

#15 God's Laws and Rules

1 This morning for our text let's open our Bibles first to Ephesians chapter one, because we are going to take three Scriptural texts this morning on adoption because Br. Branham in His sermon What the Holy Ghost was Given for mentions the adoption as one of the main reasons for our receiving the Holy Ghost.

2 Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

3 Galatians 4:5 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:22-23 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

4 Let us pray,...

5 This morning we will pick up at paragraph number 24, and read from brother Branham's sermon What the Holy Ghost was Given for.

6 24 Let me stop here just for a minute to get what God put the Holy Ghost in the church for, give you another type so that you'll know. Back in the Old Testament when a child... A man made himself a home; he got his bride; that's the first thing. Then he become a great man, like an organization. That was good. The next thing happened, there come a birth into that home. That's when the Holy Spirit (See?)--another spirit came in, which was a son. That son, he was not in full charge, neither was he a heir until he got a certain age; and he had to be proved first. Yes. And then, they had the law of adoption. (To you ministers, the placing of a son is what I'm speaking of now. See?) Then when he come to a place to where he was adopted...Jesus gave a beautiful illustration of it on Mount Transfiguration. As I have said, God will never go outside of His laws to do anything. If you've got an artesian well on this hill, blowing water all over the air, and on this other hill over here, you've got a crop burning up, you can stand on this hill and holler, "Oh, water, run over here and fill my crop. Oh, water, get to my crop." It'll never do it. But if you'll work according to the laws of gravitation, you can water that crop.

7 25 If you've got a sick man laying here, or a sinner laying here, or a man that wants to be right (can't give up drinking, can't give up smoking, can't give up lust and things); if you'll just work according to the laws of God, let the Holy Spirit come in there, then he's no more his own. He will stop that thing, because the Holy Spirit takes him over. But you've got to work according to the laws of God, the rules of God. Now, in the Old Testament when this baby was born, they watched it to see how it was behaved, behavior. Then the father, being a great businessman by this time, maybe in his forties or fifties, he didn't have time to teach this baby himself, so he got...

In them days they didn't have public schools as they have now, so they got what they call a tutor or a raiser: schoolteacher. And this schoolteacher was the best he could find, so that he'd be truthful and tell the father the truth about it.

8 26 And then, when this boy got to a certain age (say he was matured), if that boy was just a renegade, no good, didn't care for the father's business, all he thought about was flirting and running with the women's, or drinking, or gambling, or horse racing, that boy would always be a son, but he was never placed in position to have heir to all his father had. But if he was a good boy, and he was about the father's business, and he proved to be the right child, then they had a ceremony. They took the boy out into the street and put a white robe on him. And they set him up on a scaffold so all the city could see. They made a feast and a jubilee. And the father then had the ceremony of adoption. He adopted his own son into his own business, and then the son was coequal with his father. In other words, if it'd been today, the son's name on the check was just as good as the daddy's.

9 Now, what brother Branham is telling you here, and about to get into in this sermon, is what Jesus told the Apostles in John 14:12, because he said "I must go away, I must return to my Father, but I am going to leave with you something. If you are truly a believer, filled with the same Spirit that is in me now, then you will do what I do. You will say what I say, you will teach what I teach, you will act like I act, and you will do the works that I do, for as I have told you, the son can do nothing of Himself, but whatsoever the son sees the father doing, that the son will do likewise. It will be your Father's Spirit in you doing, and teaching, and speaking, and acting in you the same as it acted in me."

10 And I want you to see here how brother Branham is tying in the Spirit of Adoption with the Holy Ghost being in you, and having preeminence in your life. Always about your Fathers business.

11 Is not that the same thing the Apostle Paul taught us in Romans 8?

12 Romans 8:5-13 For they that are after the flesh (they that live for self) do mind the things of the flesh; (self) but they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded (carnally minded means to be self centered) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind (self centered mind) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

13 In other words, how can you be mindful of the things of God when you are always thinking about yourself. You can't, because you are not even thinking God thoughts, you are thinking self thoughts. Thoughts about self. But the son that was adopted was as brother Branham said, "he was a good boy, and he was always about the father's business, and he proved to be the right kind of son."

14 8 So then they that are in the flesh (they that are into self) cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, (You are not into self) but into the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

15 In other words, if you are into self it shows God has not placed His Spirit in you yet. And in fact until you die to self, God never will place His Spirit into your vessel. God must conduct Himself according to the same Laws He laid down for you. That is what brother Branham told us in paragraph 23 and 24 of this sermon we are studying.

