

#3 Dedication

1 This evening we will examine paragraphs 3 through 8 of Brother Branham's sermon Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, And in these paragraphs although it seems they deal specifically with the dedication of an infant of 4 months old, we will also find that br. Branham speaks on the dedication of children. Now, although the title is Christ is the Mystery of God revealed, yet we will find this theme of dedication throughout this sermon. So let's begin reading tonight beginning at paragraph 2.

2 Gracious heavenly Father, we are approaching Thee again this morning for mercy and for guidance of the Holy Spirit today, as it's dawned upon us that we should meet together this morning, and to teach Thy Word, and that we might know how to live in this present day, and what is the time of day that we're living. We'd ask Thy holy guidance to our thoughts, our hearts today, that You would direct us to every word that is necessary for us to know; that You'd open our mouths freely and our hearts also to receive and that which You would speak to us, and would close our mouths to the things that are not right, knowing that only You can reveal the Word of God.

3 Now, I would like to stop here for a moment just to reaffirm this statement which brother Branham is making, because he says that Only God can reveal His Word to us, yet so many think that revelation comes from a prophet or teacher and that is not true at all. The revelation comes to the prophet and then through the prophet but it comes from God. God alone reveals.

4 Because we read in 2 Peter 1: 15, "Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and Parousia of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, saying, `This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased´. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard it ourselves when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, `as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts´: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

5 So it is evident that prophecy came by God who moved upon men to speak what he spoke to them. In other words they were special built men who could only echo what God already said. It was not men moving God, but God moving men. Just as the Scripture says in Romans 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. Just as the Scripture declares to us that in Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

6 And again as the apostle Paul said in Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you

perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

7 So you see if God is not doing it for you and through you, we have no assurance that what we are doing is pleasing in his sight. And the Scripture also tells us in Psalms 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman wakes but in vain.

8 So he is talking about dedication of a child here but I think is we are spiritual we will catch the point concerning our coming to God and dedicating ourselves as His Children to Him. So let's continue to read from paragraph number 2 in Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed.

9 2 And now, as I have to leave the little church right away now for the other parts of the world, I'm committing them to Thee, Lord, which they are part, the apple of my heart--as to say. They are the ones that's been begotten to You by the Spirit and by the Word of truth. I pray that You'll bless them, Lord, and keep them closely knitted together by the bonds of the love of Christ.

10 Now, we find in these words a certain relationship between Br. Branham and those Children of God that he has begotten to Christ by the Word and Spirit of God and therefore a certain affection is shown here when he speaks of these people. Now, let's finish this prayer before we take our text this evening.

11 3 Bless our dear beloved pastor, the shepherd. We pray that You'll anoint him with the Holy Spirit of Thy Word and reveal to them and feed the flock. And once... Just awhile ago when You showed the vision that the little tabernacle here... But to store up the food, that there would come a time when this would all be needed... When we seen Brother Sothmann and Brother Wood ready to cross over into another country to... But You said, "Store up this food here for the time." Lord, reverently I've tried to do that. And now, this morning in this lesson that we have thought of, I pray that You'll cap it all off, Lord, to show that You're God, and this is Your Word and Your Truth. Grant it, Lord, that the people might feed thereon and grow fat as it was in the grace of God, that they'd see that it's God's great mercy to us in this day. Bless all that's present and those who would like to be present, Father, and get glory to Thyself; for we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

12

4 The Lord bless each and every one of you now. And I believe just before we start, we have a little baby here, Collins. I met the father just a few moments ago, and he had a little baby he wanted dedicated; and we want to do that now, if Brother or Sister Collins, one, will bring the little one forward so we can have the dedicational service for this little fellow. 5 Leaving, you know, why, it causes... As these are loyal members of the Body of Christ... You notice, I never said of the Tabernacle, "of the bodies of Christ, this body here, part of His body".

13 If you will permit me to stop here and make a comment about what he just said, because there is too much within the sphere of this Message, where churches and ministers do not consider anyone outside of their little piece of turf called their local assembly to be in it. It seems that if you don't go to that church over there or this church over here, that there is an attitude that you are an outsider and you are not in the picture at all.

