

#179 Review No 2 Christian Maturity

1 Tonight we will review sermons 11 through 15 of our series Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed and our main focus seemed to be placed on Christian maturity and the rest and peace that comes with our personal relationship with God as our Father. And we know that it is our being filled with His Life, His Peace, and His rest that we receive by entering into this Holy Union.

2 In Paragraphs 48 through 50 we find brother Branham warning is that as Paul had to warn the early church that wolves would enter in trying to upset the church, even so they would do so in the end time church as well. Then he prayed to God that this church would mature into a great tree of Eternal life filled with the love of God and stand as a symbol that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

3 We then spoke in No 11 in this series, that The church is built up on the Revelation of Jesus Christ. And we know that the revelation is more than just a mental understanding, because revelation means a manifestation of Divine truth. And a church without the manifestation of the living Christ in their midst is only a lodge and not the mature church brother Branham spoke about.

4 In No. 11 in our study we heard brother Branham tell us from The Masterpiece 64-0705 170 The Alpha has become Omega. The first become last; and the last is the first. The Seed that went in has come through a process and become the Seed again. The seed that fell in the garden of Eden and died there, come back from that imperfect seed that died there, come back to the perfect Seed--the Second Adam. 172 The first Eve that fell, and was used in the second reformation--second coming, as bringing forth a child, now has become true Bride again, the Seed, right back with the original Word again. The Alpha and Omega is the same. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega." "He never said anything in between, "I'm Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last." That's it. The first ministry and the last ministry is the same. The first Message and the last Message is the same thing. "I was in Alpha; I'm in Omega." "There'll be a day that won't be called day nor night, but in the evening time it shall be Light." See? Alpha and Omega; it's become the first and the last. Oh, my, brethren, we could stay hours on that.

5 We showed if the ministries are the same, and he said that they are, then the ministry of the Holy Spirit in that first church age was supposed to repeat again in this hour. Then if the Apostolic teaching in the first age produced the Book of ACTS in the first age, should not it also produce the same in this church age?

6 From the Beginning it wasn't so 59-1125 P:3 Jesus said at the beginning, "The works that I do, shall you do also." That's the way it was at the beginning. What kind of a works did He do at the beginning? The same works that He's doing now. What kind of a church did He have at the beginning? A church that was filled with the Spirit, that healed the sick, and prophesied, and great signs and wonders. And it wasn't ashamed of the religion. They shouted and danced under the Spirit like drunk men, and had cloven tongues like fire set upon them. And they done signs and wonders, and exploits followed them. That's the kind it was at the beginning. That's the kind it'll be in the middle. That'll be the kind it'll be at the last. You say, "My church don't teach that." Well, it wasn't so from the beginning. You say, "I'm a Methodist." It wasn't so from the beginning. "I'm a Baptist." It wasn't so from the beginning." "I'm a Lutheran." It wasn't so from the beginning. They were baptized saints of God with the Holy Ghost. That's what the beginning was: signs and wonders. You say "My church don't believe in it." It wasn't so from the beginning. "My church don't believe in seeing visions." It wasn't so from the beginning.

7 Luke 12:34-48 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and

your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocks, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the Goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give [them their] portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not [himself], neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many [stripes]. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few [stripes]. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

8 Now, notice, to whomsoever much is given, much will be required. So for those who believe they have the revelation of Jesus Christ and the life of Jesus Christ is not living and abiding in them? They will be found wanting.

9 From his message, Return and Jubilee 62-1122 P:39 Brother Branham said, "But in order to be a son of God you've got to be born of the Spirit of God, then you become Christ-like and do the works of Christ; then you're not funny to them people. A human acting like a human's not funny. And a Christian acting like a Christian, born of the same Spirit... You see the Pentecostal group at the beginning, that same Pentecostal group acts the same way if it's born of the same Spirit, 'cause it's born. That's why, today, that people doesn't understand the church. And the church has begin to grow cold and formal, getting after creeds and things and leaving off the following of the Holy Spirit.

10 And again from the message, Stature of a perfect man 62-1014M P:60 brother Branham said, "And now, we're supposed to do His work. He said, "He that believeth on Me..." (St. John 14:12) "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." You're beginning to reflect the works of Christ. But so many of us try to do the works of Christ before the reflection of Christ is in us. Now, there's the trouble. We find those things happening. You know it. I know it. We see these stumbles along the road. We find the scrap heaps of ministers, of Christians, piled along the road. Is because they didn't go into it right. And that's why I'm here this morning, is to try to teach this little church, and myself, how that we can become the dwelling place of the living God. How many would like to be that? The dwelling place of the living God...

