebrews, the sixth chapter. "For it is impossible for those which were once enlightened [You know better. If you don't, you know it now, see.], and was made partakers, and have tasted the heavenly gifts...."

Tasted, see. People go to church, and sit around and say, "You know, they could be right. That could be right. Could be, just the same, but I tell you, boy, it takes a lot of faith to do that."

"Tasted the heavenly gifts, and has counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing ... which you was sanctified."

Like a preacher. His mother sends him away. He says, "I got a calling to be a servant of the Lord."

"All right. The first thing I have to do is wash over a board, honey. I'm going to sent you away to some school." The worst thing she ever done. That's right. They'll take all out of him that God's trying to put in him.

102 Then.... Now watch.

"For if we sin willfully, willfully sin after we have received the knowledge of the truth...." The knowledge—see it in the Scripture and know that the Bible says He's the same yesterday, today, and forever—see that it's the knowledge of the truth. To see that, we turn away, and count the blood of the covenant....

A man say, "Oh, yes, I believe in God." All right, you make the first step.

"Sure, I believe in sanctification." All right, you're on the borderline, right up here ready to receive the Holy Ghost. But you look over and say, "I don't know about that. If I'd have to act like.... I don't know. You know what they call them people? Uh-huh, I don't know whether I could do that or not. No, I believe I'll just go over and join ties," see.

propitiation for their sins. (Oh, if we can, we want to get to it, just a few verses below.) He predestinated us to eternal life, knowing that those who would lay aside everything.... And no matter how indifferent it would look towards the children of the world, it wouldn't mean one thing to them, because they were children of God.

32 And He called them.

And He sent Jesus, that his blood might be an atonement, blood atonement, to make a propitiation, or an acceptance, or a cleansing. A cleansing process to constantly.... Not just one time at one revival, but ever living, making intercessions, that the Christian is kept clean day and night. There is the blood of Jesus Christ that makes an acceptance on the cross there, in the presence of God, that cleanses us constantly, day and night, from all sin. And we are safely tucked in. Tucked in how? By the Holy Spirit, into the body of the Lord Jesus, and safe. "He that heareth my words and believeth on Him that sent me, has everlasting life and shall never come into the judgment, but has passed from death unto life." No more judgment! The Christian never goes to the judgment. Christ went for him. My attorney stood in my place. He pleaded my case, that I was ignorant. He told the Father that I wasn't worthy, that I was ignorant. But He loved me and He took my place, and pleaded my case, and today I'm free! Yes, sir. And He shed his blood, to offer there for our sins.

33 Remember last Wednesday night, no Christian.... Christians sin, but a sinner cannot sin. A sinner doesn't sin, because he's a sinner. He's just a sinner to begin with, and that's all. Here, take the back of this book. It's black. How much of that is black? It's all black. There's just no white to it, it's black. You say, "This much here." No, it isn't, the whole thing's black. It's just all black. That's the way a sinner is. He's just condemned to start with. Well, you say, "What about if he commits adultery? What if he ravishes some woman? What if he gambles? What if he shoots somebody?" That's none of our business. That's none of our business. We got laws down here to take care of that. We're not reformers; we're preachers of the gospel. We don't condemn him for what he done. We don't condemn him for committing adultery; we condemn him because he's a sinner! If he was a Christian, he wouldn't do it. That's right. If he's been changed, he won't do that. But because he is a sinner, that's what makes him do that.

34 There's where it knocks the props out from under legalists. Yes, sir. Brother, let me tell you, it's not by works, but by grace are we saved, and that by faith. Yes, sir. Now, I won't condemn legalist brethren. They're my brothers, and they'll be there just the same as any of the rest of them will be there, because God's foreordained His church to be there. But just, the thing ... you keep the people so tore up, they don't know what. "Today,

well, maybe if I....” Just let them know as long as they got the hunger of the world, they're not there to begin with.

35 I don't live true to my wife because I think she'd divorce me. I live true to my wife because I love her. It's a legal position that we have taken, that we love one another. First, before it could be there, it had to be a love. I love her. Although I believe if I done something wrong she'd forgive me, still I wouldn't do it anyhow. I love her.

That's the way it is with Christ. If I live.... I'm fifty. If I live to be ninety or a hundred, have another fifty years to preach, and I never preach a time—go down and sit on the river—I'm saved anyhow. God saved me by his grace, unmerited of anything I ever could do, did do, or anything else. I've preached because I love Him and I love his people. And that's the reason I know I've passed from death unto life, because that I love them, and I go after them. No matter what kind of condition they're in, I go after them anyhow. Go get them anyhow, pull them anyhow. If ministers disagree and others disagree, and denominations disagree, that don't stop me. There's something.... It didn't stop Him! He come right in the midst of unbelief, and it didn't stop Him. He moved right on anyhow. That's what we do—go out and get them, catch them anyhow, no matter. Reach, grab, hold on with all your might. You don't know who they are. Save them. That's because of love. Not because that I have to, but because I love, because you love.

36 Say, “I ought to go make that right with that woman, but, I tell you right now.... I guess because I go to church I ought to go make it right.” No, you're the one ought to get right first, see. If you ain't got the love of God in your heart.... Something another makes you know that you're wrong, then you go make it right with God. Then you'll make it right with your neighbor.

Jesus taught the same thing. He said, “If you come to the altar, and remember there's ought against a neighbor or the brother, go make it right with him first.”

37 Now in the ages that is to come.... We had Wednesday night, the manifestations. We catch it again this morning, in the manifestation of the sons of God, where God is waiting. And then at the end-time when we all stand before Him.... Angels wasn't lost. They won't know how to enjoy the blessings as we do; they never was lost. But I know what I come from, I know the rock where I was hewed from, a sinner. You know where you was hewed from. Now when we're found, then we can stand before God. Oh, what a day that will be!

