

#127 Christian Life no 8 Written Epistles

1 2 Corinthians 3:1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? **2** Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: **3** For as much as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. **4** And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: **5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2 Let us pray,...

3 You may be seated.

4 Now, this morning we will look at what Paul speaks of here when he says, Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: **3** Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

5 Notice he speaks of manifestly declared. What does that mean? Well, manifestly means the declaration is a manifested Word. Not so much what you say, but what does your Life manifest before men. And in this case he said the people lives, the lives lived from their hearts was a manifestation of the Life of Christ to the world around them. And that is my greatest desire for my life and for yours is to see such manifestation of christ Life in you, and no one would ever doubt your testimony.

6 And with that in mind, let's turn in our booklets, of Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, and we will read from paragraph 201 through 208 for our study this morning.

7 201 Notice, redeeming back with Him, going home, back to Eternal Life in a human body, eating, drinking, living forever... Isaiah said, "They build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat the fruit." They'll not build, and another take it. The children won't take it, but they'll be there with their offsprings."

8 I would like to just add my own thoughts here for a moment. Notice he is reading the Scripture and tells us that we will be there with our offspring with us. What a blessed promise. There is nothing in this world I desire more than to be there in the Millennium with my wife and children, and my children's children.

9 Can any of you think of a greater blessing than that? To make it out of this pest house with your family intact, and even your grandchildren, being there? That is the desire of my heart.

10 And then he says, "He'll build it and stay there. Amen. He don't build and another eat; He builds and eats himself. Amen. What is it? His Bride going back with Him, redeemed back to the original Adam and Eve again. For it's...?... has left behind. They look back at the cross and see the death that's been paid. And now by faith we are resurrected with Him, setting in heavenly places right now, looking back to what redeemed us, waiting for the Husband to come to march on home with Him.

11 Notice that brother Branham keeps reminding us of what it is all about. he tells us that if we are filled with

His Spirit, then we are now, right now setting with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He's not looking down the road to a distant promise way out in the future. he's telling us that if we have His Spirit now, then now we are already raised with Him, and we are now setting together with Him in Heavenly places.

12 Now, you might say, I'm in church now, what do you mean we are now in heavenly places with Him. Listen, what you are here is only a reflection of what you are somewhere else. We've quoted that to you many times from brother Branham.

13 Listen to what brother Branham tells us in his sermon, Explaining healing and Jairus 54-0216 P:37 The devil's just trying to scare you out of something. He's trying to put something off somewhere else, say, "Some of these days you'll be this." You are now. Now, we're sons of God. Now, we're seated together in heavenly places. Now, we have all powers in heavens and the earth. See? Now, we have it. Not in the millennium, we won't need it then. We got it now. Right now we are the sons of God. "It does not appear what we shall be, but we know we'll be like Him." "What you are here is a reflection of what you are somewhere else. "Those who He called, He justifies." Is that right? "Those who He justified, He has glorified." Already in the Presence of the Father, we have a glorified body. Whew! Wasn't that deep? All right. We'll find out whether it's right or not. "If this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting." Is that right? That's right. So right now, and what we are here, is a reflection of what we are somewhere else. So if your deeds are evil, you know where it comes from. You know where your other body's a waiting.

14 Now, I do not believe for one moment we have anyone in here whose deeds are evil. Oh, you might get bad thoughts all day long, but those aren't your thoughts to begin with, they are Satan's. And you don't accept them although he might even flood your mind with them, but don't worry, as long as you don't let them make a nest, they are not yours until you receive them and act upon them. Until then they are only Satan's thoughts he is trying to get you to act upon. So just don't claim them. Don't act upon them. The Bible tells us, "resist the Devil and he will flee".

15 Let's read it for ourselves in James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. (and Who is God? He is the Word, so submit yourselves unto the Word of God, then) Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (notice then what he says in verse)

16 8, Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners;(that's your deeds, the things that you do, he says cleanse them first) and (then) purify your hearts, ye double minded.

