

#158 Confined in Him

- 1** Last week we spoke from paragraph 217 of Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed where brother Branham said, 217 And remember, we are now as His Bride, pregnated with His Spirit. Oh, my. The Church bearing children (See?), pregnated by His Spirit with His Name, bearing His Name, bearing His Life, bringing forth the signs of His Life evident with the preeminences, evidence of His resurrection showing that He is not dead, but alive forevermore. This is Eternal Life. And a-vindicated--vindicates to the world that we are alive in Him. Whew.
- 2** We spoke on this Life that is in His name and that we bear in our mortal bodies.
- 3** Notice brother Branham said, speaking of the Church, the bride, said we are "pregnated by His Spirit with His Name,(and that name is what we are called by, "Christians", and if we are called by that name then he says we must bear that name.) bearing His Name,(and why do we bear that name "Christ-ian", because he goes on to say because we are) bearing His Life,(because the Word Christian means to be Christ Like. And how can you be Christ-Like if your Life is not Christ like. And how can you have a Christ-Like Life without having His Holy Spirit? And How can we say we have the Holy Spirit if we our life is not Holy. A Holy Spirit led Life will be a Holy Life, led by Living a God-Word filled Life. For after all the word "Spirit" is interchangeable with the word Life. Jesus said, "My Words are Spirit and they are Life". John 6:63
- 4** Then brother Branham continued speaking of the bride, he said, "bringing forth the signs of His Life evident with the preeminences, evidence of His resurrection.
- 5** So what does that mean? bringing forth the signs of His Life which are evidence of the preeminence, evidence of His resurrection.
- 6** What he is saying here is that the life in us, the God-Life, the Life that was in Christ is the evidence that He also is the preeminent one in the life you are living.
- 7** Why do you think men like Luther, Wesley, Martin and Columba and even Patrick who wasn't a Messenger to the age, yet his life was so wrought with the supernatural manifestations of God because of their entire focus was on the Word of God, and thus the God life that is in that word had to show forth in their life, or they had nothing but a theology to show forth for what they stood for.
- 8** That is why I can not for one second understand the mindset of those people who would want to look to their own thinking rather than the thinking, the Words which were proven a-vindicated by God Himself. But that is how they miss what Mercy God has for the people in every age.
- 9** They lean to their own understanding, and yet God said in, Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

10 Therefore wherever the Word of God goes it will bring forth, it will prosper in the purpose and plan for which he sent it. Therefore, the Word has Life, it has a purpose and a plan, and that means it must manifest itself in the thing for which he sent it.

11 Therefore we can say, no manifestation, then there's no Life. No Life then now Word, period.

12 Therefore those people who can not take "Thus Saith the Lord" have to resort to their own understanding, and the Bible warns us in, Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

13 The following quote is one I sent out yesterday to all of you through email. Brother Branham let's us know quite frankly that to turn away from a vindicated Word by a vindicated Messenger means one thing. Death, first spiritual death then physical death.

14 In his sermon, Recognizing your day and its Message - 64-0726M 41. brother Branham said, "The reason people in Noah's day did not go into the ark, is because they never recognized the message nor the messenger. That's the only reason they perished, is because they didn't recognize the hour that they were living. They didn't recognize that God would deal with sin as He promised He would. He'd destroy man from the face of the earth. He had prophesied it. He meant it. And he means it today the same as He did then.

15 What that tells me is that all outside the end-time Message that God sent will perish. In fact the Bible tells us they fit themselves to their own destruction. That's what the apostle Paul said in

16 Romans 9:22 "What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:"

17 Notice that these people are fitted to destruction. Those who are sealed in are protected from the judgments that are to follow, and those who are sealed out, are fitted for destruction. So who does the fitting? Do they fit themselves? Or are they fitted by God for one purpose and that is to be destroyed?

18 In order to know what this word fitted to destruction means, we look to the Greek for the words which the term was translated from. And we find the Greek word means "they are prepared for". If I fit something to something else, then what I am doing is preparing that thing to match the other. Then the judgment matches the judged?

19 Remember, "where there is a deep calling there is a deep to respond." Brother Branham said, that "there couldn't have been a fish with a fin until there had been first a water to swim in." Then who prepares them? And the answer is that God made them for destruction.

20 Now, you might say "that's a very harsh statement you made preacher, who are you to make such a statement as that? Who are you to Judge?"

21 Well, the answer is that I'm not the Judge, and I do not claim to judge anyone, but God's Word is the Judge, because He is the Supreme Judge. And God and His Word are the same.

22 That is what Jesus himself told us in John 12:47-50 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and

what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

23 Notice, The Word will judge in the last days. But He has left them with a free moral agency to prepare themselves. And how do they do they prepare themselves for destruction? Proverbs 14:12 says, There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. They take their own way above God's way.

24 Notice The Word of God tells us they are "Fitted to destruction" Romans 9:22. As I mentioned earlier, this phrase is taken two different ways by the theologians which one side says, they fit themselves for destruction, while "The other interpretation assumes that the reference is to God and that the Greek word for 'fitted' has its full participle force; meaning, they are prepared (by God) for destruction."

