

#46 You believe it you act like it

1 Romans 2: 5-11 5 But according to thy hardness and unrepentant heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality,(well you get) eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, (and as we mentioned a few weeks ago, this is those who are always contending to be somebody, numero uno, the top dog.) and do not obey the truth, but obey un-right-wise-ness, (what treasure are they storing up?) 1. indignation, 2. wrath, 3. tribulation and 4. anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But 1. glory, 2. honour, and 3. peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For with God there is no respect of persons.

2 We spoke on our status with God vs our current standing in which we now find our selves. We saw here that although God had chosen us in Him before the foundations of the world that we should be holy in His presence, yet we do not always see this reflected in our present condition. Therefore, not seeing what God sees we can get discouraged.

3 Therefore, a couple Sunday's ago we looked at our status with God vs our present condition or standing that we now find ourselves in. We then can see that if God chose us to be a certain way then He had to have a plan for us to get there. This the Bible calls "predestination" and it is different from election in that election is the choosing out and positionally placing as sons whereas predestination is the plan to get you there and the implementation of that plan. Now, this evening I would like to continue in our study of the Book of Romans and we shall begin at verse 12 of Romans 2.

4 Romans 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; 13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

5 Here Paul is teaching us that it is the Jew who would say, we know the law and therefore we do the law and they go before God with an attitude that says, we are the seed of Abraham and therefore we should reap the inheritance of Abraham and anything contrary we do not think that we should reap. Now, the gentiles have a different argument against receiving the judgment of God and that is the gentile would say, we never knew the law therefore we can not be guilty of breaking the law.

And Paul's answer to both of them is it is not what you know or don't know, but it's what you've done that matters. In verse 6 he said that God will render unto every man according to the deeds that have been done in the flesh. He is telling them that although they have never received the revealed law as did the Jew, they did however receive the law of God written in their own hearts and they can not escape thinking they didn't know better, because they did.

6 Look, people don't have to be Christian or Jew to know thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. They know it, because in their heart God placed that law there. You can go into heathen countries like Japan and they have laws against killing and against lying and stealing and committing adultery and

fraud and libel and slander and etc., etc., etc. They do not have these laws because they believe in the One true God, but they have these laws because God has written them in each man as part of His great creation. Notice back in chapter one, He said, Romans 1: 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them;...Man was created in the image of God and therefore they are without excuse. They don't believe not because they haven't had the opportunity, but because they refuse the light and turn it down.

7 Let's turn to John 3: 18-21 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.

8 Notice also in 1 John 2: 19-23 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

9 This goes for all the Truth. They leave it because they do not believe it, and thus they say no to it and turn against it.

10 Brother Branham told us that when God gave him his commission it was 2 Tim 4:1-5 it shows that the people would turn away from the truth. 2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

11 Notice that at the end-time they shall turn away their own ears from hearing the Truth. I don't see anyone out here twisting arms. People leave the message all the time and I don't recall one person being told to leave. A few I might have been blessed subtractions by leaving, but none was forced to leave that I have ever heard of.

12 But men and women willfully turn away from the Truth every day. It is in their will to do so or not do so and they choose to do so, therefore they will reap what they have sown, and no one is responsible except for themselves. Now, in 1 Tim 4:1 we are told that at the end-time some will depart from THE FAITH, and we know it is because they will take heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. But they are not forced to do so. Seduction is not rape, seduction is a willful thing, you go along with it willingly. You are not forced.

13 Notice in brother Branham's commission verse 3 the scripture says that they will heap to themselves teachers who have itching ears. Now this does not tell us that the teachers have itching ears, but the people have itching ears and they heap to themselves teachers who will scratch their itch. The Wuest translation says, "For the time will come when they will not endure our wholesome doctrine in that they will hold themselves firmly against it, but, dominated by their own personal cravings, they having ears that desire merely to be gratified, shall gather

themselves together an accumulation of teachers. In fact from the truth they also will avert their ears, and as a result, they shall receive a moral twist which will cause them to believe that which is fictitious."

14 The Weymouth Translation says, "For a time is coming when they will no longer tolerate wholesome instruction, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will turn away from listening to the truth and will turn aside to fables."

15 And the Amplified version says, "For the time is coming when people will not tolerate sound doctrine and wholesome instruction, but having ears itching for something pleasing and gratifying, they will gather to themselves, one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors that they hold."