17 Now, when he says resist the devil, the word resist was translated from a Greek word anti-stemi, and we know the word anti means the opposite, but I want you to notice that the word stemi which we are to be the opposite of, it means to establish or make a stand for. But placing the word anti in front of that word, means to take a stand against, to establish yourself against. So when you resist the devil, you are taking a stand against him. And how do you do that? By standing with God, by drawing near to Him, and when we do that we know that He will draw near to you. Then clean up your deeds that you do by purifying your heart, purging it of any thoughts that are contrary to God's thoughts. And How do we do that? By submitting ourselves unto God by submitting ourselves unto His Word.

18 Let's read it again and think about what he is telling us. James 4:7 (1) Submit yourselves therefore to God. (And Who is God? He is the Word, So we are to submit ourselves unto the Word of God, then he tells us to) Resist the devil, (you see, once you have submitted yourself to the Word you will automatically resist the devil. And how do you do that? By comparing his thoughts with God's Word, and anything that is not God's Word you reject, you say no to, you take a stand against it. And what is the consequence of your stand? we are told that) he (the devil) will flee from you. Then he says in verse) 8, Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse

your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

19 Now, in the next paragraph brother Branham says,

20 202 Threefold purpose of God manifested in Adam and Eve, and every prophet, and down through the ages, and He that is to come: He that was, He which is, and He which is to come, the whole manifestation, the revelation of the Word of God: Adam and Eve going back home again redeemed: God making Himself known.

21 203 There He will sit upon the Throne of David. Is that right? And shall rule all nations with a rod of iron. There'll be a tree on each side, and each nation that comes in, these leaves will be for the healing of the nations. The kings shall bring their honor into it. There'll be nothing that can defile or anything ever enter in. And Mount Zion will have a Light on her all day and night, and the Redeemed shall walk in that light. Oh, hallelujah. To think it's not a mythical story; it's not some theological conception; it's a revelation of Jesus Christ by His Word, which is out-shined and it's been true in all ages. And it's true in this age! It's true here now. It's true with me. It's true with you, and every man and woman that holds this revelation. Amen.

22 204 And see, God Himself making Himself known and pulsating Himself through the Life that you're a prisoner to Him now. You are His love prisoner. The world can laugh, make fun them, say, "Come on out." You could go, but you're a prisoner. The other women can act Hollywood, but not you; you're a prisoner. Amen. See, you're a prisoner to Christ. Other men can smoke and drink and carry on if they want to and call themselves Christians, deacons, and even preachers, but not you; you're a prisoner, a prisoner to the Word. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

23 205 Making His mystery known to His Bride Tree, redeemed by Christ, the second Adam; going back home to be restored back to the original Eden, free from death, sickness, sorrow, shame, going back with Eternal Life. Then... Listen. So many people's got the wrong conception. To convert people to Christianity and to its government is not God's thought at all. You say, "We made converts to Christianity by His government." That's not it. "Well, they're not supposed to drink; they're not supposed to lie." Do you know the Mohammedans can outshine... Do you know the heathens in Africa, them black men... And they got laws among their tribe that'll outshine anything you can produce in Christianity.

24 206 Why, I went to that tribe of Shangai there. If a young girl isn't married by a certain age, she has to leave the tribe, take off her tribal paint. She goes into the city; she's just a roustabout. And before she's married, she has to be tested for her virginity. If she be found guilty of committing adultery with some man, she has to tell who it is, and they're both killed together. Oh, they can outshine what these so-called... What if you did that in so-called Christians? Ninety-nine percent of them would die before daylight (That's right. Right.), both man and women. You know that's right.

25 207 What... You say, "Well, I'm pure." "Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her, has committed adultery with her in his heart already." Now, what about that? What about you, sister, that presented yourself to that man like that? You're just as guilty as if you did it. "Oh, but it's all right." Pastor's afraid to say that, 'cause why? His denominational headquarters will kick him out if he gets straight on that. They're hybrid. They don't take the Word. The Word said that's true. Jesus said that it's true, and He's the Head.