38 Then adoption, placing. Now, God's doing this [unclear words work. And now if I can get this to you, then we'll start right on now the fifth

But just remember, see, “...who have received the knowledge of the truth.” They never received the truth; they just received the knowledge of it, see. It's impossible for those who were once enlightened and made partakers of the Holy Ghost, tasted the power of the good Word.... Like them borderline believers back there. So many has wrote me letters on that.

98 Those borderline believers walked right up there, Joshua and Caleb went right over there. Why? Now we're going to call that the Holy Ghost, the land out there. Here they are back here, or up here, say this is the Holy Ghost and they're back out here, you see. There's where the promise is, is there. Well, they said, “Send out ten spies, one out of each tribe, so that all of us tribes can know what our inheritance is, where we'll be placed over there, where we'll be placed. So I'm going to send out some spies.”

They all got over there and said, “Oh, my! We'll be called holy-rollers! Oh, oh! Ah, we couldn't do that,” see.

Joshua and Caleb said, “I'll see what it looks like.” So they come over here and looked all around. My, they reached up here and cut off a big cluster of grapes and come back down. Said, “Boys, she's fine, just fine! Here it is, taste some of it.”

Here's what they said, “Oh, that's good, but, oh, look at those big.... Oh, we couldn't do it. Stand against all them big denominations, all those big things? Oh, it's too bad, we can't do it. No, sir! Don't have any way of doing that. No, sir.” And they begin to say, “Oh, let's go back to the fleshpots of Egypt. We might as well have stayed down there. We can't do it. This road's too straight. Oh, we can't do this, we can't do that.”

99 Old Caleb said, “Stand still, all of you!”

Joshua said, “Shut up, every one of you! Let me say something.”

“Oh, alas, alas, alas, we can't do it! Oh, we couldn't. Well, if I had to quit my card party, Brother Branham.... If I have to let my hair grow out like some old woman, I just don't know what I'd do. If I have to take my little shorts off, if I had to quit ... you know. And if I had to give up my cigars, if I had to do that!” You poor deliberate example. Yes. “Just can't do it.”

Joshua said, “Oh, it's good. Hallelujah! We can take it.” What was it? They were looking at the big cities that were walled up. And Joshua and Caleb was looking at a promise God made. Stay with the Word, no matter who you are. Stay with the Word!

100 Peter said, “Repent, every one of you, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of your sins, for the promise is unto you [What

Here we begin to come, see. Predestinated us to our inheritance in Him, which was predestinated to us. We inherited it before the foundation of the world, see. Oh! For his own purpose to work out his own good will, that's exactly, to be a God and saviour.

95 In whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the word of the truth....

And who is the truth? Jesus is the truth, the truth of the gospel. And what gospel? There's only one gospel. Galatians 1 said, "Though an angel preach any other gospel, let him be accursed. This is the gospel, the gospel of your salvation; not another. There is not another name given under heaven whereby you must be saved." But in the name of what? [Congregation says, "The Lord Jesus Christ."] Oh, me!

...in whom ... after that you believed, you were sealed....

Oh, "After you believed!" How can we just run over that, brethren? Let's just leave it for tonight, what do you say? Oh, my! I just can't go any farther tonight. Let's leave it for tonight. I just can't leave that word "sealed," how you get in there, see.

96 Inheritance by predestination. I inherited something. What inheritance? There had to be somebody leave me an inheritance. Why, you say, "Jesus left you an inheritance." Beg your pardon, Jesus never left me an inheritance, Jesus never left you an inheritance. He only came down and paid for your inheritance, brought you to your inheritance. But your name was put on the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world. God give you your inheritance. Your inheritance was first. Jesus only come.... Here's the way they try to make it: God saying, "Well, there's a lot of people lost, and I don't ... want them to be saved, so I'll send Jesus down and perhaps maybe He'll ... somebody feel sorry, and know what I've done and get saved." Oh, mercy! I wouldn't run my office like that—even as poor as I do run it sometimes, Gene. I wouldn't do it like that. How about God?

97 God, by his foreknowledge, seen exactly who would be saved and who wouldn't be saved. He sent Jesus to save those that He had already chosen. Didn't Paul say, five verses behind this, that He chose us in Him before there even was a world? That's our inheritance. God chose us, and let Jesus come and pay the price. The what? The shedding of his blood, that no sin would be accounted to us. Nothing you do. Well, if you....

"He that sins willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there's no more sacrifice."

Now, there's where you'd rise up again, say, "How about that, Brother Branham?"

verse. I want to read it:

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

It's God's pleasure to do his will—adopting, placing. Now what's He doing? Placing his church. First, He called his church—Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist—calling them. Then what did He do? Sent forth the Holy Spirit and give them the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

39 I want you Pentecostal people to get this out of your hearts. Pentecost is not a denomination; Pentecost is an experience. It's the Holy Ghost. It's not an organization. You couldn't organize the Holy Ghost. He won't stand for it. Now you've got an organization that you call that, but the Holy Ghost moves right out and lets you sit right where you're at, and just keeps on going, see. Pentecost is not an organization; Pentecost is an experience.

40 And then God gave his children new birth by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They came right near it when they cleaned theirself up, through Nazarene, Pilgrim Holiness; then come into the experience of Pentecost, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the restoration of the gifts. They went forth speaking with tongues and interpret tongues, and given gifts of healing and miracles, and signs and wonders begin to accompany them. Now they are children. They're God's children. They're positionally in Christ. They become children by birth. And the new birth and the conversion itself is the Holy Ghost.

You're not even converted till you get the Holy Ghost. That's what the Scripture says. Jesus told Peter.... Ask anyone, read your Scripture. He was justified by believing on the Lord Jesus. Become a follower, an apostle. Jesus gave him the keys to the kingdom. And in John 17:17 He sanctified them, give them power, sent them out, to cast out devils and things, sanctified them. "Sanctify them, Father, through thy truth. Thy Word is the truth. I sanctify myself because of them."

41 That's one of the sweetest words that I ever heard: "Father, I sanctify myself for their sake." Do you know He had a right to have a home? He was a human. You know He had a right to have a wife? He was a man. He had a right to all these things, but He said, "Father, I sanctify myself for their sake. I sanctify myself."