16 He said, in pp. 24 As I have said, God will never go outside of His laws to do anything. And then in pp. 25 he said, if you'll just work according to the laws of God, let the Holy Spirit come in there, then he's no more his own. He will stop that thing, because the Holy Spirit takes him over. But you've got to work according to the laws of God, the rules of God.

17 And God put down a rule for us in 2 Corinthians that He himself must go by as well.

18 2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

19 And again in Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

20 So the jest of understanding the Spirit of Adoption is that God would never place his Spirit in an unholy Vessel. In fact last wee we read you a quote where brother Branham was actually quoting a sermon brother Vayle preached in his Tabernacle on which brother Vayle was teaching that the reason we do not see much of Mark 16 in the churches is because the people are not living righteous consecrated lives before God.

21 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Humble thyself 63-0714E P:30 I truly believe that what Brother Vayle said is the truth, that "God will never put His Spirit in an unholy, unrighteous, disobedient temple". No, It's got to come in the way of the cleansing of our hearts from all guile and iniquity, that we might be pure before God, that He might work His pure Holy Spirit through us to bring these things to pass."

22 And how could God command us not be unequally yoked with unbelief, and then yoke himself up with an unbeliever. That just tells me that no unbeliever has the Holy Spirit, and could ever have the Holy Spirit as long as he lives to himself. You've got to die for the Life of Christ to come in, brothers and sisters. And until that happens you will not have any place in the rapture because you are none of His. That's what he said.

23 Romans 8:9 Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

24 It's just that simple. And no man can even call Jesus the Christ but by the Holy Ghost. so for starters, the believers that Jesus refers to in John 14:12 are only Holy Ghost filled people. And we will get to that in a few minutes, because brother Branham himself tells us that.

And then the Apostle Paul tells u in verse 10 "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

25 Let me read that from the new translation called The Voice. 10 "If the Anointed One lives within you, even though the body is as good as dead because of the effects of sin, The Spirit is infusing you with life now that you are right with God."

26 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 also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

27 Now, let me put this together for you as we read verse 9-11 from the translation called The Message. 9 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!

28 Now, show me where this is any different than what Jesus said in John 14:12? You can't.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to (self) to live after (self). 13 For if ye live after (self), ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the 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.

29 Notice Paul is describing the Spirit of Adoption here, and it is God's Spirit in you, leading you, and you have died to self, and are led by only His Spirit. Then notice what he tells us.

30 16 The Spirit Itself will bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

31 Now, what does that mean? The Spirit will bear witness with our spirit?

32 There's only one The Spirit and that is God's Spirit. Therefore Paul is telling us here that God will bear witness with our Spirit.

33 Bible readers always read that wrong. They read it as "your spirit will bear witness with God's Spirit", and that's exactly the opposite of what it tells us. The catholic church calls God their Father, and so does the Muslim, and we know the Jews do also, and yet Jesus called those pharisees he said, "you are of your father the devil".

34 John 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

35 Notice they claimed to have God as their father. Now, just because you say it doesn't make it so.

36 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

37 The word hear means to understand, and he is telling them the reason they could not even understand His Word, is because their ears were not tuned to God's Word, they were tuned to what had been drilled into their little noggins since they were children. That is why brother Vayle told me that Catholics coming into this Message make far better Christians because they never learned anything in their Catholic churches but a few stories, and some superstitions, and they have a whole lot less to filter than the Baptist of Pentecostal.

38 In other words, they're willing to forget everything they ever learned and when they begin to read the Bible they see it for what it actually is saying, rather than what some theologians told them that it says.)

39 So Jesus tells them, 44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

40 And then he tells them the attributes of them who truly are born of the Father.

41 47 He that is of God hears God's Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. 48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? 49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. 50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

42 Notice he just said the same thing two times. Once in this last verse 50, and the other in verse 44. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

43 Therefore he is telling them that whatever life is in your father you will reflect that life in what you do. Then tell me when Jesus said "the works I do you shall do also", he's not saying the same thing. That's one of the first laws God set in His universe, "every seed after it's kind or nature". And that is the law of reproduction which is the law of life.

44 But notice in getting back to Romans 8:16 Paul said, 16 "The Spirit Itself will bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

45 And this does not say that we will bear witness with His Spirit, but "His Spirit will bear witness with our Spirit that we are His children". Now, the devil believes and he trembles.

46 So how does God's Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are His child? By your fruits you are known.

47 From his sermon, Works that I do bear witness of me 51-0413 P:27 Brother Branham said, "Now, watch closely. Jesus said, "The works that I do bear record of Me." The works that you do bear record of you."

