

Christ is the mystery no 201

Review no 24

Christian Life no 8

Only the Word has Life

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This evening we'll review several more sermons from our series on **Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed**, and beginning at **no 143 Christian Life No 23 Prisoners To The Word** In paragraph **228**, Wm. Branham said, "**It goes right by them, and they don't recognize it till it's gone. It only picks up the predestinated seed** that God predestinated before the foundation of the earth. The same thing come through in the days of Noah. Same thing come through in the days of Moses, days of Elijah, days of the prophets, days of Jesus, on down through and to this very hour. The pregnated person with the seed of God, the Word in there manifesting Itself, so surrendered to the will of God that the Word and the Word alone manifests Itself and this person's a prisoner, to an individual."

Now, I'd like to focus our thoughts tonight on this statement brother Branham makes, "**It goes right by them, and they don't recognize it till it's gone.**" Then brother Branham contrasts that to those who are the predestinated seed which he also calls the pregnated person with the seed of God. And it is in them the ones who have received the true baptism of the Holy Ghost that **the word within them will manifest itself in them** because they are as he says, so surrendered to the will of God that the Word and the Word alone manifests Itself in them.

If we truly believe that the Scriptures were indeed brother Branham's absolute, and ours, as well, then we should not believe for one second brother Branham would say contrary to them. That is the first mistake many make because if Satan can get you to think brother Branham's confusing, then you lay aside brother Branham's sermons and go try to find some other absolute looking for another filter to replace "a thinking man's filter".

And when you've laid aside the Message that God Himself came down with and vindicated, you will take some other ministry for your absolute, and then you enter into confusion and death. For the Bible teaches us, "**there is a way that seemeth right unto man but the end therefore is the way of death.**"

God's provided way has always been His prophets and God will not reveal His word by a teacher or an apostle, or any other ministry. God's provided way has been through His prophets. That is **Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. 8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?**

And if God says He will do nothing lest it come via His prophet, then He means nothing. He didn't say teachers, he didn't say pastors, he said prophets. And the only way you can rightly divide the Word is by hearing it done so via God's prophet. So when men say, God's provided way is confusing, it's because they do not understand what was taught.

Who else can rightly divide the Word of truth except a prophet who comes with *"Thus Saith the Lord"*. Because when God vindicates that man with Thus Saith the Lord, then you know what he's telling you what God wants you to know.

The word of the lord does not come to a teacher or pastor. It comes to God's prophets, and the teacher or pastor is vindicated to be a genuine teacher of pastor if they say what the prophet said and don't deviate from it. Because the prophet is God's voice to the people. Then to call a prophet confusing is to call God confusing, because the prophet is his mouthpiece.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 2:9** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:*

Therefore, if you do not have His Spirit you will never be able to understand the Revealed Word as given by God's prophet. And by rejecting what the prophet teaches you reject the right division of the Word.

"For The Spirit (God's Spirit) searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knows.

So Paul makes it quite plain that unless you have the Spirit of God, you will never know the things of God. And then he says,

12 Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but we have received the spirit which is of God; (in order that) that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

So he is quite clear that only those who've received the Holy Spirit can indeed know and thus understand the things of God brought by God's prophets.

Verse *14 But the natural man* (that is the man that is not born again of the spirit of God, he's just a carnal believer, not a spirit filled believer) *receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them,* (in other words it is impossible for someone who is not born again to know and thus understand the things of God.) *because they are spiritually discerned.*

And if they are Spiritually discerned, then they are **spirit discerned**, for spirit is the root of spiritual. So **there can not be any discernment of spiritual things without having the Spirit to do it.**

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:*

Brother Branham said in his sermon, **Discernment of spirit 60-0308 P:8** *We have an order from God, is for the discerning of spirit, trying the spirit. I believe that that is a very great lesson for the church today, is to try the spirit of anything, have discernment of the spirit. I do not think that we should ever, by any means, ever try to judge a person by the denomination they belong to, or by the group that they are assembled with...*

Notice the command is to try the spirit, see what motivates that person, what their objectives are. Don't judge the man by what group he associates with, but by what he says, and the motive behind what he says.