11 This is where I've been trying to direct the church towards this for the past 8 years. I began trying to get the church to see that it's not enough to have the right doctrine, you must have the life that goes with the doctrine. It's not enough to know about Christ, you've got to know Him in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering. It's not enough to know about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you've got to have it, and apply it.

12 Brother Branham said, this is the hour that the Token must be applied. And so we have a token which is the baptism of the holy Spirit and The Token which is Christ Himself, and He's here. But what good does it do to know He's here if you haven't applied that knowledge to your daily living. What good does it do to say you have been born again and are filled with the Spirit of Christ if there is no evidence in your life that you are filled with His Spirit. Jesus said by their fruits you shall know them.

13 In No 12. we spoke concerning the Knowledge of the Son of God and to do so we followed brother Branham's thought process where he took us to Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God,... Now listen to these words, He's speaking about Jesus here, and he calls him the image of the invisible God. Now that tells us that there are two involved here, one "Who is the invisible God" and the other "Who is the very image of that invisible God".

14 Now, an image is not the original. And the definition of an image is: 1. A reproduction of the form of a person or an object, especially a sculptured likeness.

15 So we can see here that the Scripture is speaking of Two persons, one Who is the invisible God and the other Who bears the image or is a reproduction of the form of the invisible God.

16 Therefore by definition Paul is telling us that God is the unseen Life and Jesus Christ is the image or the visible expression of that unseen Life.

17 In the Book of Hebrews Paul tells us the same thing.

18 Hebrews 1:1 God, The invisible One, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers through the prophets, (The invisible one using the bodies of His visible prophets to speak through) 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; So we see here the Great Invisible God entered into the Body of His Son to speak through and manifest Himself to the world, that the world might know the Invisible One. 3 Who (the son of God, the visible one) being the brightness (being the illumination) of His (God the invisible one, being the illumination of His) glory, (His Doxa, His values, His opinions, His judgments) and the express image of his person, (not just image of God's person but the expressed Image of the invisible One. In other words, "The Image" that has been set forth, "The Image" that completely manifested or that completely communicated the essence of the invisible one. And when it speaks of complete manifestation or complete communication, it speaks of fullness and nothing short of fullness.) and upholding all things (and Paul said in other verses, that we are "all things in Christ." So he upholds us,) by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (so it wasn't about Him, it was about us. He didn't come into this world to manifest the invisible One for Himself, He came into this world to express, to manifest, to communicate the invisible one for us.) 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

19 So we are looking at this visible one who came into this world not for himself, but for us. He expressed the invisible one not for self, but for us.

20 Oh, if we could only see that eternal Life is living for others. Remember what I read to you from the Transliteration called the Message a few weeks ago from Romans 8. Let me read it again for you so that you might see what Paul is speaking of here in the book of Colossians and why Brother Branham read this Scripture for his opening text to this masterpiece of a sermon.

21 Romans 8: 5-8 Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored. 9-11 But if God himself has taken up

residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells-even though you still experience all the limitations of sin-you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! 12-14 So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! 15-17 This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us-an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

22 Therefore in reading this from the King James version we will do so with the exception that when you read the word flesh, insert into your thinking the word self. Because when you read the word flesh you automatically think this speaks of others, and not yourself. But when you substitute the word self for flesh you can not hide behind words, you must face up to them.

23 Romans 8:5 For they that live for self do mind the things of self; but they that are led by the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are self focused cannot please God. 9 But ye are not self focused, but Spirit focused if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall make alive your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to self, to live for self, 13 For if ye live for self, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit bring under submission the deeds of your body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

24 Therefore in getting back to Colossians, 1 and reading from paragraph 15: Who is the image of the invisible God, Now notice His Life, it was not about Himself, His Life was about expressing His Father, the firstborn of every creature: Not about Him, but firstborn means the first along with others. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible... invisible, whether they be thrones,... dominions,... principalities,... powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him "all things" (that's you and I) consist. And he is the head of the body (not alone, but the head of the body suggesting His role as a leader of the body, so he was made for the body), the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; (The first born from the dead, therefore the first to taste death for the other born ones.) that in all things he might have preeminence.

25 Now, these words here don't mean that he might be the big shot. The word pre-eminence means the focus. He was the firstborn of creation that others might follow his footsteps. He was the firstborn from among the dead so others will know how to die and rise again. You see, he was the trail blazer, the one who had to cut the path

through life and death so that others might follow in his footsteps.

26 Now, listen, the hardest job is to be first, because you are the one who has to do the trailblazing, the hacking down a path, for others simply to follow. His whole being was about living for others. For it pleased the Father that in him should be all fullness dwell;--should all fullness dwell;...

27 Then knowing that He is the same yesterday today and forever, and knowing He is the God of Love, then we are set free by His Love. And so No 14. in our series was entitled, Bound by fear set free by love and No 15. we also dealt with this same thought of being Bound either by fear or being set free by love.