48 So what if you have no works? Then as James said, James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? And again in James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

49 Therefore the man who brags that he has no works, and he is counting on the works that brother Branham had, and he is going to ride in on that, that man that professes that has no faith either in what Brother Branham taught, and therefore is an unbeliever, because brother Branham preached exactly what James taught and even had a sermon entitled, "Works is Faith expressed." And since he also taught us that Faith is a revelation, something that has been revealed, then we can say, your works is the expression of your revelation.

50 Again from his sermon, Works that I do bear witness of me 51-0413 P:16 brother Branham said, "And now, I want to speak just a moment, or just bring your attention to a few words here that Jesus said, "The works that I do bear witness of Me." The things that I do, what I say, is what bears record of me. And that's what bears record of every person. Do you know, I'd rather you'd live me a sermon than preach me one? It'll be a better evidence that you're a Christian. Isn't that right? A live a sermon. And what we are is what we live, what we do. Our actions shows what we are. And if we say we have faith, and then afraid to step out and claim our faith and put it to work, then our faith doesn't do us much good, does it? The Bible said that faith without works is dead, just as the body without the spirit is dead..

51 No, back to Romans 8 and we'll pick up at verse 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.

52 Brother Branham said in his sermon, Hear ye Him 62-0711 P:68 "That's the reason He could smile here.

Jesus had carried out every Word of it. That's it. He'd carried out just exactly to the Word, now, because He was that perfect Son. And He is the same, and He died to become the Vine, that we might become the branch, that He can energize us with His Life to make the same Life that He had, living in us. Then we'll do the same thing. Jesus said in Saint John 14:12, "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." Now, we watch what He done. See, we haven't time tonight, but we'll take it up later, and see what His works was: maybe tomorrow night. Then, see if He will perform that same works. If He does, He remains the same. Now, then God would be pleased with that."

53 Now, back to brother Branham sermon, "What the Holy Ghost was Given for and we will pick up again at pp. 27 And we will see him explain how that God was subject to the same law of adoption with his own son Jesus, and sons.

54 What the Holy Ghost was Given for 27 "Now, watch what God did. When His Son was born, He let Him go for thirty years, testing Him, trying Him, then He give Him three years of hard trial. And then at the end of the hard trial when He seen that His SON was about the Father's business (Mount Transfiguration, Book of Luke), He took Peter, James, and John (three witnesses) and went up on top of the mountain; and there God performed the laws of adoption. They looked up, and they seen Jesus, and His clothes shined as white as the lightning. And as a cloud overshadowed Him, and a Voice come out of the cloud and said, "This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him. I'll set down now and have no more to say. What He says is Law and Truth."

55 28 Now, the church has come through those schools. She married back yonder a long time ago and become a denomination, an organization. But you notice, the birth produced something else. And now, it's got to a place to where the Pentecostal church with the new birth has been tested and tried. And now, it's coming to a place... God doesn't deal with the church as just an organization. He doesn't deal with the church as a group of people. He deals with the church as an individuals, each individual in the church. And now it's got to a time... And it's no secret; we all see it. When a man proves, and God loves him, He takes him out somewhere to himself. There in the front of Angels He does something for him. He lifts him up there in the Presence of God, and gifts him, and fills him, and sets him out. That's the age that we're living in.

56 29 Same Holy Spirit that saved the Lutherans, that sanctified the Methodists, that baptized the Pentecostals, is now setting in order the coming of the Lord Jesus. When it'll be so powerful, that Body will come into this group of church that'll draw the rest of them from the grave. There'll be a resurrection. That's what the Holy Ghost is for. What is the Holy Ghost? Without us they cannot be made perfect. They lived in one day under that; we live in another day. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of God will raise a standard against it." See?

30 We're in a day now... Back there, they wasn't half as smart as today. They couldn't make an atomic bomb or an automobile. They didn't have science and things as we have now, but, and things of mysterious things. To try to say man blown together by some dust and so forth, and take some analysis, and try to prove it to make infidels out of people... But now, when we need it, the Spirit of God raises a standard. What is it? He's pouring in His Spirit. Then those who are resting out yonder in the grave, or under the altar of God as the Scripture says, are crying, "How long, Lord? How long? How much longer?" God's waiting on me and you. The church is waiting on me and you: adoption time, when God can pour into us His Fullness, His power, His Resurrection, that when the church and Christ become so close together till Christ becomes visible among us, and raises the dead, and we go into the rapture. Now, we're going to show after while that just those who are filled with the Holy Ghost goes in that rapture, "For the rest of the dead live not for the space of a thousand years." That's right. Just Holy Spirit filled people was all that went in the rapture.