16 In the book of Hosea 4:9 we read, "And there shall be like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings."

17 The scripture plainly tells us here that God will allow to be raised up a ministry that will speak to the people the things they like to hear. You know, that is everywhere you look today.

18 And let's face it, when brother Branham said, "How we ought to love one another, you that love this Word." He was just speaking of the principal or the law of reproduction. Like things gather together with like things. Birds of a feather will flock together. And that is every where. There are hardly any wars which are not brought on by religion. The Baptist love Baptists, and they call one-another Brother. The Methodist love Methodists. The Pentecostal love Pentecostals. The Muslim loves Muslim, and the Catholic loves the Catholics. Why even the agnostic gathers around other agnostics. Why? Because every seed must bring forth after their own kind.. They are comfortable with people with the same mindset. Liberals with liberals and conservatives with conservatives. There really is no mystery here

19 And why are we here tonight. Let's face it. You are here because you believe that God is here. We believe this message the same way. We find ourselves hearing brother Branham telling us things in a way that we don't hear repeated in the other local churches. You go to Middletown and you won't hear this Message brought out the same way. You can go to Fairborn or Dayton and the same thing applies. Why? You tell me.

20 Does that make us something? No, it doesn't. We believe we have the Truth, and they believe that they have the Truth. The Catholic believes that He has the Truth, and so does the Muslim. But then who is right? And that is why we are different. we focus on vindication. Yes, vindication. Not as others teach it that we are vindicated. But we believe that God Himself does the vindicating by His very presence, and that He has spoken through a vessel, a prophet who was so yielded to His Divine Word that He spoke Thus Saith the Lord. Now the Muslim believes they are following a prophet of God, but they do not understand vindication. The Pentecostal believer in this Message believe they are following a prophet, and so they are and yet because they do not understand vindication, they do not know what to believe except that God sent a prophet.

21 In Moses day the Egyptians followed their priests and their leader pharaoh, which brother Branham called him pastor pharaoh, but the children of Israel followed a prophet that was vindicated by God's Presence among them. After a while some of the men who also wanted to be leaders rose up and they appointed themselves leaders just as Lucifer rose up in the beginning and did the same thing. They saw the Exodus as an opportunity to be something more than what they were called to do, and so they rose up and defied Moses.

22 For you see, they had to first depose Moses in front of the people in order to elevate themselves. Lucifer had to exalt himself above the stars in order to make himself more important and give himself a position that was

beyond what he was called to do.

23 Faith is of the heart, and therefore invisible to men, obedience is of the conduct and may be observed. Therefore, when a man obeys God he gives the only possible evidence that in his heart he believes God. Of course it is persuasion of the truth that results in faith, (we believe because we are persuaded the thing is true) and therefore a thing does not become true just because it is believed.

24 In other words, just because you believe it is so, doesn't make it so. But we believe, because we have been persuaded that the thing is true and therefore we believe. But Obedience, in the NT suggests an actual and outward result of the inward persuasion and consequent faith. That is why Paul could say, I have not been disobedient to the heavenly vision. He was fully persuaded, and therefore he obeyed. And that is what vindication is all about. Therefore, obedience has to do with a Word being presented, and a following that word. Again, Jesus Learned obedience by the things that He suffered. and the word obedience use hear is from the root word ...

25 Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Don't be persuaded by unbelief, that you might follow after it. Follow God.

26 Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? don't allow yourselves to be persuaded by the wrong voice.

27 In Galatians 5:7-9 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion [cometh] not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

28 Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart (You have obeyed from your understanding) that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

29 Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

30 And this brings us to [Matthew 13:10-17 and Acts 13:48] In order to really obey you must have it in you to obey, to hearken and listen and understand. Therefore those who hear but do not understand what is being said, how can they obey? They can't. For if they do not understand what is being said, then they will like the rich young ruler try to wor out things for themselves. Then what are they if they do not obey but they are disobedient, right?

31 Look, to obey shows ownership of the command is other than yourself, but shows a trust in the command of that other, and a submission to it.

32 So what are we trying to get across this evening? That when you do, you are showing outwardly what is on the inside, and just because you might talk the Message doesn't mean that you believe it.

33 FF Bosworth in writing on Christ the Healer said, until you act out your healing, you are denying it done by

your inactivity. In other words, when you believe you then act like you believe, and when you act like you don't believe is because you don't believe.

34 From his sermon, Time is at hand 56-0408E P:67 You see, if you believe it, then you've got to act like you believe it. You see? If you do believe it, you will act like you believe it. Everything will be all right for you.

Let us pray.