28 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Jehovah of miracles 59-1126 P:33 Mary didn't stop to think about criticism; she didn't care about criticism. When a man comes to get the Holy Ghost, you don't care what the neighbors is going to say; you don't care if you shout, you speak with tongues, or whatever you do, it's a past that; you took God at His Word; you don't care for criticism. You've lost all your devil made, homemade, intellectual society called prestige. The thing that you want is favor with God. You don't care what the Holy Spirit causes you to do: to shout, scream, or cry, or bawl, or anything you want to do. Anything the Holy Spirit puts on you, you do it because you don't care. You've lost all that manmade stuff. You're free in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God has set you free. And you're free in the power of God, bathing in His beauty, worshipping Him in the Spirit and truth. You're a free person. You've took the Word of God; it took a hold in your heart. You don't care; you're throwing yourself... You say, "Well, if I be standing on my job someday and the boss said, 'Say, I heard you was over there at that holy-roller meeting and got healed.' I'm afraid." No, you're not. Brother, if you're the seed of Abraham, you count it a joy to stand and testify of the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Certainly, you do. "My people shall not be ashamed. If you're ashamed of Me before men, I'll be ashamed of you before My Father and the holy Angels," said the Lord Jesus. So they're not ashamed; they're not afraid.

29 Remember the promises concerning the believer?

30 John 3:18 "He that believeth" (

31 Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and "whosoever believeth" (

32 Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, "Whosoever believeth" (

33 So what do we have to be afraid of?

34 Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

35 Brother Branham said in Christ is the mystery 63-0728 P:120 "Look, Christ in you makes Him the center of Life of the revelation. See? Christ's Life in you makes Him the center of the revelation. Christ in the Bible, makes the Bible a complete revelation of Christ. Christ in you makes you the complete revelation of the whole thing. See, what God's trying to do? What is the new birth then? You say, "Well, Brother Branham, what is the new birth?" It is the revelation of Jesus Christ personally to you. Amen. See? Not you joined a church, you shook a hand; you done something different; you said a creed; you promised to live by a code of rules; but Christ, the Bible... He is the Word that was revealed to you. And no matter what anybody says, what takes place, it's Christ. Pastor, priest, whatever it might be... It's Christ in you. That is the revelation that the Church was built upon.

36 From his message Position in Christ 60-0522M 88 83 For ye haven't received the spirit of bondage again to

fear; but ye have received the Spirit of a... [Congregation says "adoption"--Ed.] Now, after you're adopted, all right, after you're adopted, you're placed; then you understand, after the ceremony's said and you've been put into the Body correctly. You're a son, sure, a daughter; when you're born again you're... that's your birth. But now you're positionally placed. We've not received the spirit of fear...; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Which means, "my God." All right.) The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we're children of God: How does it do it? You say, "Glory to God. Hallelujah. It don't bother me; I'm a child of God," and go out and do the things you do? The Spirit of God will do the works of God. Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." See, see?

37 Water of separation 55-0121 P:15 I used to often time wonder what's the matter with the Christian church, they're so scared of things. Why, you've got nothing to be scared about. The first word nearly Jesus said after the resurrection, "Fear not." See, don't fear. Don't get scared. There ain't nothing going to happen. Nothing can happen. Nothing can bother a Christian. Amen. Not even death itself can even touch the Christian. "He that heareth My words, and believeth on him that sent Me, hath Everlasting Life, and shall not come into condemnation; but has passed from death to Life." Amen. Death itself has no reign over a Christian. Christ died in our stead. Amen. What a marvelous... What a faith that ought to build up in the people, something that'll toe the mark. You'll never get nothing by being a little jellyfish Christian. No, sir. Did you ever see a jellyfish? You just hit him, he splatters all over everything. See? A jellyfish, you know what usually eats them? The crabs and things along the side of the seashore, comes up with his pincher and cuts him in two and takes him down, 'cause the jellyfish just lays there. Brother, we need some Christians, not jellyfish, but with a backbone (That's right.) that'll stand. Oh, I don't mean to fuss with people, but stand for your God given rights that Christ died for. Certainly. Not pushed around, we don't have to be. No, sir. We got an inheritance. Amen. And our inheritance belongs to us. It's your privilege to have anything that you inherited, through accepting Jesus Christ and dying to yourself. How marvelous. Yes, sir. Satan said, "Well, I'll tell you what I'm going to do." "No, you ain't going to do nothing." That's the way to talk back to him. Say, "I know my position in Christ, and you just might as well get away. I ain't listening to you no more. I got an inheritance."

38 Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

39 Luke 12:2 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

40 Luke 12:4-7 4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

41 Let us pray...