True discernment will look at motives and objectives and line up what they say and do with their motives and objectives. Those who have the holy Ghost will receive the rightly divided Word of a Prophet, and when that prophetically revealed truth is presented to anyone and they turn it down, **God will place their ear to an awl and pierce it**, and they will never again be able to hear the truth again. And if faith cometh by hearing and you can not hear then where will you end up my brothers and sisters?

Hebrews 10:26 *For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins,*

Now, that means if you come to this Message, and hear that prophet God sends and you willfully choose to snub your nose at the truth, God will cut you off because you have stepped across the line willfully into unbelief, and from that point on God will close your ears to the truth. And you will no longer accept true Revelation.

From his sermon, Abraham's Grace Covenant - 61-0317 *And Hebrews (now watch), Hebrews the tenth chapter said, "If we sin willfully..." Now, what is sin, brethren? Unbelief. "He that believeth not is condemned already." You commit adultery. Why? Because you're an unbeliever. You steal, you lie, cheat. Why? Because you're an unbeliever. That's right. **A real true believer doesn't do that.** See? He doesn't do it, because the Holy Spirit in him... if he happens to even make a mistake... the Bible said also, "And the worshiper, once purged, has **no more conscious of sin.**" "He that's born of God does not commit sin..." is not an unbeliever, he's a believer. **The Spirit of God remains in you cannot sin.** You can't be a believer and an unbeliever at the same time. You're either a believer or not a believer.*

Power of transformation - 65-1031M 106.... *then he become willfully disobedient. And when you know to do good, and do it not, to you it's sin, **if you know what's right and you don't do it.** See? Then he become **willfully disobedient.** **After the Word had been vindicated, then he crossed the separating line;** then he was ousted from Eden when he crossed. **There's a line to where you just go so far, and if you'd go any further over on the other side, you're out.***

Have faith in God 58-0105 *The rest **lays on your shoulders alone.** And **if you can't believe it, there's not a thing on earth can help you,** that I know of. If God can't help you, who can? So let us be reverent, and let us believe.*

You see, Paul also said in **1 Corinthians 2:14** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Token the 64-0308 P:41 *If you disbelieve **any of that Word,** there's something wrong with your experience. See? You come right up to the Land and see it's there. You see that Jesus has raised. He's among us. You hear the Word that follows the message, and still don't believe It, you know what happens? Then they died right in the wilderness."*

Time Tested faith 58-0530 P:18 *If the church would put more faith to work, you'd see more things taken place in the church. The pastor might stand on Sunday morning. He might stand on Sunday evening or whenever, and preach hard on faith, in a mighty message, but if the members don't take that message and then start putting it to work, it'll fall right back, and the birds of the air will pick it up. See, see? Just take it out and put it to work. God wants you to do it. Now, faith, always an experience accompanies faith.*

Law 55-0115 P:29 *Now, if this is presented to you... Now, look. "For it is impossible (See?) for those who were once enlightened, made partakers of the Holy Ghost, to fall away again. For if we sin (disbelieve) willfully..." Let it soak. "If we disbelieve willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin." If the truth of the Gospel has been presented to you in such a way that you have to see it, and because of popularity, or something else, that you turn your back to it and walk away and don't want to see it, there's where you cross the line. "For he that disbelieves willfully after he has received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins."*

God's power to transform 65-0911 P:87 *For if we sin willfully after that we... received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and the fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversary. That's Thus saith God's holy Word. If we disbelieve willfully after we have seen It and heard It, then we're across the line. There'll never be no more forgiveness for it; you've crossed the line." Oh," you say, "God still blesses me." Oh, yeah?*

Inter veil 56-0121 P:46 *Death means separate. And if you sin, disbelieve willfully, after Gospel's been presented to you, that soul nature of yours will gradually move away from you, and you'll feel it no more, just drawn away. You won't know it.*

And that led us to **Christ is the Mystery no 147 Christian Life No 27 The Word Alone Has Life**, where we took our text from **John 6:63** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.** 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

And that is exactly what Peter said to Jesus when Jesus asked the 12 if they were going to leave also as the seventy disciples left because His words were too cutting and strong.