42 I talked to a little preacher yesterday. I'm going to preach for him in a few nights up here on the highway. And I asked him about a certain thing. He said, "Yes, Brother Branham, but the most of my people doesn't believe in that."

I said, "Most all of them legalists?"

"Yes." Brother doesn't believe that. "But," he said, "for their sake...." Oh, I wanted to hug his neck. "For their sake, see, I sanctify myself for their sake."

43 Oh, Jesus was training twelve men, that through those twelve men was to take the gospel to the world. And He said, "For their sake I sanctify myself." Make yourself for your neighbor's sake, for somebody else's sake. "Don't use your liberty for a cloak," said Paul, "but sanctify yourself." Behave yourself in the neighborhood like a real Christian ought to. Let your communications be ... if you meet your enemy, sanctify yourself for his sake, not knowing what you might do.

44 Now, placing the son. First thing after the son was in, he become a son, but then we find out his behavior is what set him to adoption—whether he behaved right or not.

And it's the Pentecostal.... Now just let me show you that Pentecost is not a denomination. How many Baptists in here, that was Baptist, that received the Holy Ghost? Let's see your hands. See? How many Methodists that's in here that received the Holy Ghost? Raise up your hands. How many Nazarenes in here received the Holy Ghost? Raise up your hands. Presbyterians, received the Holy Ghost? see? Lutheran, other denominations that did not belong in the Pentecost at all, just belong to some denomination, received the Holy Ghost? Let's see your hand. See? So then Pentecost is not a denomination; it's an experience.

45 Now, God took you into the body of Christ. Now what does He do? After you have proved yourself, sanctified yourself with your good behavior, obedience to the Holy Spirit, no matter what the world says....

46 I'm going to rub this really hard, see, because.... I don't mean it to be rude. Please, don't really, see, don't really think that I'm mean. I don't want to be. What worries me is to take people and preach to them this God-sent truth, and they'll turn right back around and just keep on doing the same thing, and say they got the Holy Ghost. That just nearly ruins you, see. What's the matter? They come right back to the same thing, just like the children of Israel. They wanted a king so this king could rule over them and make them act like the Amorites, and the Amalekites, and the Philistines.

47 Do you know, ladies, that it's wrong to wear slacks? Do you know that? Do you know it's wrong to cut the locks of your hair off? Do you know it's wrong, mister, for you to continue to smoke, and act the way you do? Do you know it's wrong for you not to be the husband of your house? Your wife get a little temper spell and kick you out the door, and you say, "Yes, bless your heart, honey, I'll come right back"? Do you know you.... How can you be a tender at the house of God when you can't even

thing that He's got. Is that right? And the whole earth is groaning, crying, waiting for the manifestations that when Christ and his church will unite together.

That ... dispensation of the fulness of time ... gather together in one ... in all Christ, both which are in heaven, and ... in earth; and even in him:

In whom ... we have obtained an inheritance....

92 Oh, Brother Neville, forgive me for taking this time. That word inheritance. Oh, my! I know he ... it's like kinsman, brother. I hope I'm not crazy. I just ... I don't think I am. But, oh, my! A what? An inheritance. We have obtained an inheritance. Somebody has to leave you something. God, before the foundation of the world, left you something. A name written on the book, that when the Lamb would be slain you'd be recognized with it. Oh! Let's save that for tonight. Let's just read on just a little bit. My, my! How're we ever going to get to the third verse tonight—or third chapter? We ain't even got four or five verses out of this. Now we're fixing to close, though. I'll just have to read it and let it go.

93 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being....

What? How do we get this here inheritance? How did we get it? Because we walked upright? How do we get this inheritance? Because we were predestinated. Amen. Whew! My Arminian brothers, I know that's awfully hard. I don't aim to hurt, but it just does me so good to know that it.... You got it. You got it, brother, all right. You just don't see it. You got it just the same, see. You're all right, see. You're all right, but.... Oh, but it's so good to look at it. Just like what Brother Neville said about the arcade yesterday, "Get you a stepladder and go around and see what you got." Yes, sir. That's what ... this is what? God's Holy Spirit is our stepladder to tell us what we got, see.

94 See, an inheritance. Oh, my! Being what kind of an inheritance?

...being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will....

When He was.... Before He was a papa, before He was God, before He was a saviour, before He was a healer, before all of this, He predestinated, put the Lamb's name on the book, looked down through by his foreknowledge and seen your name, put it on there too. What is it? And after a while we come in the world, born of sinful parents; we walked around on the world, you know. First thing you know—like that little hook nosed Jew, Paul, you know—carrying on; and, the first thing, something said, "Here, here, here, here, here!"

You say, "Oh, Abba, Father!"

dispensation of ... well, there was a dispensation of the Mosaic law. There was a dispensation of John the Baptist. There was a dispensation of Christ. There was a dispensation of church organization. There was dispensation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Now is the dispensation of adoption, what the world's waiting, groaning. And when the fullness of time comes, when the dispensation of the fullness of time.... What is that fullness of time? When the dead rises, when sickness ceases, when all the earth ceases to groan—the fullness of the dispensation of time. Watch this:

When in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ....

Aren't you glad? How is He going to do it? Gather together all things in who? [Congregation says, "Christ."] How do you get in Christ? ["By one Spirit."] By one Spirit we're all baptized into ["one body"] one body. And that body is who's body? ["Christ's."] Already judged. He took our judgment. Then what are we? "When I see the ["blood"] blood, I'll pass over you." And every time He looks at the body, there it is sitting there, bloody. I'm in there by how? The Holy Ghost. He just passes on over. Oh, my!

And when the fulness of the dispensation of time that he might gather together ... all things in Christ, both which are in heaven....

90 Now if you want to talk about a name, we'll just start on it right now for a while. All the family in heaven is named what? [Congregations says, "Jesus Christ."] All the family in earth is named what? ["Jesus Christ."]

