

PERILOUS TIMES HAVE COME

*We are not ready and we are not in the place of
righteousness we need to be in...*

Burt Asbill

*(Message given at the Sunday evening meeting, July 1999
at the Living Word Omega Message Convention in Mahomet IL.)*

Praise God. I thought I was safe sitting back there, but there are some words that have been spoken at this conference that have stirred me tremendously. It is really a word of confirmation with regards to some of the things that God has been dealing with in my life personally and in the Body of Christ.

I think it is a very serious time. I think it is a time that there needs to be a sobriety upon the people of God with reference to the position and the relationship that we have with God and the thing that He is doing in the world today. Not only in the world, but also in the Body of Christ in particular. I believe the Bible when it says that we are a *peculiar* people. We are a peculiar people, not in the sense of being strange or being weird, but in the aspect of the aspiration and the desire that God has upon us. It is an aspiration and a desire that you and I oftentimes resist with such a tenacity and such a tremendous force of resistance, because it comes against every aspect of our lives that we know or hold dear, or what we can relate to as our own personal position of identity. I do not know what it was like when some of you that are my age were growing up, but I know that there was a great deal of time spent where a whole generation was in fact devoted to finding out who they were.

I was very much stirred yesterday and today by the messages given by Brother duCille and Brother Campbell, and there was a word that came so very heavily upon me in this meeting when we began to sing the song, "It is well with my soul." There is, for lack of a better word, a deception. I do not want to say deception, but I cannot think of another word to use in the place of deception. Words have an ability to bring a sense of security that is not real. Now, if I heard

accurately, and I do not mean the words that were being spoken per se, as far as the English language is concerned, but if I heard it the in Spirit what the Spirit was saying, both in the message that Brother duCille brought and the message that our Brother Tom brought, God was saying that He was not pleased with us. Now if God is not pleased with me, how can I sing or how can I move to that position or that place to say, "It is well with my soul?" I think one of the first positions or places of repentance is to recognize the position and the place of transgression, so that we might be able to move into that place of relationship with God that deals with that aspect of what God has for us with regard to His expectations.

In the verse that Brother Tom was reading this morning (Ephesians 1:18: "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*") there is something that struck me as being very peculiar about that verse. It is not "my" calling, it is not "my" inheritance. So therefore it is not relying upon what I expect, or what I am looking for, or the aspirations or desires that I personally might have. It has nothing to do with the perceptions that I have with regards to the thing that I desire in God. That has nothing to do with it, and it may in fact be contrary and totally in opposition to the aspiration that God Himself has for me. Do you understand what I am saying, or am I losing you in words?

I believe that we are living in the last days, and that the words that are written about the last days with regards to you and I as a church are very specific and very particular. They are very particular, not only to our position and our relationship with God, but also with the world. Nobody likes to think about dying. Nobody likes to think about it, much less be the recipients of that thing that is called death. No one likes to be put into that position, but we all testify to the fact that we really are ready to die if we have to die. However, we have never been confronted with the stark reality of death and yet death is something that is ministered to us from the time we entered into the tabernacle and go through the tabernacle into the place of the Holy Place. You cannot enter into "life" and living without death. It is all on the basis of "death."

I do not think there is an instinct in humanity that is stronger than the instinct of self-preservation. If it is not working in a manner of conscientious thinking of preserving one's position of identity, to preserve one's position of personality, to preserve one's position or place of (for lack of a better word or terminology) ministry, then it is working underground in our subconscious, down in the midst of Adam, working to defeat the plan of God.

I think that we as a church stand at a mark that I would call a line of demarcation; that there is no turning back! I do not know that we are really conscious of it. We are not really conscious of it! I know that we are not conscious of it, or God would not be bringing the words that He is bringing. Do you hear me?

Now, if I am wrong, Brother Tom, please correct me. In the vision that you had, it seems to me that the place that you were in was a bad place. And the thing that God was showing you was not something that was being shown with regards to the world and the activity that the world was involved in, but it was a picture about the condition of the Church. Is that true? That means that the Church is not in a high place, or in the position or the place of righteousness that God expects them to be. They are not even at surface level. They are down in what He called a sewer.

Now, if that is true, if that is the word of the Lord, then we need to ascertain how it applies to us. We hear things that preachers preach and we think, "That's the preacher preaching." We do not relate to what the word said, and we somehow disassociate ourselves from it, and we go on about our business. We act as though the word that was preached was never spoken, it was never preached, it was never said; or if it was said, it was said in the strength of the preacher's humanity and not of God.