John 6:68 *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast **the words of eternal life.***

And that is what John also calls it in **1 John 1:1** *we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of **the Word of life;***

And we see also Paul teaching the same thing. **Philippians 2:16** *Holding forth **the word of life;**...*

Therefore we can see that "***the Word is Life***" is Life, and not only was it taught by Jesus but it was also taught by the apostles as well. Now, let's look at this Word of Life because we know that **John 1:1** tells us that *the Word was with God and the Word is God.*

Therefore if God is The Word and the Word is Life, then the Great Fountain of life that comes forth from the Presence of God is what contains the very Life of God. Let me read you three Scriptures concerning the fountain of Life, and I want you to see the progression in them.

First we read, **Psalms 36:9** *For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.* Then in order to receive the life from this Fountain we need to have the right attitude towards it, because the right mental attitude towards any divine gift will bring it to pass.

So we read in **Proverbs 14:27** *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.* And a snare is a trap. Something that can catch you if you are not aware of it.

Revelation 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

And so what is this fountain of water of Life? It is the word, for we are washed with the washing of water by the Word. But what we need to know if we are to receive this fountain, is by what means does it come forth. When we think of a fountain we think in terms of water perpetually coming forth without no ending. But the water coming forth itself is not the source, but is coming from the Source. And the fountain itself is not the source but is the means by which we may obtain the Life that comes from the Source.

Revelation 22:1 *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Notice the water of Life proceeds from the Throne of God, so we see the Source of Life is God Himself. And yet we see that there is a fountain that will bring froth from Him the very thing we desire, and that is Life. Eternal life.

Deuteronomy 30:20 *That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days:*

In this scripture we see that God is our very Life and yet it is His Voice that we must heed in order to obtain the Life of Him. So now we are thinking of this God-Life in terms of fountains and rivers of water. Because the analogy or type that God uses is that of something that is ever moving and flowing from it's source. So then there must be a source and a vehicle to move the Life from the source to wherever it goes to be received.

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Now in this verse we see God bring forth His own Life and places it in man through His breath. Yet in this illustration we actually picture God having molded a form and then

literally came down and placed His mouth upon Adam and breathed into him His own Life.

Job tells us in **Job 33:4** *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

Now if Job had the same testimony as Adam, then might there be another scene that took place with Adam as well as with Job? And what might that be? What is the breath of God anyway?

We find out what the breath of God is in **1 Timothy 3: 16** where we read, *"all Scripture is God breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in right-wise-ness, that the man of God might be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

So we see that **the breath of God is His own Word** coming forth. And we see in **John 1:4** that *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men."* So then if the Life is in the Word, then we see that we must receive what is in the Word in order to receive the Life that is in Him.

And we are told in **1 Peter 1: 23** *"being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which Liveth and abideth forever."* There's your Life in the Word that Brother Branham spoke to us about. And notice it is also identified as a Seed which is a carrier of life.

And in **Mark 4: 14** we read that *the Seed that the sower went forth sewing is the Word of God.*

And in **Acts 13:48** we read, *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

Notice then, if **the Word of God is Life**, or a carrier of God-Life and is represented as a **seed** because the word seed means a carrier of Life. Then it will take a change of our own thinking in order to receive God's thinking which is what a Word is, because the Word is a thought expressed. And so if we are not able to change our thinking, then what chance have we of receiving God-Life.

So right before we hear what Paul said in **Acts 13:48** we hear in verse **46** what caused him to say it. **Acts 13:46** *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath (echoes) everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

I John 5:20 *And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and Eternal Life.*

So then what are the attributes of eternal Life? We are told by Jesus himself in **John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

So eternal life does not come by your keeping the law, it comes by **the Word of Life** entering your heart. Then Gods Spirit begins to live your life for you.