There's some fine women in here, fine, real ladies. There's one Mrs. Branham, Mrs. William Branham. She's my wife. She goes home with me. See, the rest of you goes with your husband.

There's one great living church of the living God. She bears his name. She's filled with his Spirit. That's right. I don't say....

91 I don't condemn the good works, I don't condemn their hospitals and good things they do. I think that's wonderful, and God's blessings to poor, suffering humanity. I don't condemn all these other things they're doing. Fine, that's just right. And their great organizations, their millions of dollars, I'd sure rather see that than bootleg joints on the corner, anytime. I certainly honor them as ministers standing in the pulpit.

But when it comes to the gathering together at the end of the dispensation, it'll be waiting for the manifestations of the sons of God. In that dispensation, that He might gather all together, all that has been brought into Christ. What is Christ? How many ... how do we get into Him? I Corinthians 12, "By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body," which is the body of Christ; and made partakers of every gift and every good

control your own house? That's exactly right. Do you know, sister, that your husband is not only your husband, but he is your ruler? God said so, because that the husband was not deceived. The woman was deceived. And you preachers will continue to make women pastors and preachers in your churches, knowing that the Word of God condemns it.

48 You'll continually use that name Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to baptize, when there's not one speck of scripture for it in the Bible. I want an archbishop or somebody else to show me where anybody in the Bible was ever baptized in the name of Father, Son, Holy Ghost. I want somebody to show me anybody that was ever baptized any way besides the name of Jesus. John's wasn't baptized ... they were baptized believing that He was coming, but they didn't know who He was. But as soon as they recognized that, they had to come to be rebaptized again in the name of Jesus Christ. I want somebody to.... I've asked the Assemblies of God, the other preachers, the Baptist, Presbyterian, and everything. Oh, they won't talk about it. I want to see the scripture.

And then I'm a fanatic, huh? Then I'm crazy, out of my mind, I'm a madman, just because I'm trying to tell you the truth. Now, that's honest, brethren. If a man is sold out for God, you've sold out lock, stock, and barrel. You're set aside. You're a different creature.

49 Many are called; few are chosen. Just ... many people are called. You get a calling in your heart, "Yes, I believe God loves me. I believe He does it."

But, brother, you're going to be as far lost as the rest of them, because they'll come there that day, even saying, "Lord, I've cast out devils in your name. I've done everything else in your name. I've had healing services. I've preached the gospel. I've cast out devils."

And Jesus say, "Get away from here. I don't even know you, hypocrites. It's he that doeth the will of my Father." Why can't people see it? Now, I know that rubs. And I don't mean it to hurt. I don't mean it to be that way, but, brother, I....

50 Looks to me like we're at the end time, and God is adopting, setting positionally in church, in the body of Christ, his.... Now, there's not going to be too many He put in there. I'm going to tell you that to begin with. Well, you say, "Oh, well, there's going to be such a great number." But He's had six thousand years to pull them out of, too. Remember, the resurrection comes, and we're caught up with them. Just a few of them, see. You search out your salvation quickly. Look yourself over and see what's gone wrong. See just what's the matter. I know that's hard, but, brother, it's the truth. It's God's truth.

Adoption!

51 We should be so on fire for God, we should be going day and night. Nothing should be able to stop us. And we should be so sweet and so pleasant, and so kind and so Christ-like in our lives. It takes every day's life. Jesus said, "Consider the lily of the field, how it grows (toil and spinning); yet I say unto you that Solomon in all of his glory is not arrayed like one." Solomon had robes that was arrayed with glorious silk and needlework and things, but that wasn't what He was talking about. In order for a lily to grow, it has to toil both day and night. What do you want to come up back here on the little end of the line for? If the righteous be scarcely saved, where will the sinner (that's the unbeliever) and the ungodly (the man that hears the Word and refuses to walk in it)...? Now what are we going to do?

52 This is, now, this is our church. We got maybe four or five strangers among us. But this is the church. I'm teaching you. This goes on tapes. I want people that listen to tapes to remember, this is to my church. Out amongst the people out yonder, I try to be gentleman enough to tell them, to kind of stay along where, could baby along in their little bitty skimmed-milk ideas. But when it comes to really laying the truth down, let's lay it down.

53 Adoption, placing positionally! Where're they at? Show me where they're at? God calling his children aside by manifestation. They don't have to say one word about it, you see something's happening. Positionally placing his son, getting him into order just exactly with the same things.... He's just as much authority, his word's just as good as an archangel's—better. This son was adopted, put on a high place, set out there, changed his robes, changed his colors. The Father had a ceremony, said, "This is my son. From henceforth he's governor. He's the ruler. He's over all my heritage. All that I got belongs to him." That's right.

54 Then we could go back to the same Elah, Elah, Elohim, see, where He's self-existent. Then come back through Jehovah who made something. He gave man dominion over the earth. What are we waiting for? The manifestations. The earth is groaning. Let's get down to it and read it. All right.

... predestinated ... to the adoption of children by ... himself, according to his good pleasure of his will,

To the praise of the glory of his grace....

What is his grace? Back before, when He wasn't a Father, his grace, his love, made Himself a child, that we might be predestinated unto the adoption of children, to the praise of his grace, see.

made some lesser ones under me. And I have give them a dominion. And in their domain, the dominion under them, is the earth." Man had dominion over the earth. And all the whole creation is waiting for the sons of God to be manifested. Oh!

We're watching for the coming of that
glad millennium day,

When our blessed Lord shall come and
catch his waiting bride away;

Oh, the earth is groaning, crying for
that day of sweet release,

When our Saviour shall come back to
earth again.