25 One point in the above verse requires separate consideration - "Vessels of wrath fitted to destruction." The usual explanation which is given of these words is that the vessels of wrath fit themselves to destruction, that is, fit themselves by virtue of their wickedness; and it is argued that there is no need for God to "fit them to destruction", because they are already fitted by their own depravity, and that this must be the real meaning of this expression. Now if by "destruction" we understand punishment, it is perfectly true that the non-elect do "fit themselves", for everyone will be judged "according to his works"; and further, we freely grant that subjectively the non-elect do fit themselves for destruction. But the point to be decided is, Is this what the apostle is here referring to? In order to understand what the Apostle Paul is saying in verse 22-23 we've got to go back to verses 11 and begin reading from there.

26 Romans 9:11 For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. 19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

27 So we see that it God who fits the unbeliever to destruction. Because after all, every seed must come forth after it's kind. As br. Don always says, "believers believe". That's Genesis 1:11 every seed after its kind. And we find in Acts 13:48 and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

28 So those who have been born to Eternal Life will manifest belief in the Word, while those without eternal Life can not believe, because it is not in them to believe. It's not in their nature, therefore they can not reflect it in their life. And so we see the great falling away, and it ought to let you rejoice that while so many are falling away a thousand at your right hand and ten thousand at your left, yet God has selected you out to salvation through belief in the truth.

29 Psalms 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh

thee. and another scripture...

30 2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

31 Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

32 As I mentioned earlier, those who are sealed in are protected from the judgments that are to follow, and those who are sealed out, have been fitted for destruction.

33 Notice that Paul said in Romans 9:23. "And that he might make known the riches of his glory (his "doxa", his values, his opinions, his judgments) on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory." The only point in this verse which demands attention is the fact that the "vessels of mercy" are here said to be "afore prepared unto glory".

34 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Preparation 53-1111 16 "I believe that the people are in the preparation of the last great destruction this world will ever know. I believe we're at the end. You can speak to people; you could put a Billy Graham in every city in the United States; they'd drink whiskey and smoke cigarettes and laugh at you and everything else just the same. They are in the spirit of the last days. And God cannot send destruction before the people are in the spirit for destruction. God never did destroy anything. Man always destroys himself. The Message Trumpet is declaring, Grace and Mercy for all that would receive it, and to reject Mercy leaves only judgment.

35 So back to our quote we began earlier where we read from brother Branham's sermon, Recognizing your day and its Message - 64-0726M 41 he continues, "But the people, instead of being favorable towards Noah... He was considered a wild man. They didn't believe him to be a prophet. You know, Jesus, His own self, told us how they scoffed in the days of Noah, made fun of him, called him a fanatic, and what more. But they didn't recognize their hour. They didn't recognize the day. They didn't recognize the sign. They didn't recognize the message. They didn't recognize the messenger, but put him from their midst and laughed at him. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah..."

36 And I think it is interesting that the very website called "believe the sign" now claims that they do not believe William Branham was the end time prophet of Malachi 4. They have their own theology, but I would like to ask them why they named their website "believe the sign". Or was it really, "believe in signs", but then what signs are we to believe in?

37 The main sign from God is his prophets. The prophets are God's signs to the people. To believe the sign is to believe His Prophets. As Jesus said, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have said". So they pick and choose what words of the prophets they now wish to believe.

38 Again as we continue with this quote from Recognizing your day and its Message - 64-0726M 42. brother Branham said in the next paragraph 42 "With Israel in her land and everything setting now, and the Message is just perfectly moving in, what day are we living, brother? Where are we at? They didn't know the day. They didn't know. That's the reason they missed it, is because they didn't recognize it.

39 The Apostle Paul told us because they did not recognize Him they crucified him in 1 Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

40 1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (notice this wisdom is from above, and God purposely hid it from all it was not meant for. But we know here that it was meant for our glory, so that His values would become our values, His opinions would become our opinions)

41 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

42 And how do we prove to God we love Him? Jesus tells us in the following Scriptures:

43 John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

44 John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

45 John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

46 Now, Paul continues in 1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for The Spirit (God's own Spirit) searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knows. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

47 Notice that God gives us His Spirit for one purpose, that we might know the things of God.

48 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

49 So if it takes the Holy Spirit to make known to you, or teach you, and if you have not the Holy Spirit then how can you ever know. This proves that those who fight the Message having once attested to it, it just shows they have never been born again or they would know what the Word of God says. But since they fight it and call it a cult, and blaspheme it and the name of the Prophet, it shows they have not the same Spirit of God that the prophet had, or they would say the same thing he said.

