

Spoken Word no. 175

Willfully Ignorant

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July 4th, 2010

2 Peter 3:1 *This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers**, (empaiktes **a derider**, by implication **a false teacher**:- **mock**er, **scoffer** to treat with derision) **walking after their own lusts**, 4 And saying, **Where is the promise of his Parousia?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 **For this they willingly are ignorant of**, ...*

Let us pray... Dear Father, we have read in Thy Word that at the end time men would be scoffers, False teachers, men who would mock the truth, men who would treat Thy Truth with words of derision, and this Lord, shows that they just have not a clue to what Truth is, they are ignorant of Thy Truth, and not only ignorant, but they are willfully ignorant, because they just don't want to know. And when we approach them with Thy Truth, they sneer at it, and call us names, and make fun of Thy Truth, Lord. And we see in the apostle Peter warning us that these false teachers would be this way, so when they are as You said they would be, we are thankful for the warning, because it helps us to know, You foreknew these things, and have prepared us to deal with them. And Your Only begotten Son told us also that the world would hate us because it first hated him, so we are in good company Lord, and we thank you for caring for us so much that you would forewarn us of these things long before they ever took place, so that when they did take place we could be aware of them, and rightfully place them in Thy Word.

We know also that these mockers of thy truth walk according to their own lusts, their own desires, and do not care what Your Word says because they have their own word which means more to them than your Word Father.

Be with us today, Dear Father, and as David said, 'try our hearts, to see whether there be any wickedness in us, and purge us O Lord, by the washing of water by Thy Word', for we have a need that "after we have patiently waited for Thy Promise of this Hour, that we might with Patience receive the Promise", for we ask it in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

Now, from **The Spoken Word is the Original Seed**, paragraph **33** the afternoon service, brother Branham said, *Now, she mingled her seed illegally, illegal to the Word. What was she trying to find? (Now, listen close.) What was she after? Wisdom, wisdom. And that's what she's done today. She's sent her preachers away to schools, incubated them out on a machine, psychology, all kinds of stuff that should not even in the Bible. And she's incubated her eggs. And when she's done, she's brought out a product of a bunch of people that will compromise anything and refuse the very message of God, not knowing what she's doing. She's ignorant of it. She don't believe, she don't think she's wrong. Neither did Eve think she was wrong. Eve thought she was right. And if that was a type,*

and this is the antetype, it'll have to work the same way the type did. Now, that's just... To me that's just two times two equal four.

And I hope you can see brother Branham is telling us just as Eve was ignorant of what she did, so too the church today is ignorant that they have already conceived another seed and not the seed of God by his Word. They believe they have the truth, but the very fact that they are arrogant shows that they have a wrong spirit, and that arrogance, that mocking spirit places them in this scripture as those mockers walking after their own lusts.

Notice that she mingled her seed like Eve did with something other than the word, and as a result it has produced ***a bunch of people that will compromise anything and refuse the very message of God, not knowing what she's doing. She's ignorant of it. She don't believe, she don't think she's wrong*** as brother Branham warned us.

Now, remember, Eve was not raped. She entered into that union willingly, and yet she was ignorant of what she was doing, so she wasn't innocent, and she may have been ignorant of what she was doing, but she was willingly a participant in what she did, so that makes her willfully ignorant. If you are willing to turn down the truth because of your own ignorance, that makes you willfully ignorant.

Now, listen, I have had to deal with a whole lot of ministers in and out of this Message who close their eyes and shut their ears so they won't see or hear what we try to tell them concerning the doctrine of Christ. And why do they do it? Because it interferes with what they think they already know and are comfortable with. And how many people are going to spend an eternity in hell where it will not be comfortable, just so they can be comfortable now in their own imaginations or among their own little groups of likeminded people. What a shame to turn down truth for popularity or money. What a shame to spend an eternity in hell for comfort today.

And that is what Peter told us in **2 Peter 3: 5** *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, ...*

And so we see constantly throughout the Scriptures both Paul and Peter warn us not to be ignorant.