14 Now, forgive me for speaking out against that form of thinking but I have to say what I have to say, and that to me is one of the most damaging heresies we have in the body of Christ.

15 The Apostle Paul found this kind of behavior also among the early church. It is not the behavior of the Holy Spirit, but rather it is the nature of flesh which is the nature of self.

16 And Paul called it a carnal spirit.

17 KJV 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. (look these people had a real flaw in them. They didn't seem to understand the picture that was presented to them, and so in their yet carnal minds they proceeded to do what carnal people do, and that is "to pit one against the other" for some advantage.)

18 What Paul is saying here is I'm completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God. You're acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing much more than nursing.

19 He then tells them in verse 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. (what he is saying here is) Well, then, I'll nurse you since you don't seem capable of anything more.

20 And then he tells them why they need to be nursed along. He says, 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? 4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

21 Look at the condition of this group of believers in the Message of the hour in the alpha ministry of Christ. Envy among them, strife among them, divisions among them, and so he says, are ye not still carnal? The Message Translation puts it this way...As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything's going your way? When one of you says, "I'm on Paul's side," and another one says, "I'm for Apollos," aren't you being totally infantile?

22 And is not that what the flesh does, it looks to self and self interest? Why is it that men can not see what God is doing in this hour? Why is it that men are so focused on self that they can not see the greater picture? Why is it that men choose not to try to get others to Christ and to maturity but rather seek to keep the people like children sucking at their breast? You've seen these women who still nurse their children at five years of age. That child will never grow up to be a man if he doesn't learn to eat his own food. And neither will the church grow up if the So called Five Fold ministry keeps them focused on them and their ministry instead of focusing on Christ and the pattern to be conformed to.

23 Now, we know the ministry of the five fold is to take the children of God and bring them up to the place of maturity, where they work together to build up the body and not tear it down. But why do so many try to compete

with the other when we are supposed to be working together to build up the body of Christ?

24 The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, (that means for the equipping of the saints, for the maturing of the saints) for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (or building up) of the body of Christ: (but why do we see the people being torn down and made to feel so inferior from the ministers as though the minister is somebody to reckon with? Who do the ministers think they are anyway?) Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3: 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

25 To quote The Message Translation, Paul says here: Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us are servants, servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignments. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God Himself who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs that pay minimum wage. But what makes these jobs worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working, that's all.

26 And so the job of the true five fold ministry is as Paul says in Ephesians For the perfecting of the saints, (that means for the equipping of the saints, for the maturing of the saints) for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (or building up) of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of The Faith, (and notice here he does say revelations as though there is more than one, but rather he says, THE Faith, as He says earlier in chapter 4, there is One Lord and One faith, and here he calls it The Revelation, and the five fold are to get you to That Revelation which is the Revelation of Christ.) and of the knowledge of the Son of God, (which then that will bring you) unto a perfect man, (unto a mature and stable Son of God) unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

27 Now, I know there are some who claim to be five fold ministers who teach this is where the bride comes to the place where is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, but that is not what it says, and if that were even possible, do you think God would entrust His fullness in the hands of a five-fold ministry? No, this tells us that we are to come to the measure which was translated from the Greek word "metron" which means the limited portion of the stature or character of the fulfilling of Christ. That's it. The five fold ministries job is to get you to the doctrine of Christ, which is the Revelation of Christ and to the knowledge of the son of God, so you can see the pattern for sons which was manifested in Christ Jesus. And it is by stepping into that pattern that we become conformed to the image of the first born son.

28 That is why the Apostle Paul continues, in Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children who are tossed to and fro and who are carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they actually lie in wait to deceive; 15 But the True five fold ministry by speaking the truth in love, do so in order that you may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (It is God's desire that that his children grow up into the character of Christ thus fulfilling Christ.) 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure (limited portion) of every part, making increase of the body (How does the body increase? By adding up the sum of the parts) unto the edifying of itself in love.