57 And that can not be emphasized enough in this late hour. Make sure you are saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost. And how do you know whether you are filled with the Holy Ghost? Well, everyone thinks today they are filled with the Holy Ghost because they claim to believe the Message. But Brother Branham taught us you can not truly be a believer until God has sealed you with His Spirit. That's His seal of approval. And Paul said that God's Spirit would bear witness to that.

58 Until then you are only believing unto, and he shows us this in the next few paragraphs, if we get time today to read them.

59 31 Now, God gave the Holy Spirit. I got another Scripture here in John 14:12. That's a very familiar Scripture with all the people here at the tabernacle. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me..." Now, don't let that word "believeth" kinda set you back. In a nominal church, they say, "Yes, I believe. Sure, I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God." The devil believes the same thing. That's exactly. The Bible said he does. But the Scripture says in John that no man can call Jesus the Christ, only by the Holy Ghost. You've actually, by the Scripture... (Let me stop here just a minute 'fore I finish reading.)

60 32 You are not converted until you've received the Holy Ghost. That's right. You are believing unto... The Holy Spirit has spoke to you, and you've publicly confessed Him. The devil has the same thing. "I believe Him to be the Son of God." So does the devil. But you're walking on towards Him. When Peter had been called and justified by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ... And in John 17:17, Jesus sanctified them through the Word, for the Word was the Truth, and He was the Word. John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us." He was the Word, so He sanctified them. He said, "Father (speaking to the Spirit in Him), I sanctify them through the Word." Himself, a-laying His hands upon them. "Thy Word is the Truth." Just merely spoke Him into existence in the womb of a woman. Oh, totally impossible for Him to be any other way than this Word of God to make Him manifest. "I sanctify them."

Now, listen, too many people say "I believe, therefore I've got it", and they haven't got anything but a little bit of intellectual conception.

61 He said "My Spirit will bear witness with your spirit, that you arte my children.". And in order to bear witness to anything, it means there must be a confirmation of something that you have witnessed. But what if there is nothing to witness? If there are no fruits, what is there to witness? He said, "by their fruits you shall know them". and God has to abide by His own laws.

62 Well, I've got the right doctrine so that is my proof? Well, God's prophet said you could have the wrong doctrine and a right heart. In fact he said,

63 Getting in the spirit 61-0428 P:47 I don't care if the man's wrong. If he's wrong and sincere in his heart and you're right in your belief and you're wrong in the way you're acting. I'd rather be in his place than be in yours. That's right. I'd rather be wrong in my doctrine and right in my heart. God will respect it more. So if a man is wrong, what of it? Help him. He needs help. Love him. If you can't love your enemy the same as you love those who love you, you're no better off than the publicans. That's right. That's what the Church has failed to get. I hope you get it tonight. I hope you see what I'm talking about.

64 Godhead explained 61-0425B P:40 Now, ..."To answer your question," I said, "now, I do not take either sides with you brethren, and I know, as long as you fuss, you're both wrong (See?), because I would rather be wrong in my doctrine and right in my heart, than to be right in my doctrine and wrong in my heart." See? I said, "After all, it's your heart's condition." And I made that a practice to know this, that if a man, no matter what he does and how much he differs, and what he says about me, if in my heart, not from just a duty, but from my heart I can't love that man as well as I love anyone else, then I know there's something wrong in here. See?

65 And again brother Branham said in his sermon, Shalom 64-0119 P:34 Your life proves whether Jesus is with you or not. Your life shows whether He's occupied here, or whether He's still in His heavens or not, whatever you are. "The works that I do shall you do also." How could you have Christ in you, and then the very Spirit in you deny His Word, take up a creed instead? It can't do it. He would defeat Himself by denying His Own Word. Just because somebody put a wrong interpretation to It? You got a Bible, you can read like anybody else.

66 So it all boils down to this brothers and sisters, get your hearts right with God. Don't worry if you make mistakes, you're still in the body of this death, and there will be no perfection this side of the resurrection.

67 In fact brother Branham said in his sermon, As I was with Moses 60-0911M P:14 One time it was said that the Ballard and Ballard Flour Company hired a man, and he was going to sign his name, and the man had no eraser on the end of his pencil. And Mr. Ballard said to him, said, "Why haven't you got an eraser?" He said, "I don't make mistakes." He said, "Then I can't use you. Because if you don't make mistakes, you won't do nothing." That's true. God don't hold you responsible for your mistakes. He holds you responsible for your willful sin. "He that sins willfully, after he has received the knowledge of the truth..." But a man that's going to do something is going to blunder; he's going to fall. He's going to make mistakes. But if he's really Divinely called, and God in his heart, he'll rise again.

68 Let's bow our heads in prayer.