Galatians 3:21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if there had been a law given which could have given life**, verily righteousness should have been by the law.* So it is obvious that keeping laws is not life, then how do we receive God-Life?

Paul gives us our answer in **Galatians 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I am living; yet it is not I that am living, but Christ Who is living in me:*

That is why we read in **I John 5:12** *He that (echoes) the Son **echoes** Life and he that echoes not the Son of God echoes not life.¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, echoes everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

And we find out that it is in this hour that we are to come to the place that we are to manifest openly this eternal Life as we see in **Colossians 3:4** *When Christ, who is our life, shall manifest in His true identity, then shall ye also manifest in your true identity with him in glory.*

Why? because this is the hour of the appearing, and since He appeared we also appear with him in Glory, or doxa, which is the very values, opinions and judgments of God.

Notice it is the Appearing that manifests the Life. And so it is through the appearing that we manifest what life we have in us. And therefore with no expression manifesting or appearing, there is no apparent life to be manifested as we read in...

Ephesians 4:18 *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

And that led us to **Christian Life No 28** Harmony Between Christ and His Bride where we took our text from **Isaiah 55:11** *"So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Now, keep this Scripture in mind as we read from pp. **239** *"He, the Head, is the First-fruits of the resurrection. ... He is the First-fruits of the resurrection. Is that right? What? Then what is He? He's the Head of the Body, which is His Church, Bride. Uh-huh. Then the Bride-body must follow the Head, for it is part of His resurrection and part of the mystery. It's impossible for it not to go. Oh, my. It's part of God's mystery. How God revealed Himself here and raised it up by the Word, so He reveals the Church and raises it up by the same Word. It's a part of His threefold mystery.*

240 *As the Head was took from the grave, so must the Body follow Him back to Eden. Where the Head of the family, the Man, the Bridegroom--the Bride being the Body of the Bridegroom must follow, the Bride, because that's the Head. And the Head's revealed and come back with Eternal Life; and the Body must follow that, because it is Husband and Wife again. Amen. And as long as you're pregnated with the same Word, which is His Body, you took His Body, become in Him when you took the Word--not the creed, the Word... ... Therefore, the Body cannot recognize... (Don't you fail this.) The Body, therefore, cannot recognize any other headship but the Word, 'cause the Head is connected with the Body. And the Head is the Word, and it's the same Word: one Headship. Therefore, denominations, and holy fathers, and everything else is dead done. There's one Headship; that's Christ. The Body only recognizes one thing: the Word.*

There is only one theme that brother Branham is bringing out here this morning and that is this. There's one Headship; that's Christ. **The Body only recognizes one thing: God's Word.**

Jesus himself said, "*man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that departs out of the Mouth of God.*" Therefore, it all boils down to one thing. **Does the Word of God have preeminence in your life or does it not.** Are you still dependent on what someone else tells you or what God's own Mouth tells you.

God Himself said in **Romans 3:4** *let God be true, but every man a liar; saith the Lord.* So if God Himself said *let every man's Word be a lie*, then you have a right to not believe any one except God's very own Word.

Notice Jesus tells us in **Matthew 4:4** *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.* So the emphasis is the Word which comes forth from God's Mouth, His prophets.

And in Luke 1:70 we are told the mouth of God is His prophets. It is not the five fold ministry. It is not the Teacher. It is not the Pastor. It is not the Evangelist. It is not the five fold Prophet. It is not the Apostle. It tells us the mouth of God is His prophets. period.

Luke 1:70 *As He (God) has spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:*

So he tells us if you want to trace how God has spoken to man all the way back from the beginning you will find it has been through His prophets.