87 Is that right? Waiting. God trying to place his church in position, to manifest Himself, getting one that He can work through like this, say, "There's my Spirit flowing freely. There it is. I can work here." Get another one over here and place him: "I can place him." Adoption, placing, manifesting. Take him out here and put a ceremony on him, visit him with an angel, tell him something. Now, if he's told the truth.... Now if he's just making up something, it won't work. No, no, that won't work. We've had a lot of that. But I mean manifestations of sons of God, when God manifests Himself and He sends him out. And then he goes forth, and what he says is truth. What he does is the truth. What he does, he manifests Christ. How do you judge him? By the way he stays with the Word, right with the Word. See, that's how you know all men, is by the way he stays with the Word. "If they speak not according to the Word, there's no life in them," says the Bible, see. Leave them away.

88 Now let's read, then we'll have to stop, because our time's getting away. All right, in the tenth verse, or ninth verse, rather:

Having made known to us the mystery of his will [to adopt us], according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself....

He purposed this Himself, before the foundation of the world. How many understands it?

That in the dispensation....

Oh, my. Here we come again! Oh, let's just pass it, see.

... dispensation of the fulness of time....

89 Do you believe in dispensations? Bible said so. "In the dispensation of the fullness of time." What is that fullness of time? There's been a

We've not received the spirit of ... fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. [Which means "My God." All right.]

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God:

How does it do it? You say, "Glory to God! Hallelujah! It don't bother me, I'm a child of God," and go out and do the things you do? The Spirit of God will do the works of God.

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also," see.

84 If this vine comes forth and it produced a bunch of grapes, and the next one comes forth and produced a bunch of pumpkins, there's something wrong, see. It's a grafted church, it's a grafted vine, it's a grafted person. And if a person with some denomination, belongs to a denomination, calls themselves a Christian, and don't have the Holy Ghost and have the power of God and all these things....

85 Now, if you go out here and act like a bunch of these that was doing ... just because you spoke in tongues, I've seen devils speak with tongues. Yes, sir. I've seen them dance in the spirit, and shout, and froth at the mouth, and everything else, and all that. I've seen that. I ain't talking about that. I'm talking about the Spirit of God.

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are ... children of God:

And if then children, ... heirs; heirs of God, ... joint-heirs with Christ; if so ... that we suffer with him, that we may ... also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings....

Just listen to this. Oh, if this isn't beautiful!

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. [In us!]

For the earnest expectation of the creature....

It calls here, got a little word there, a little marginal reading, creation is right, in Greek. "...expectations of the creation, the creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God."

86 What's everything waiting on? What's the whole creation waiting for? The manifestation of the sons of God. It's waiting for the church to become into its position. Who was the son of God, when Adam...? Where was His domain? The earth. He had domain over the earth. Is that right? He wasn't Elah, Elah, Elohim then; He was Jehovah, see. That is, "I am God, and I've

... wherein he has made us acceptable by the [the person] beloved [which is Christ].

Made us accepted how? By Him. How do we get into Him? By one Spirit, all baptized into Him. Listen.

In whom we have redemption, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of s-i-n-s....

55 How can you preach predestination of God's foreordaining and setting, unless there's a sin atonement somewhere? Why is it? Each day you make a mistake, each day you do wrong. But if you're born again, man or woman, as soon as you make the mistake, God knows you're sorry for it. You can stand in the presence of President Roosevelt or anyone else, and say, "I'm wrong. God forgive me for this thing." Why? And there's where the blood atonement....

You notice that s-i-n-s. A sinner is a sinner; he does not commit sins. But the church commits sins—does wrong, gets a wrong thought, wrong impression, makes scruples, wobbles like a little child walking, trying to learn how to walk. He just don't know how to walk good yet because he's a little boy. But we have a hand that reaches down and gets us and steadies us, and say, "Make this step this a-way, son." He doesn't pick us up and spank us because we made a mistake. He doesn't beat us to death because we're trying to walk. He loves us like we love our children.

56 A real, real daddy wouldn't whip his child when he's trying to walk if he falls down on the floor. Reach right down with a big strong hand and pick him up, take both hands ahold of him, say, "This is the way you do it, son. Walk like this."

That's the way God does his church. Reaches down and gets him in his arms, picks him up and say, "Walk like this, son. Here, don't say it like that. Talk it like this. And I don't care what the church says, what this says, what that says, you say it like this. Like this—this is it! If my Word preaches it, you stay right with it, walk with it! Stay right with it. Don't care what everybody else says, stay right with it. Walk like this. This is the way you make your steps."

57 Our sins—an atonement, love, for our sins, or we'd never have a chance. How we could just anchor on them words.

... according to the riches of his grace;

Wherein he hath abounded....

What is abound? Oh, my! Where He has abounded—great heaps of it.

... he hath abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence....

Prudence—all the wisdom He has abounded towards us. With all wisdom. Not worldly. The wisdom of the world is foolish to Him, and the wisdom of God is foolish to the world. Just like day and night, one can't agree with the other one. But when the sun begins to rise and daytime comes, night scatters from place to place. And when the light of the gospel begins to come in, all the things of the world just begin to fade out. And what does He do? He abounds the sunlight upon his children, walking in the Spirit, led of the Spirit of God, abounding in his grace, with all prudence and wisdom, understanding, and shrewdness, to know how to walk. You see it's wrong, then be careful what you do, how you.... If it's wrong, be careful even how you approach it. Prudence—be real close, real sure that you know how to approach it. "Wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove." That's what Jesus said.

58 Oh, these are nuggets, friends! We could just stay on day after day. Aren't they wonderful? Prudence, wisdom, He's abounded towards us, poured out. Not give us a spoonful, but took a big scoop shovel and just kept throwing it like that. Abounded towards us, wisdom with prudence of his grace! Oh, amazing grace, how sweet the sound! Now:

Wherein he has abounded towards us in all wisdom ... prudence;

Having made known to us the mystery of his will....

Who is He talking to? Denominations? Please, my brethren, don't think I'm downing your denomination. I'm not. I'm trying to tell you it was the wrong thing to start with. Jesus said, "Go preach the gospel"; we went and made denominations. That's the reason we haven't got it. We're walking after the wisdom of man.

If Calvin could rise....