In **1 Thessalonians 4: 13** Paul admonish the Thessalonians, *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren,...*

And in **2 Corinthians 1: 8** Paul speaking to the Corinthians said, *For we would not brethren, have you ignorant...*

And in **1 Corinthians 10: 1** *Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, ...* and in **1 Corinthians 12: 1** Paul says, *I would not have you ignorant.* And again in **1 Corinthians 14: 38** Paul concludes, *But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

And then to the Romans Paul said in **Romans 1: 13** *Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, ...* and again in **Romans 11: 25** *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery...*

And in **Romans 10: 3** Paul tells us why they are ignorant of God's Truth...*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, (right-wise-ness) and going about to establish their own righteousness, (right-wise-ness) have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness (right-wise-ness) of God.*

Brother Branham taught us that "*Christ is Revealed in HIS Own Word.*" And to be frank, the Scriptures teach us that all men are revealed by their own words, as Jesus said Himself, "*for as a man thinketh in his heart so is he, and out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*"

In **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 KJV** we read, *4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

Now, the **NIV** for verse 7 reads this way... *Impress them on your children. Talk of them when you sit in your home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 7 Amplified And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be first in your mind heart; then you shall whet and sharpen them, so to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the minds and hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.*" And so we see that to do so they were to place pictures and Scriptures and all sorts of things that the children will actually see with their eyes and when they see with their eyes it will have an influence in their minds and in their hearts.

St. John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* Now that doesn't take any special gift to be able to understand that? Or is it so plain that all we must have to do is be able to read. Therefore we can say that God and His Word are the same, Right? OK, now let's see what else we can find out about this Word.

Malachi 3: 6 *"For I am the Lord and I change not"* Also we read from

Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."*

Now let me first explain what this means that God is the Word. In **Proverbs 23:7** we are told, *"as a man thinketh in His Heart, so is he."* Now, this body is not you nor any part of it. Brother Branham said it is like an old coat that we wear. Well, my coat is not me. So what you are is what your thoughts are.

In **Matthew 12:34 & Luke 6:25** Jesus tells us, "*For out of the abundance, or overflow of the heart, the mouth will speak.*" So then there is no getting away from the fact that you are not only what you think, but what you are will be expressed through your lips in the form of words. You will speak what you are.

John 1: 1 that tells us "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*" To get to know God, it must come through His Word, and since He can not change, then we can establish the point and that *Christ is Revealed in His Own Word, because after all, Christ and the Word is the same.* Now if you are revealed by your own words, then Christ is Revealed in the same manner. Therefore, to get to know Christ we must get to know His Word. And that is why God has given us His Word. Could you imagine God wanting for us to know Him and not telling us anything about Himself? Then our knowledge of Him would be left up to our own imagination.

Let me put it to you this way. When a young man sees a young girl and he likes what he sees, what does he do? He tries to get to know her. But what if he never talks to her? Can he get to know her? Not really. He may say that he has fallen in love with her without ever talking to her, but how does he know that it is her that he is in love with? It might just be his own imagination that he is in love with. He imagines what she is like and so he thinks on these thoughts and then he falls in love with his ideals of what she should be like. But what happens if he dates her and they never talk? He will go on thinking she is what his mind imagines her to be. And what if they get married and they have never really talked and communicated to each other. Then he will be in for the shock of his life when he marries her and then finds out later that she is not what he thought she was.

So you see, we express ourselves by what we say and what we do. That is the real person in us doing those things and saying those things. This shell of a body is only a housing in which the real person in us lives. You do not know me by what I look like but by what I say and do. My expression reveals to you the real me. How often people marry thinking they will be able to change the one they marry. But it doesn't work that way.

And so we see that **not only is God revealed in His own Word, but we are also revealed by our own words.** But what if those words are not true? Or what if we were told words that were not true? Or what if we only hear what we want to hear? Then the description of the One being revealed will be wrong. Then that one will not be truly revealed will he?

What if you are a man looking for a wife and are given a wrong picture and a wrong description of that woman. What if you fall for a girl that you believe is virtuous because she told you she is, and yet in reality she is a little prostitute? That would be deception by testimony or deception by words. And how was Eve seduced.? By what? By a lie! And the early church left the One who bought them for another one. How? By deception.

The apostle Paul warned us in **Galatians 1: 6-9** ¶ *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.* (now let me read it again with the Greek word inserted and its definitions)...