26 Now, here is where i want to get to today. It in the next paragraph number 208, where brother Branham says, "Now, notice, God making Himself known. Not... We're not suppose to make converts to Christianity by a government, but by the revelation of Christ in you as God was in Christ. As God was in Christ, Christ in you. What God did in Christ, Christ does in you. What signs did God in Christ, Christ does in you. Oh, isn't that beautiful? Oh, my. I like that. Jesus said at that day (that's this day), at that day (when this revelation's made known) you will know that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me, I in you, and you in Me. (When the

revelation's made manifest,) at that day, you shall know that I and the Father are One. I'm in the Father, and the Father's in Me. Then when the revelation comes forth, then it's I in you and you in Me." There you are. See the manifold threefold... What for? To bring it back. We've got to be...

27 Now, I would like to stop here for a moment on this wonderful thought because this is where I have drawn the line in the sand and have taken my stand with a vindicated prophet. This is where I believe that what he is saying is for me, and it's for you.

28 I can't help but go back to what Jesus said to His disciples in John 14: And it seems that every time I look at what he told them here I get more revelation of what he said to them, because he is saying it to me.

29 In verse 12 we read, 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, (Now, notice he says I am saying this to you. Whose he talking to? Those who were following Him, those who are believers. And then he says) He that believeth on me, (and remember we've already proven that in the Greek and every language the Bible is written in, it is not "he that believeth", but "whosoever believeth". And even in this sermon of brother Branham's we've read where he reads this verse and instead of saying he, he says, he-anybody, he-everybody who believes. Now, listen to the promise to whosoever believes. He says,) the works that I do shall you do also; and greater works than these shall you do; because I go unto my Father.

30 And of course many people stop here but fail to read on. So let's keep reading because that is not the all of what he is saying to us here. That is not all that he is promising to us here.

31 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. (prove your love to me by obeying my Word And if you do so, then) 16 I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He (this comforter) may abide with you for ever;

32 Now, the Greek word for comforter is the word parakletos, and it means one who is called alongside to help. It actually translates as advocate, intercessor, counselor[.

And then in verse 17 he tells us what this advocate we have with the Father is. 17 Even The Spirit of truth; And so he also tells us whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

33 So Jesus tells his disciples that the One who is with them, The Spirit that is in Him who is now with them, will come back to be in them. And he calls him the Spirit of truth.

34 Then Jesus makes the promise, and he says in verse 18 I will not leave you comfortless: (this word comfortless comes from the Greek word orphanos, and we know this word orphanos is Greek for orphans. So the promise is I will not leave you orphans, but) I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

35 So he says here that the same Life that lives in Him and expresses itself in Him will also be in us. Then he tells us when all these promises will come to be. He says,

36 20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

37 Now, let's go back to brother Branham's statement in paragraph 208 and read it again.

38 208 Now, notice, God making Himself known. Not... We're not suppose to make converts to Christianity by a government, but by the revelation of Christ in you as God was in Christ. (1) As God was in Christ, Christ in you. (2) What God did in Christ, Christ does in you. (3) What signs did God in Christ, Christ does in you.