Acts 3:21 *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Now, the instructions God left us with concerning how He will use his prophets, comes to us in **Deuteronomy 18:15** *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;* (hearken means to pay close attention). *16 According to all that thou desired of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.*

So when God spoke to Israel directly, they were so scared that they asked God to choose out a man, and speak through that man and they would listen. So God said, "**ok, that's the way it will be.**" *17 And the LORD said unto me, "They have well spoken that which they have spoken". 18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **I will put my words in his mouth**; and he shall speak unto them **all that I shall command him**. 19 And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever will not hearken unto my words** which **he shall speak in my name**, I will require it of him.*

In other words you are going to have to answer to God for not listening to the One He places His Words in their mouth.

*20 But the prophet, which shall **presume** to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

Now, that's a pretty tough thing to hear. Because he is telling the people they will have to kill the false prophets who speak what God has not told them to speak. And this word "presume" is the key here because the word presume means: *: to think that (something) is true **without knowing** that it is true:* In other words, *to believe something is true without it being vindicated to be true.*

*20 But **the prophet**, which shall **presume** to speak a word in my name,... which shall speak a word in my name which he believes to be true but has not ben vindicated to be true, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

So we see a pretty tough sentence on those who would speak what they presume to be true when it is not vindicated to be true.

*21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22 **When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.***

in other words, God interprets His own Words by bringing them to pass. So it all boils down to whether the things spoken comes to pass or not. In other words, not mere words, but **a living Word that must manifest after it has been spoken**. If there is no manifestation after that word has gone forth then God never told the man to say it. So that throws theology out the door altogether. That throws out about 99.9% of all that's taught in pulpits throughout the entire world altogether. Therefore, unless the five fold minister is echoing what a vindicated prophet taught, you don't have to hear him, period.

We hear the prophet Jeremiah tell us this very thing in **Jeremiah 23:16** *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, (So who is talking here? Jeremiah? or the Lord of Hosts? Thus saith the LORD of hosts And what is the Message?) **Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart,** (their own understanding) **and not out of the mouth of the LORD.*** Notice Jeremiah tells the people these false prophets make you vain, and the dictionary definition of the word vain means they will make you to not produce.

Are you getting it? in other words, "**marked by futility or ineffectualness**". In other words, the words of that prophet **will not produce anything in you** because there is no Life in those words, because they are not the Words of God. So then what does come out of their mouths if God did not send these men?

Chronicles 18:19 *And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. 20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? 21 And he said, **I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.** (Notice, not a lying spirit in the mouth of God's prophets, but Ahab's prophets.) *And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. 22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these **thy** prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.**

Now we find the same story told in **1 Kings 22** but we don't have time to read it tonight.

I would like to read again from **Jeremiah 23:15-40** from the **NIV** *Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land." 16 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.** 17 They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' 18 But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his Word? Who has listened and heard his word? 19 See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. 20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly.*

So those who have taken a filter other than the Mouth of God, His prophet, He says they do so because of their own stubbornness of their own hearts, and they will receive nothing from God, because they have gone outside God's provided way.

*21 I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their own message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. 22 But **if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people** and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.*

So look at the fruits of the people, if they are stubborn, and arrogant, then it shows who they are listening to are also arrogant and stubborn and surely not sent by God. In other words, if they had heard God's word and echoed God's Word it would have had a result on the people that would bring a maturity to them, and the fruits of the Spirit echoing forth from them. But since there is no manifestation as a result of what they preach it is because they are only preaching their own deluded theology and they are not echoing God's Living Word which will not return to Him void.

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD , "and not a God far away? 24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD . "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD .

What is wrong with people who can claim to believe the Judge is here and yet think the judge will not judge them when they disobey God's Word?

I'll tell you the difference between a righteous preacher and an unrighteous preacher. When you listen to a righteous preacher who correctly echoes God's Words, you can feel the heat of the fire of God, but when you hear the words of an unrighteous preacher you feel nothing, and therefore you change nothing. You just continue on as though you are ok with God, and you are deluded in thinking so.