29 Look, that is why brother Branham defined the greater works of John 14:12 two different ways, He said, the sum of all the works throughout the body of Christ is greater than it was in the one man Jesus Christ. And he also let us know that God did more in his own ministry than He did in his own sons ministry. So you can not make him say what he did not say. And we are told to believe all that the prophets have told us. Not to go off half cocked with our own versions of the doctrine to make our own statements seem to be right. Say what the tapes say and only what they say, that was our command for this hour.

30 And so in getting back to 1 Corinthians 3:6 the Apostle Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but it was God that gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth is anything; but it is God that gives the increase. (Its God that is the author of life. It is God who ordains the life to come. The sower of the seed and the one who waters the seed are only doing what they are told to do) 8 Now he that plants and he that waters are one, working together as one for one purpose: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

31 Then in verse 10 Paul begins to be a little more specific. Here he says, 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another is building there on. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

32 The MESSAGE Translation Or, to put it another way, you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation!

33 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul says, Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing. If your work passes inspection, fine; if it doesn't, your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But you won't be torn out; you'll survive-but just barely.

34 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. 21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; 22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; 23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

35 And then brother Branham goes into the dedication of the little child. As we read his words listen to his message to the parents. And they got a little fellow here they want dedicated. And this is always a job I think

my--my wife envies me of: to hold the babies. Brother Neville, if you'll come forward, if you will.

36

6 What is your first name, brother? This is Brother and Sister Clyde Collins; he's the brother to our precious brother here, Reverend Collins, Wilbur. And they've had a increase in the Collins's here; I see, and a very cute little fellow. How old is he, Sister Collins? Almost four months. And what's his name? Mark David. That's a very fine name. And he look like a very fine boy. Say, he's kind of a big boy too. Now, I know the mother here, and certainly do appreciate this little fellow here. Isn't that a doll? Oh, as we bow our heads now...

37

7 Heavenly Father, as this young father and mother comes with this little precious lump of human flesh that's been given to their union, placed into their hand for keeping for the Lord God, they reverently bring this little Mark David here for dedication to the Almighty, Who has give this precious little boy fine health and a fine boy into their care to be raised for the glory of God. Lord, bless the father and mother, and may the barrel never be empty at house or the cruse ever run dry.

38 (Now, notice there are three things Br. Branham says here that are things for the parents to do in this dedication of their child and themselves.) No. 1 to the Father) May the father be well and able, Lord, to work and to make food for the little fellow. No. 2 to the mother) May the mother be well and able to prepare it, and No. 3 to both parents) their hearts prepared, Lord, to teach the little fellow, to raise him in the admonition of God. Grant it, Lord.

39

8 Now, from their arms to mine comes this lovely child, little Mark David. And I present him with the Elder of the church here to You in the Name of Jesus Christ for a life of service. Grant it, Lord. Get glory out of his life. May he live a long life, even to the coming the Lord Jesus, if that be pleasing to You. And if so, may he come to pack the message of the Lord God in the age that is to come. Grant it. Keep him healthy, happy, and may his heart always be set on doing the things which is right before God. In the Name of Jesus Christ we offer the child to You in dedication. Amen. God bless you. God bless you, Sister Collins, he's a fine boy, and you, Brother Collins. God be with you.

40

"Bring Them In," all of us just...

Bring them in, bring them in,

Bring them in from the fields of sin;

Bring them in, bring them in,

Bring the little ones to Jesus. I like that.

See, bring them to Christ before the Devil even has a chance. They're already presented to Him then for a life of service.

41 Let us bow our heads and our hearts in prayer...

42 Dear Father we thank thee for your Word this evening, and for this understanding of the ministry and how it is to help us to see the bigger picture, the Son of God, the eldest brother in a vast family of brothers and how that you have ordained us to be conformed to the image of the first born son in a vast family of brothers. Thank you Father for Your presence among us, and we ask now that you would bless the communion and foot-washing

portion of our service as well in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.