39 Now, I hope you see how brother Branham is making the unmistakable statement that John 14:12 ties in with John 14:20.

40 Then he says, "Oh, isn't that beautiful? Oh, my. I like that. Jesus said at that day (that's this day), (notice, we are not talking of Luthers day, or Wesleys day, but this day. He's identifying this Scripture with this day.) at that day (when this revelation's made known) you will know (Not me alone he says, but you will know) that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me, I in you, and you in Me. (When the revelation's made manifest),(What revelation is made manifest? This revelation is made manifest. The revelation, the revealing, the unveiling of this revelation, at that day, which is this day, when this what Jesus is saying is made manifest, that is the day when it comes into effect. And what does it mean to be made manifest? When it is visibly identified, when it is visibly expressed, when it is visibly shown, how else can I say it. It takes the manifestation of this revelation to make it manifest also in the body. And we saw God in Christ, in the Alpha, and we saw God in William Branham in the Omega, and the Omega reflection of God in man was manifest to us, and so that is all it took to make the promise effective in the rest of the body.) at that day, (what day? The day when you are no longer orphans. And when is an orphan no longer an orphan? When he is adopted. At That Day, the day when he comes to adopt His Children,) you (the believers) shall know that I and the Father are One. I'm in the Father, and the Father's in Me. Then when the revelation comes forth, then it's I in you and you in Me." There you are. See the manifold threefold... What for? To bring it back. We've got to be...

41 Oh, brothers and sisters, don't you realize that this is much bigger than John 14:12. This is knowing by seeing, that, That day is here when we become one with God as Christ and God were one.

42 And it took the manifestation of the revelation for us to know it. This is not a guess, this has already been interpreted by God bringing it to pass, first in William Branham and now the rest of the body.

43 Now, I can understand those who look at themselves and say, "well, I just don't see it in me, there fore it can't be in me, but we saw it in William Branham and that is enough for me." Now, I don't blame them for saying that, but they say that because they have their eyes on themselves and not the promise of God. if God said in that day you will know, then are we now going to say that "you" is singular and means only one person?

44 At that day you will know that I am in the Father and the Father in me, I in you and you in me.

45 What we are looking at is the same God Life that expressed itself in the Alpha has already expressed itself in the Omega in William Branham, and is gong to express itself in the rest of the body. Because they without us can not be made perfect.

46 And brother Branham said this could not be possible until the revelation was expressed. So it took God in Christ to reveal God to man. Then it took Christ Life in William Branham to manifest Christ to the Bride. And now it will take Christ-Life in the rest of the body to bring this promise to completion.

47 Isn't that what the Apostle Paul promised us in 2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of right-wise-ness, which the Lord, the rightly-wise judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

48 You know what that word appearing means? It means manifestation. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of right-wise-ness, which the Lord, the rightly-wise judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his manifestation.

49 Can't you see that? This is the hour of the mighty God unveiled before us. This is the day when Christ who is the Mystery of God is to be revealed, manifested. This is the day when we see God-Life manifested and the manifestation brings the revelation down to us, and makes it personally identifiable to us and with us and in us. The Threefold revelation of God. God was IN Christ manifesting Himself to the world. God was in His Prophet manifesting Himself to the World, and now God Life the same God Life in us, manifesting itself to the world just before the bodies are to be caught away.

50 Now, listen, and don't fail to get this. Did not brother Branham tells us that God will make our bodies to obey our confession? Did not he says that in many different sermons?

51 In Elisha the prophet brother Branham said, "God will make your body obey your faith." And what is Faith? is it not a revelation? Then "God will make your body obey your revelation." If God's whole creation must obey His will, and we see the moon must give her light, and the sun must come up to give its light every day, and we see the waves obeying his command, then how much more our own bodies that are His creation as well. And what about our inner man, the new creation who is formed after His likeness?

52 Harvest time 64-1212 P:85 It's got to be quoted just the way He said It. Then, if It's quoted right, He'll vindicate It to be so in your life. "That's how all men know you're written epistles read of God." Written epistle is "Bible." Is that right? An epistle is the Bible. And you're a written Bible reflecting His Word, that perfect man again, in God.

53 Mighty God unveiled 64-0629 P:54 Moses veiled, he was the living Word to the people. And today, the people that are veiled are the same thing; they are written epistles, read of all men, not a new epistle, but the epistle that's been written made manifested. It's those who believe the Word and the promise of this day that God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh; and that is written epistles. And when a person tries to carnally impersonate that, it backfires. Your life shows what you are.