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (That word another was translated from the Greek word heteros which means of another nature. The Paul says,) *7 Which is not another;*(now this word another was translated from the Greek word allos which does not mean of another nature as heteros does, but this means an altogether different Gospel. So Notice that Paul is saying it is not an altogether different Gospel you are hearing but one which is the same but it has a different nature to it. So it's not the same, but it's been perverted. And that is what he says next...) *but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.* (Now, this word pervert was translated from the Greek word transmutate, so they were hearing a mutated Gospel.) *8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Again we see in **2 Corinthians 11: 1-4**, Paul's warning to the early church. ¶ *Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with [him]. (you put up with it so easily). 5 ¶ For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chieftest apostles.* And now, let's read **13-15** *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

The great falling away happens because of the gullibility of those people who are perishing.

2Thesslonians 2: 5-12 KJV *5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Now, the **Wuest translation** says, *"whose coming and presence is in the sphere of every kind of wicked deception that is geared to the gullibility of those who are perishing, this gullibility being caused by the fact that they did not accept the love for the truth to the end that they might be saved. And because of this God sends them a deluding influence resulting in their believing THE lie, in order that they all might be judged who did not believe the truth but took delight in wickedness."* So you see, God knows who already believes and who does not. And so the purpose of the wrong influence is to give those who do not believe an opportunity to expose their unbelief.

John 3: 17-21 *17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

Did you notice, it says They are already condemned. But notice those who have their source in God, they can not help but to come to the Truth. Most people haven't a clue as to who or what God is? What they have is based solely upon their own imagination, or the imagination of another whether it be a church's position, or the opinion of a priest, rabbi or some minister.

The Messenger Irenaeus said in his letters *1. Such, then, is their system, which neither the prophets announced, nor the Lord taught, nor the apostles delivered, but of which they boast that beyond all others they have a perfect knowledge. They gather their views from other sources than the Scriptures;(4) and, to use a common proverb, they strive to weave ropes of sand, while they endeavor to adapt with an air of probability to their own peculiar assertions the parables of the Lord, the sayings of the prophets, and the words of the apostles, in order that their scheme may not seem altogether without support. In doing so, however, they disregard the order and the connection of the Scriptures, and so far as in them lies, dismember and destroy the truth. By transferring passages, and dressing them up anew, and making one thing out of another, they succeed in deluding many through their wicked art in adapting the oracles of the Lord to their opinions. Their manner of acting is just as if one, when a beautiful image of a king has been constructed by some skilful artist out of precious jewels, should then take this likeness of the man all to pieces, should rearrange the gems, and so fit them together as to make them into the form of a dog or of a fox, and even that but poorly executed; and should then maintain and declare that this was the beautiful image of the king which the skilful artist constructed, pointing to the jewels which had been admirably fitted together by the first artist to form the image of the king, but have been with bad effect transferred by the latter one to the shape of a dog, and by thus exhibiting the jewels, should deceive the ignorant who had no conception what a king's form was like, and persuade them that that miserable likeness of the fox was, in fact, the beautiful image of the king.*

In like manner do these persons patch together old wives' fables, and then endeavor, by violently drawing away from their proper connection, words, expressions, and parables whenever found, to adapt the oracles of God to their baseless fictions.

So we hear Jesus warn us in **Mark 4: 24** *And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.* Notice he said, take heed, in other words, **be careful how you hear**. How you hear? Don't we hear with our ears? I'd like to ask this question myself. How do you hear? with your ears? He said, **Take Heed: Blepo= Beware of, be careful, to discern, to observe and contemplate, to weigh carefully, examine.** What you hear, the word is *Tis* :What, who, whom, why, that which **Hear** from *Akou*: **To understand, comprehend or perceive, to sense what was being said, to give an ear to a teaching or teacher with a view toward understanding.**

We also see in **Matthew 13: 10 – 17** *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them].*

Notice he said we do not hear with our ears nor do we see with our eyes. These are only outer senses that send stimulus to our mind. But what we hear with and what we see only brings a stimulus that enter into our mind or spirit where we have five other senses.

1 Corinthians 2: 11a *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?* We have Spiritual Sight which is Revelatory and is possessed only within the soul of the Believer who alone has this Spiritual sight which is also called Faith. This Comes only from God .