59 Why, I stood not long ago by the grave of a great man, a great reformer. And I thought what a great man he was. He was. Well, all of them.... It was John Wesley. And I thought, if John Wesley could rise from this grave today and see the condition of his church, he'd be ashamed of his name. John Wesley was a godly man, a firebrand snatched, as he called it. John Wesley was a holy man who believed in God, and walked step by step after Him. But after John died, they said, "We'll make a church to John so we'll have a church, and we'll call it the Methodist church because of his method of sanctification being a second work of grace."

Then they made a church, and today them church men deny everything that John Wesley stood for. John Wesley preached divine healing. John Wesley believed in the baptism of the Spirit. John Wesley believed in all the restoration of the gifts. John Wesley, Martin Luther,

world groaning for? What's the atomic bomb hanging yonder for? What's the molecules and the atoms, and...? Oh, what's it all about?

Turn to Romans, the eighth, just a minute. What's it waiting for? What's all this waiting for? What's the time? Romans, the eighth chapter, and let's begin and read about the, oh, I'd say the eighth ... let's start along about the nineteenth verse, and just read right here, for making it real sweet. That's right. I know where you're getting to there. All right. Romans, the eighth chapter. I believe I'm right now. Yes, sir. The eighth chapter, and let's begin here about the eighteenth verse. Let's just begin at the fourteenth verse.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are ... sons of God. [That's right.]

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;...

82 "Oh, wonder if I can just hold out. Oooo, if I can just hold out now!" Hold out nothing! It isn't whether I held out; it's whether He held out. I'm in Him now, see.

Well, you say, "Well, if I'm in Him...." Now you Presbyterians say, "Aw, we always believed that." But your life proves that you're not, unless you walk the kind of life that He walked, you believe the same gospel He preached.

You say, "Aw," Baptists say, "sure, I believe in eternal security." And go out here and smoke cigars and run to dances, and women cut their hair, paint their faces and act like I-don't-know-what? Your fruits proves that you don't believe it.

When I say, "Do you believe in divine healing?"

"Oh, Dr. Jones said it was so, that was in the days back."

Well, you hypocrite! What's the matter with you? You poor deluded child. You're so far off the gospel till it's a pity. You've been sidetracked on some muddy road on some burning dump. Don't you see here what He said? That every spirit that confesses that Jesus is not come in the flesh right now is the wrong spirit. The Bible said Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What He said then, He is now, He's for always that way. Just listen:

83 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of a ... [Congregation says, "adoption."]

Now, after you're adopted, all right. After you're adopted, you're placed, then you understand—after the ceremony's said and you've been put into the body correctly. You're a son, sure, a daughter, when you're born again. That's your birth. But now you're positionally placed.

your chance. When a man once is anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be adopted into the family of God, to be positionally placed by the Father, and set into a service out here, into his purpose of life, or what God has called him for, his walk must be "Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord! Holy, holy, holy!"

"Oh, you must turn aside to this and be...."

"Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord."

"Oh, you must believe all.... The elders said this."

But, "Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord." Let his Word be first. Let it be everything that there is, and settled in your heart! Your walk must be in the Word. "Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord."

"Oh, if you'll just come over here, I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll organize, put you in our organization. You'll be a great man."

"Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord. Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord," moving on. Don't make any difference what anybody says!

"With ... call these tapes! Do this, do this, do that, do the other."

"Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord." You've got your eyes set towards Calvary, and there's nothing going to stop you! The very walk of your life, you're walking down the King's highway, anointed with the precious anointing oil, moving into the holiest of holies. Whew! Amen. All right.

80 Paul said he didn't get this from man. Now what does he say? (Back to Galatians, our lesson.) "Having made known to us the mystery of his will." What is his will? "Made known the mysteries of his will." You that's taking down, the ninth verse. (Now I'm going to hurry right quick and get this out, because we're running late.)

Oh, every word is such a [unclear word]. Oh, each word is a nugget. You can just take it and just keep polishing. You can dig.... You can take one of them words out of there, take it over to Genesis and polish it; take it over to Exodus and polish it again; you can take it over to Leviticus and polish it again; and time you get over to Revelation, it's every bit Jesus! Amen. You can just polish it as much as you want to, it'll be Jesus when you hit Revelation. For He said, "I am He that was, which is, and shall come. I am the root and offspring of David, the morning star. I'm Alpha, Omega." That's A and Z in the Greek alphabet. "I am from A to Z. I am ... I'm all-in-all." That's right. "I'm He that was alive, and was dead, and is alive forevermore. I have the keys of death and hell." Oh, my! Every nugget you pick up here and start polishing, it'll polish right into Jesus.

81 (Now, just a little later and then we'll stop.) What are we waiting for, then? What are we meeting for? What's the purpose of it? What's the

many of those great men spoke in tongues and interpreted. And today, you would speak in tongues in a Methodist church or a Lutheran church, they'd kick you out the door. What's the matter? Right in the time where we ought to be placing sons, what is the matter? They have adopted something else, because they don't know the mystery of God. And they'll never know it through a seminary.

60 Let me just read something to you. Is it all right? All right. Let us turn over ... I've got something wrote down here. Let's find out how Paul.... Now, here's the teacher of this message. Let's go to Acts 9:5 just a minute. [Blank spot on tape.] Let me know when I'm out of....

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings [Oh, that little hook-nosed, high-tempered, mean Jew] ... slaughtering against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any....

"I'll go look them up. If I can just find them, boy, what I'll do to them, see, if I can just find them!" But he was predestinated.

61 How do you know that old bootlegger down here is not predestinated to life? How do you know that old streetwalker that you won't even speak to, how do you know that a little handshake and invite her to church wouldn't make a saint of God out of her yonder in the glory? How do you know she's not? That's what we don't know. But that's our duty. Like a fisherman throwed a net into the sea and pulled out ... he brought frogs, fish, lizards, water spiders, and everything else; but some of them was fish. He didn't know, he just cast the net. That's what we do. Watch Paul:

...desiring letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any in this way, whether they were men or women, he might bind them and bring them to Jerusalem. [Brother, he was really rough!]