54 Sir we would see Jesus 63-1112 P:18 Now, according to the Scriptures we are supposed to be written epistles of Him. The Bible says that we are written epistles. And if, tonight, we would hunger and thirst to see the Lord Jesus Christ, we as Christian believers should reflect His Life, so much, till it would be His entire representative. We should be that. Every Christian should represent and reflect the Life of Jesus Christ. Do you believe that? And I believe that every Christian should be reflecting the Life of Christ. He said in Saint John 14:12, "He that believeth on Me, the works I do shall he do also." And then we know that that's true, that we are His representatives. And if we claim that Christ lives in us, and if Christ lives in us, then we should do as Christ did. We should reflect His Life.

55 Seed of discrepancy 65-0118 P:23 He was the interpretation of the Word. And every born again son and daughter of God of this age is the interpretation of the Word. You are written epistles, read of all men. Yes. Notice, He said, "In vain they do worship Me, teaching discrepancy for doctrine. In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the discrepancy, doctrine of man, creeds of man, teaching that to be the Word of God, when it has nothing to do with the Word of God."

56 We would see Jesus 62-0727 P:33 That's the reason Christians, I think it's so real tonight, that we should live the right kind of a life, because, there's many people won't take time to read the Bible, but they'll read you. See, you are a written epistle of God, a real, true, born again Christian is the Word expressed again, because you're

written epistles of God, read of all men. What type of person should we be if we know that our lives is an open, living Bible to the unbeliever, to express God in our own life?

57 Influences 64-0215 P:15 Remember the Bible said, "You are living, written epistles read of all men." Now, many people won't read the Bible. But God has made you a living representative. You are a walking letter, should be a walking Bible, Christ in you. You should be the walking Word of God. And if you profess to be a Christian and not that, your influence, what you're influencing, will make you have to answer for many souls that you've turned aside, away from Christ, in that day of the judgment

58 Shalom 64-0112 P:5 God is in man. And He's identifying Himself today in His church. In the born again Christian, God identifies Himself, that He remains God. And the outside world will only know God as they see God in you and I. That's the only way that they'll know God, is when we are written epistles, epistle of the Scripture, we are read of all men. And the life that we live reflects what's on the inside of us. A man is identified by the works that he does. So our works should be good (See?), always good, because we are representing our Lord Jesus Christ.

59 Influence 63-1130B P:13 And then we never know just what we're doing, or what influence and what we're doing is having upon others. The Bible said, "We are written epistles, read of all men." That is, your life reads so loud to the public, until your testimony, if it's contrary to your life, is without any effect. It's what you are inside of you that people read: not so much what you say, but what you are. See? You can pin something on somebody, say, "This is bad, and so forth," but your life being different from what they say, your testimony of your life is louder than the testimony that someone could say something about you. See? So just keep that on mind, that we're bringing influences every day, and the life that you live proves what's on the inside of you. You cannot change that. It reflects. Every person reflects, outside, what he is inside. And if we take the testimony of being Christians, I think that that is one of the most solemn things that a man or a woman, boy or girl, could do, would... When he takes on the Name of Christ, that he's going to be a representative of Christ, you should watch every move you make, because somebody's watching you. And, in this, it reflects what's God has done for you, inside of you.

60 Sir we would see Jesus 63-1112 P:20 Now, we find that the first church did represent Him as written epistles; His Life lived through those people. I can't compare our church today as hard as it is to say this, as much as I love people, yet you've got to be honest and tell the truth. I can't say that we see in the churches today reflecting Christ in the way that those people did. They knowed that they had been with Jesus.

61 Influence 63-0803E P:10 And now, you know, many people won't go to church. ...But I tell you what they do, they will watch your life to see what you do. I believe it was Paul that said, "We are written epistles of God, read of all men." When you're on the street, and when you're at your work, and wherever you are, somebody's watching you.

62 Third Exodus 63-0630M P:20 You know you can live a fellow a sermon, better than you can preach him one? "For ye yourselves are written epistles, read of all men."