Then God says, *25 "I have heard what the prophets say **who prophesy lies in my name.** They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, **who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?** 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but **let the one who has my word speak it faithfully.** For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD . 29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD , "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"*

You see? God's Word is like a fire, and it cuts and it cleans down to the very thoughts and intentions of the heart. And if you're listening to someone who calls himself a preacher and brings no Fiery Word that cuts and cleans, I'll tell you one thing, "that man is not called by God, he's called by the people to tell them what their itching ears want to hear."

*30 "Therefore," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who steal **from one another** words supposedly from me.*

Now, look at what he is saying here. If it is not in the written Word of God it didn't come from God. You hear men all the time quoting some five fold minister saying, brother so and so said this or brother so and so said that. But God said, *"I am against those preachers **who steal words from one another, words which supposedly came from me.**"*

This Word **supposedly** implies these men are trying to get you to think the quote they give you from another minister are words from God, when they are nothing more than some man's opinion. Unless they are Scripture or Words of a vindicated prophet, they mean nothing. Therefore it doesn't matter who said what, unless it is **Thus Saith the Lord.**

That's why I don't want you quoting me, you may quote the scripture or the quote that I read you from God's prophet, but unless we are quoting God's Word or His Prophet, I'm not interested and you shouldn't be either. we can show respect to their opinion, but Iwe had better respect Gods Word more.

31 Yes," declares the LORD , "I am against the the preachers who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.' 32 Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the LORD . "They tell them and lead my people astray with their

reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD . False Oracles and False Prophets.

Let me continue our reading from **Jeremiah 23** from the translation called **The Message**.

The Message 34 *"And if anyone, including prophets and priests, goes around saying glibly 'GOD's Message! GOD's Message!' I'll punish him and his family. 35-36 "Instead of claiming to know what GOD says, ask questions of one another, such as 'How do we understand GOD in this?' But don't go around pretending to know it all, saying 'God told me this . . . God told me that. . . .' I don't want to hear it anymore. Only the person I authorize speaks for me. Otherwise, my Message gets twisted, the Message of the living God. 37-38 "You can ask the prophets, 'How did God answer you? What did he tell you?' But don't pretend that you know all the answers yourselves and talk like you know it all. I'm telling you: **Quit the 'God told me this . . . God told me that . . .'** kind of talk. 39-40 "Are you paying attention? You'd better, because I'm about to take you in hand and throw you to the ground, you and this entire city that I gave to your ancestors. I've had it with the lot of you. You're never going to live this down. You're going down in history as a disgrace."*

Now, that's pretty tough love if you ask me. But that is what God wants. God don't care if you knew his prophet. God don't care if you fished with the man or hunted with the man, God is interested in one thing, do you believe His prophets that he sends to you.

There's too many people posing as believers today. Men still rubbing a rabbits foot, rubbing it for luck. Men chasing after answers from one preacher to the next instead of from the Mouthpiece God gave us. What's the difference if you use a crystal ball a preacher to get answers. Brother Branham said, *"The Body, the Bride, only recognizes one thing: and that's the Word."*

Isn't that what brother Branham told us the condition the bride will be in at the very end?

From his sermon, **The Spoken word is the Original Seed 62-0318E P:175** brother Branham said, *"Notice, what harmony. Jesus never did anything until seen of the Father or the Father showed Him first: (Harmony between God and Christ. See? **John 5:19**) So will the Bride, and He shows Her His Word of Life (He shows Her), and she receives It. She never doubts it. Nothing can harm Her, not even death; for if the Seed be planted, the water will raise it up again. Amen. (Now, I got a great big "Hallelujah.") **Here is the secret: the Word is in the Bride and the mind of Christ to know what He wants done with the Word, and She does it in His Name. She has Thus saith the Lord. Then it is germitized; so the Holy Spirit waters it until it is grown and serves its purpose. They do only His will.** (Amen. I'll believe that.) No one can persuade them different. They have Thus saith the Lord, (they have what the Lord has already said thus) or they keep still. Then they will do the works of God.*

Remember **Isaiah 55:11** where God said, *"So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: **it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish** that which I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Let us pray