50 And God vindicated that man, and no one else as the one to listen to.

51 15 But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

52 Now, in getting back to brother Branham's quote from Recognizing your day and its Message - 64-0726M 42 "They were like the day--somewhat like the people today, blinded by scientific proofs, by educational systems, by theological seminaries. And things that blinded them in that day, it's done the same thing today. It's blinded them again. And also, the simplicity of the Message and the messenger... 43. Noah wasn't scientific. He wasn't a educated man. He was a poor farmer, humble, with a simple message. It was too simple for their high learning. So is it today. God always makes it simple to get the people who will believe and trust Him. It's a different, just a different Message but the same God. I want you to believe it and understand that God has spoke it. Jesus said they

scoffed at His prophet Noah. And as they scoffed in that day, so will they do it again at His coming. They would do the same thing. That's the reason that Pharaoh drowned in the sea. He never recognized his day. He never recognized what was going on. He was too took up in the achievements of his scientific age to build cities with slave labor. He was too busy to recognize the opportunity that he had, and he turned God's prophet messenger out into the wilderness. He didn't recognize it; that's the reason that them things went the way they did. He never recognized it. If he would've only recognized the promised Word of God to that people... 44. And if the churches today would only recognize, if the churches would only recognize the Word of God that's made this promise for this hour to the people, they wouldn't perish. If America could only recognize the Constitution that she drewed up, she wouldn't be willing to take Bibles out of the schools, take the Name of God off of coins, and pledge allegiance under God. But she doesn't recognize it. Why? She's blind and naked. She can't recognize the blood of those precious boys that's died on the fields for this privilege. They're forgotten; they're dust. 45. But there's One Who does remember the shed of the blood of the prophets, the cost that it taken to bring this Gospel to us today, how the thousands has been eaten by lions and throwed into the dens, have been sawed asunder, burnt, crucified; God recognizes it. The church has forgot their prophets; they don't need them anymore; they claim. But God knows He's got to have them. He hews His people by His Word. But it's too old fashion to them in this day. They don't recognize it. That's the reason they're in the condition they are. That's the reason they're naked, miserable, blind, wretched, and don't know it, is because they don't recognize the hour that we're living. They don't notice it.

53 Brother Branham also said in his sermon, 61-0207 Expectation "But when you 'll come together, oh, my, that's it, when you 'll fully obey God. "This will all men know you're My disciples, when you have love one for the other." When you get part of the theology out and get a little love in there, it 'll do works, and wonders, and miracles. But we got to have that. For who? For everybody. "Oh, for that old bunch of Assemblies of God, or that old bunch of Church of God, or old Oneness, or Threeness, or Fiveness, or whatever they are? Me love them? I couldn't love them; they're antichrist." You're lost yourself, brother, when you think that. That's right. You're not right with God. If you can't raise out a hand to the bitterest enemy you got and try to win him to Christ, then the Spirit of Christ isn't in you. "For he come to his own, and his own received him not." Yet He gave His life for His enemy. He did. How true it is."

54 So it all comes down to whether you have died to self, and have been born of his Spirit. And if you have then you will do as brother Branham says in the next paragraph of Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed no 218. Let me read it.

55 218 How do you know?(how do you know what? Remember, he's talking about the Life of Christ in you, and he says here, how do you know you have it? Then he answers his own question.) 'Cause you're a church member?

56 Now, I know there are many people who think they have the life of Christ and they have been born again because they attend what they think is the right church. But notice what he says the correct answer is.

57 "Because Christ is living through you; so pregnated with His Spirit that you're a prisoner to anything else. You're confined (oh, my.) to the Gospel, confined to the Word. And all the children that you can bring forth is that, 'cause you're a prisoner. You can't commit adultery; you're already pregnated. Glory. He can't take a hold. The womb of life is closed to anything else. You're already His by predestination. That Seed has come to Life. No world can get in. Oh. Oh, how we'd like to stay on this for about a hour. I'm sure you understand. See? Christ and His alone... already finished; the Seed was there.

The Seed was already... When was it put there? Before the foundation of the world, has predestinated us unto Eternal Life. And as soon as the Life-giving flow, that Seed laying there... Other seed's that just would come in wouldn't take hold, just couldn't do it (like). But when that Seed come in, quickly it stopped up the womb; all the rest of the seed was drove out (see, like that), and you become a prisoner surrounded in Christ, Christ in you, His

Life bringing forth His evidence, His signs. Oh, my, my, my. Look, bringing His signs of Life as an evident of His resurrection, proving to the world that Eternal Life, vindicates to the world that we're alive in Him. And think of it. Alive with God our Redeemer, Who created us for the very same purpose (the Church) and His creative Life in us. That is... Moses could said by the Word of God, "Let there come..." and there come flies. A God can make flies can make squirrels. See? He can do whatever He wants to...?... God.

58 219 The very same God (that creative Life--you see?) that's in you can... You're a prisoner; you can't speak it till He says, "Speak it;" but when it gets spoke, it's God's Word. He's a-vindicated to be so; everything else is right, and he knows when that's spoke it's got to be so. See? Moses took his rod and said, "Let there come frogs" 'cause God said, "Let there come frogs." He just transmit it on out. That's right. And frogs was in everything; everywhere was frogs. Where'd they come from? Nobody knows; they wasn't there before. But the Creator, God working through a man created things--a living species. The very God that made the first frog can make the second frog. He makes all frogs. Oh, my. You see what I mean? Made the first squirrel, makes the second squirrel, make any squirrel, can make squirrels where there is no squirrel. He can do anything He wants to. He's God. He's God. His Life... Oh, my.

59 Let's bow our heads in prayer before we change the order of service to communion and footwashing.