63 Stature of a perfect man 62-1014M P:132 Now, that is the house that God dwells in, not a building with a big bell on top of it and a high steeple (See?), but, "a body has Thou prepared Me," a body that God can dwell in, God can walk in, God can see in, God can talk in, God can work in (Amen.), living instrumentality of God. God walking on two feet in you. Glory. "The footsteps of the righteous is ordered of God," God walking in you, for ye are written epistles, read of all men. And if the Life that's in Christ be in you, you'll bear the Life that Christ bore.

64 It is I be not afraid 62-0726 P:2 Father, we know that there's many people that will not read the Bible, but You have made Your church written epistles, the Word of God made manifest. And people can watch lives, and

see what the Word of God is, because the life of a Christian expresses the Word. Then what type of Christian should we be, Lord? Help us to be Bible Christians, that the works and Life of Jesus Christ may be known through us. In His Name, we ask it. Amen. May be seated.

65 Behold a greater than all is here 62-0715 P:86 Everything you do, do it right (That's right.), 'cause you're written epistles read of all men, the way you conduct yourself, and the things you do as Christians.

66 Jesus Christ the same 61-0118 P:8 And then as we are sons and daughters of God, and joint heirs with Him in the Kingdom, then we express Him in our lives. Sometimes... If many of us would just live our sermons instead of preaching it, I think it'd be better, if we'd just go ahead and live the sermon. You know it's a lot better to live me one than it is to preach me one, I believe, because I can see your life. God looks at our lives, and the world looks at our lives. He wants to know what our lives are. And people know us. No matter, Our action is so loud it drowns our testimony. Depends on what we say. If we are Christians and don't live it, then the people know better. But when we are Christians, and say we're Christians, and live like Christians, our lives will do it if we never said nothing else. Our lives... We're written epistles read of all men. So they watch how you walk. And I was thinking the other day about being sealed by the Holy Spirit. A seal is marked on both sides. They see you coming and see you going. Look like a Christian coming, you look like a Christian going so, when you're sealed by the Holy Spirit.

67 Blind Bartimaeus 60-0330 P:24 You know, as a servant of God, you ought to watch what you're doing, because you're written epistles, read of all men. You Christians, always be willing to lend a hand or to do something to help somebody make life a little more pleasant for them as they're... You say, "Well, I--I don't have any gift of healing." You don't have to have. At least offer something. Offer a prayer. Do something. Make them feel... Do the best you can by them, anyhow. Never turn a shoulder, a cold shoulder, to anyone, no matter what it is, even if they've mistreated you. Do it anyhow. If you can't do it from your heart, then you ought to come to the altar and stay till that spirit comes in you that from your heart, you can love those who doesn't love you. That's when God will answer your prayer, for as long as there's anything in your heart... "If I regard iniquity in my heart, then God will not hear me." That's what David said, and that's true.

68 Believe from the heart 57-0623 P:69 And make us of Thy workmanship, that You might declare Your character to the world through us as written epistles read of all men.

69 Elisha the prophet 56-1002E P:33 God doesn't dwell in bones. God dwells in Spirit in mankind, the impulse of the heart as it beats through man. ... So God dwells in human beings. Amen. Now, the only way people will see Jesus is when they see Him in you. You are written epistles. If Christ's Spirit dwells in you and brings your conduct into subjection to His Spirit, and makes you act like Him, and talk like Him, walk like Him, live like Him. See? People see Jesus in you.

70 Hidden life with Christ 56-0213 P:52 You know the best thing is to live a sermon instead of preach one, you know that. You're written epistles. And you can't do it in yourself; you can impersonate it for a little while, but your sins will find you out. You better just consecrate yourself to God and get on the inside, shut the doors behind you and burn every barrier there is behind you, and every bridge, and launch out. Amen. I know it's the truth; I know it'll work. If it hadn't been for that, I don't know what would become of me. That's right. But it ain't the people you that you look at then, it's Christ.

71 Hidden life in Christ 55-1110 P:21 "Your life speaks so loud, I can't hear your voice."

72 Let us pray,...