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined around him....

"There came a priest up the road, Dr. F. F. Jones, and said to him, 'You need a seminary experience now, son, and I believe God could use you.'" Wouldn't that be a horrible-looking scripture, to read it like that? Now, that's just as much sense.... I ain't saying that for a joke. That's just as much sense as what we get out of it today. "You know, your mother was a good woman. I believe you'd make a good preacher."

62 Watch what happened:

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined around him about, a light [whew, starts off supernatural] a light

from heaven:

And he fell to the earth, and he heard a voice saying ... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said unto him, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: and it's hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembled and was astonished and said, Lord, what wilt thou have me ... do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou shall do.

63 And the men journeyed with him, and went on, and they found a man.... Ananias, down there, saw a vision—all supernatural. And old Saul, that old mean guy.... This Ananias saw a vision.... In his house (he was a prophet), in his house, praying, and he saw a vision. The Lord spoke to him and said, "There's a man coming down the road over yonder. He's just as blind as a bat. And his name is Saul. He's Saul of Tarsus."

He said, "Lord, I've heard great things.... Don't send me, I'm a little man. Don't send me after him."

He said, "But, behold, on his road down I showed him a vision. I appeared to him in the pillar of fire. I've struck him just as blind as he can be. And I had to blind him and tear him up before I could make anything out of him. See, I had to turn all of his theology. You know, he was a great fellow in one of those churches up there. He had all kinds of degrees. He didn't have to polish up on anything, but," He said, "what I had to do is take it all out of him."

64 That was the thing. It wasn't get more into him, but take it out of him. I think that's what's the matter with a lot of our clergymen today—take out of them, where God can put in them the Holy Spirit. Take out! There He said he....

And he said, "Lord, but this man's a terrible man."

He said, "But, behold, he prayeth. Now, you'll go down through a certain street and you'll come to a fountain. You pass that fountain on the left, and you go down. There'll be a white house. Go knock on the door. Just look, laying there in the hall, that's as far as they ever got him. Lay your hands upon him, take him down to the river of Damascus and baptize him in the name of Jesus, because, I tell you what I'm going to do. He's going to have to suffer many things for me, for he is my messenger to the Gentiles." Amen!

65 "Well, now, wait a minute, Lord! Now, what school should I advise?" I'll tell you what let's do, let's read Galatians and find out. Just the next

believers, and into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, doing signs, wonders.

76 Wait, coming on, waiting for something. (Just a little bit we'll get it. Hope we do anyhow. I told you to call me at this time, wasn't it? Just happened to be I looked at it. Just a word or two more, just a little bit more.)

77 How long is this salvation lasting? How long? What kind of salvation is it? From church to church? From.... Let's turn to Hebrews 9:11, just a minute, just to look to see how long, just for a few minutes. Turn over to the book of Hebrews and let's find out just how long this salvation is lasting, see what kind of a salvation it is. Let's read now Hebrews 9:11:

But Christ becoming a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say [now this is the same teacher, Paul, see], not of this building;

Neither by the blood of goats or calves, but by his own blood he has entered in once [How many times? Once!] unto the holy place, having obtained [salvation for a week, salvation to the next revival? What kind?] eternal redemption for us.

78 What's the word eternal mean? In Christ, after I have believed.... No man can call Jesus the Christ, only by the Holy Ghost. There's three classes of people: unbelievers, make-believers, and believers. But them once who have believed unto eternal life, has entered into the courts.

Take the old tabernacle. What was the first thing he did? Enter into the courts, the Gentiles. The next was the brazen altar, where they washed the sacrifice at the golden laver. The next was the killing of the sacrifice, and the sprinkling of the blood upon the altar. Then once a year Aaron, anointed with what? With the rose of Sharon perfume, with precious oil that had perfume in it. They poured it on his head. It went plumb down to the hems of his skirts. Watch how this man had to go in behind them curtains once a year, packing before him the blood for the mercy seat. And he took his rod in one year and forgot it. When they went back after it, it had done budded out and blossomed—an old stick that he had packed maybe for forty years in the wilderness, laid in that holy place. Watch, when they took the blood of the covenant, the blood, he was anointed. And he had garments on that had little jingle bells in them, a pomegranate and a bell. And that man had to walk in such a way that every time when he moved his legs, and moved like this and made his steps, they played "Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord. Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord. Holy, holy, holy unto the Lord." Oh, my!

79 What am I talking about? Hear it, Branham Tabernacle! You've had

And after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

And as we read on, we find out that he and the apostle Peter never seen one another in life, never knowed one another, never seen one another; but when they come together they were preaching the same gospel. God's got a school. Yeah.

73 Here was Peter, stood up on the day of Pentecost, said, "Repent, every one of you, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Philip said, "Oh, how glorious this is! I got to do something too. Down to.... I got a call down to Samaria." Went down there and got to testifying in the street. First thing, a sick person come up. Laid hands on him, and begin jumping and leaping. Said, "Glory to God, here we are," started having a big meeting. He said, "You all need the Holy Ghost." He said, "What you got to do, you've got to be baptized in Jesus' name." So he took them, every one, out there and baptized them all in Jesus' name. Said, "Come on, Peter, lay your hands on them now." And they got the Holy Ghost.

Peter, up at the house of Cornelius, the same way.