Now what I am trying to say here is that you see and hear with your mind, and we read in **Mark 4: 24** that we must **be careful**, we must **take heed how we hear** because the measure we use to hear is the only thing we will hear. **As a tree leaneth so shall it fall.** If our minds are already made up then what we hear will be filtered by what we want to hear. If our minds are not open then we will never come to the knowledge of the truth. (**ex:** young man leaning, try to stand up, can't do it!)

Mark 4:24 *For with what measure you use to measure out, that is all you will receive back.*

Luke 8:18 *Take heed therefore how ye hear: **How** : Pos : By what means, after what manner, in what way *for whosoever hath, **Hath** : echo : The word speaks of possession, but we also understand the word echo means repetition through reflection. *to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.***

1 Timothy 4:15-16 *Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **Doctrine** : Didaskalia : Doctrine, teaching, instruction...continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.* Notice that we are told that it will save both you and those who will hear you.

Proverbs 22:6 ¶ *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* And so a child will always revert back to the way he or she was trained. The filter we have, the measuring stick we have is based upon what information we filter it through. And so we see that every thing we know we were taught by someone. Every fact we use to make our decisions with is based upon what we were told. And the world is under such delusions today that people take what is only theory and believe it for Gospel. Ex: Darwin and evolution, Landing on the moon, Brother Branham said, they'll never do it. Videos show heavy gravity. No booster rockets to get them back, etc. What about star wars, It was a bluff to bankrupt Russia. etc.

I used this illustration in a church who had sat under false teaching for so many years that the people did not know what truth was. I hid a Lamb under a blanket and told them that The Gentiles worship what they know not, as Jesus has said. I told them to guess what was under the blanket because that is what most people do concerning faith. It is only a guess to them. I then read to them 7 attributes which described what I had hid under the blanket. Before I did, though, I told one group that what was under the blanket was a Bunny Rabbit. Another Group I told it was a Collie dog. Both Groups then thinking they knew what I had under the blanket, were actually blinding themselves to the attributes which were expressed because they read into them what they wanted to hear. That attributes were: 1) Four legs 2) beautiful outer coat 3) Gentle nature 4) it's nature is to follow 5) It can jump small fences 6) it is sacrificial in it's nature 7) A Shepherd boys best friend . When each attribute was read each group reinforced their error with the hearing of the attribute. Finally a group that I had told to be completely open until they heard all the attributes, said it was a Lamb and they alone were right. You should have seen the faces of those others. They were mad when they found out they had been duped. But I told them I purposely duped them in this illustration that they may never be duped again.

John 8: 37 – 47 *I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 ¶ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 ¶ Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? 47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

Matt 23:32 *Fill ye up the measure of your fathers.* Jesus told them to fill up the measure of their fathers. In other words, every seed will bring forth after their own kind, or their own nature. Then can you expect them to believe? There is no way they can believe. They are ordained not to believe. That reminds me of a man who was mental and thought he was dead. So the doctor trying to help him, asked him if dead men can bleed, and the man answered, of course not, dead men don't bleed because they have no blood. So the doctor trying to shock the man into his senses poked him with a needle and immediately the man began to bleed. Upon seeing the blood come he shouted, I was wrong, dead men do bleed! Now, if God were to come in this day and walk down the street, there is no way that you would know it was Him unless he began to open his mouth and talk to you and by words He would declare Himself to you. Because, you can only know someone by their mind - what they think and what they say. Even the things they do are a manifestation of what they are thinking. Brother Branham said, Eve had to first think adultery before she could perform it. You must first think of lying before you do it.

If you hear a false description you will be looking for a false person. That is why Paul told us in **2 Corinthian 11:1-4** that the people had become seduced to believe another Jesus, because they received so openly another Gospel.

Therefore how do we know what is the Correct Word of God? **VINDICATION** is the only way. And how does God VINDICATE His Word? *God interprets His Own Word by bringing it to pass*. Brother Branham spoke of vindication well over 2,270 times and the word comes from a Latin word *vindicatius*. This word comes from two Latin words, vim or vin which means *to use force* and the word *discrere* which comes from the root word diction which means *to express by words*. The words together form the word as we know it vindicate which means *to clear from criticism or suspicion*, in other words, *to prove and back up*. Therefore we see that the very presence of God on the scene is to back up the message that He gave His Prophet.

Let's pray....