74 Paul had never even seen him or heard nothing about him. But he passed through the upper coasts of Ephesus, and he finds certain disciples. He found a Baptist preacher, which he was—Apollos, a converted lawyer, smart, brilliant, taking the Old Testament and proving by it that Jesus was the Son of God. Yes, sir, he was a smart man. And they were shouting, they were having joy. The Bible said so. Read the eighteenth and nineteenth chapter of Acts and see if that's not right. They were having joy, they were dancing in the Spirit, and running all around, you know. Paul said, "But have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

75 And to you Baptist brethren that tries to poke that down the people's throat and said the original Greek said, "Did you receive the Holy Ghost since ... or, when you believed?" I challenge you to bring me the Greek. I've got the original Greek in my own possession. I have also the Aramaic, and the Hebrew also. Each one of them says, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

By faith are you saved. That's your faith in God. The blood keeps you clean from sin, because it makes a sacrifice. The blood doesn't save you; the blood keeps you clean. How are you saved? By faith are you saved, and that by God's foreknowledge, calling you. You are saved, and the blood makes an atonement, constantly keeping you clean. And then by one Spirit you're baptized into the Holy Ghost, into the fellowship of the

chapter right back. Let's find Galatians 1, and begin at the tenth verse, and let's find out what school Paul went to, what seminary, and whose hands was laid on him, and, oh, all that took place. Galatians, the first chapter. To save time, let's begin about his conversion, the tenth verse:

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I seek yet to please men, I ... be not the servant of Christ.

Oh, my, my, my! May I just say a little something before this here. Galatians 1, get the eighth chapter. How many knows that Paul was the one that made them people be baptized over again in Jesus' name, Acts 19? Sure did. Let's take it just a little above here, the eighth verse:

... though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

"Where'd you get this gospel, Paul?" The ninth verse:

... we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel to you than that which you have received, let him be accursed.

If he's an archangel, if he's a bishop, if he's a general overseer, if he's Dr. So-and-so, whoever he is, if he doesn't preach the water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, doesn't preach the restoration of the gifts, the coming of Christ, all these things, let him be accursed. If he tries to take any of this Word here and say it was for another day and place it over on some new fandangoed idea that we learned off of some seminary, let him be accursed.

66 Let's read on, see how Paul got it, see what I'm trying to say to you this morning:

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, then I ... not be the servant of Christ.

How can I expect anything, how can a man that loves God—a preacher, especially—expect to do anything but be hated by men? Men will hate you. Well, Jesus said, "If they call me, the master of the house.... I'm the master, the greatest of all of you. I'm the one can perform more miracles and do more with the Holy Spirit than all of you, because I got the whole fullness in me. And if they've called me Beelzebub, how much more are they going to call you?" But said, "Don't take no thought what you'll be saying, for it'll not be you that speaks. It'll be the Father that dwells in you do the speaking at that time. Just stay right with the Word." And He, when He got through writing the book, He said, "Any man that'll take one word out of this book or add one word to it, the same will be taken out of the book of life, for him." God help us to stay right with it.

67 Now the next verse, let me read now, read quickly now:

But I certify ... [that's take you to judgment] I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. [Now, I'm neither Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, or Pentecostal. It was not after man.]

Neither ... For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it....

"I never received it from man, no seminary, no doctor, no divinity, no school of education. I never received it that way, I never taught it that way, I never found it that way, it never come to me that way." How did it come then, Paul?

... taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

"When Christ revealed Himself to me, that He was the Son of God, when that pillar of fire fell upon me that day, I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' He said, 'I'm Jesus.'"

68 I'm going to show you what happened to him. Now, right now, if a fellow had an experience, they'd want to give him ten years to learn Greek, and ten more years to learn something else, and by that time he's gone. Look:

... neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For ye have heard of my conversations in times past in the Jewish religion....

"I was a big doctor, boy. I had it." He was taught under Gamaliel, the highest teacher that they had in the land. How many knows that Gamaliel was one of the greatest teachers? Yes, sir. "My Jewish religion, boy, I had it down. I knowed all how to say the Apostles' Creed and all those things, you see. I knowed how to say all the morning prayers and to bless the people." See?

... how that beyond measure then I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it [How that I tried to stop that bunch of holy rollers, see?]:

And I profited in the Jewish religion....

"I was a great man. Boy, I really ... I profited, I showed them I could smash them down, because I killed Stephen and a whole lot of other things I done. See how I done." How that beyond measure he persecuted....

69 I profited in the Jewish religion above many my equals in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the tradition of the fathers.

Now, remember, not the Word of God; "the tradition of the fathers." Tradition of the church, in other words. "I just ... I was a Methodist to the

core, I was a Baptist to the core, I was a Pentecostal to the core." Oh, you are? I want to be God to the core. That's it, see. All right.

... traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God [oh-oh, Paul, here you come], who separated me from my mother's womb [who even brought me to this world], and called me by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me....

How is that? "The Holy Spirit in me. It pleased God to take me, who separated from the womb, and give me the Son, which is the Holy Ghost, in the form of the Spirit, in me, to reveal Hisself in me." Oh, my! Whew! I believe I'd want to shout just a little.

70 Look, let me tell you, brother. When it pleased God! Oh, hallelujah! When it pleased God! A drunkard father. A mother (God bless you, Mama, I'm not saying nothing against you.), but a mother that knowed no more about God than a rabbit knowed of snowshoes. And a father that laid drunk on the streets. And with not even shoes to go to school, and long hair down my neck, and everybody hated me because I was a Kentuckian over here in Indiana. And how, oh, how it was just a stinking sight. But it pleased God! Amen! It pleased God, who separated me from the womb of my mother, that He might reveal his Son in me, by making a minister of the Word that would stay right straight with it, that would show visions and signs and wonders and miracles. And, oh, my!

71 See what He was talking about? It pleased God to do that. How? Listen close. The sixteenth verse now:

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with the church....

"I never went to any bishop and asked him what I ought to do. I never went to any flesh and blood, any organizations or anything else. I never had anything to do with them. I never conferred with flesh and blood. Neither went I up to Jerusalem to all the great holy priests and the holy fathers, and all those, and said, 'Now, you know, I had a vision. What must I do about it? I saw the blessed Lord Jesus in a vision.' "They'd've said, 'Get out of here, you ... you holy roller. Well, what's happened to you?' No, I had all their degrees to start with."

72 And Paul said over here, I can show you in the Scripture, that he said he had to forget everything that he ever learned, and count it as nothing, that he might know Christ. Oh!

Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and turned again unto Damascus.