I believe that if the vision is from the Lord...and you have to ascertain that! You and I have an individual responsibility to say, "Did this man hear from God?" And on the basis of your decision and response, there are consequences, or there are blessings. The Word says, "I lay before you today a choice. If you do those things which I have commanded you, I will bless you, but if you go contrary to them, then there will be a curse that you shall be cursed with."

I do not know how we can go on about our Christian business as though God has not spoken. God has spoken a word to us. It is something very particular, something that is very exact and we cannot go on as though we did not hear it. What would have happened, had we responded to God in a favorable manner in the first message given by Brother duCille? What would have happened?

Now, do not tell me that the Spirit of God wasn't dealing in the midst of the congregation with regards to the soul. The terminology that was used was "blockage." Let's call it SIN! Let us call it sin! SIN! If nothing else, if nothing more, the sin of self-preservation! The sin of preserving one's position of individual identity.

I do not know if you are really aware. I do not think that you are, or we would not have gone on in the manner in which we have gone on, in spite of the word that we have received with regards to the place that we are in. We are not in

the place that we think that we are in! We are not there! In the vision Brother Campbell shared concerning the individuals who were in the sewer, they were holding on to something that would benefit them personally. There was a position of individuality that they were holding onto, with tenacity to such a degree that it prevented them from being delivered. They would not do what they needed to do in order to get out of the hole in which they were!

I cannot go on without asking! Do you have the revelation of the understanding of the scripture (Romans 7:24) that says, "Oh wretched man that I am! Who is going to save me from this body of death"? Do we have that revelation of the wretchedness of our individuality? Do we have the revelation of the wretchedness of the position and the place of our supremacy as far as being a human being and the personality with which we have been given?

Turn with me over into 2 Timothy. This congregation collectively probably has heard more about the tribulation that is upon us than any congregation on earth! I know that they do not preach this type of preaching in the denominational churches. They do not preach about tribulation, except with the thought that they are going to miss it. They do not preach about tribulation, except that they are going to be viewing it from afar off. I do not think there is a church that has had more preaching, more teaching, more prophecy, more unction and moving of the Holy Ghost, dealing with the fact that you are going to be tribulated; that you are going to go through a time such as the world has never known. Yet, we do not believe it. We do not believe it. We do not believe it. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT!

We do not believe it! What if you thought that tomorrow was your last day of living. What would you do if tonight you turned on your radio and you heard that somebody had nuked Washington D.C? Would you sit down and go about your normal routine? Would you turn on your TV to watch a movie, or to catch the evening news? Well, maybe we would for the sake of the news.

We have been anesthetized! We have been anesthetized! Every Tuesday morning at 10:00 the sirens go off. How many of you go to your radio and turn it on to see whether or not something really happened? Hello? Anesthetized! Anesthetized!

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE WORD THAT IS BEING BROUGHT TO US. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WHEN IT TALKS TO US ABOUT BEING AN END-TIME BODY OF PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING INTO THE FACE OF HELL. WE ARE NOT READY! NOT READY! NOT READY! AND YOUR NOT READINESS, AND MY NOT READINESS SHOULD BE STIRRING US TO A POSITION OF GETTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER!

Getting our house in order! That does not mean someone comes down, coerces you, twists your arm, drags you out in the aisle, and drives you up to the altar. That has nothing to do with getting your house in order! It has nothing to do with it! No pleading, no crawling, no twenty-four choruses of "Just as I am."

When I was a sinner, I knew I was a sinner. When I sin and I fall short, when I move in transgression against God, I know it? I know it! I do not have to have someone come and lay hands on me, and say, "Thou art the man!" I have that unction, that Holy Ghost down here inside of me that says, "Thou art the man!" And, you know, that unction, that anointing, does not let me loose until I turn and move in a manner and a fashion to rectify the thing that I did; that caused me to get into that position! You do not have to knock on my door. You do not have to call me up on my phone. You do not have to twist my arm.

I believe that we are living in the last days, and I believe that we are acting as though we are laws unto ourselves. It says in the first verse in 2 Timothy 3. It reads, "*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*" I do not think it is for us, "*perilous times shall come,*" but I think it should be said, "*perilous times have come!*" I wonder, concerning those schools that have had bullets flying around the corridors and ricocheting off the walls, and blood running on the floor, I wonder how much assurance the parents have now when they send their children off to school? I will bet that their attitude is something different than it was the day before it happened! Hello? I think that there is something in their attitude that is different! I think maybe, to some of them, that their children are sweeter, they are dearer, and they are more precious. I think there is more of a concern in them with regards to what is going on. Something has probably changed in their demeanor and in their behavior with regards to what was going on in the system of which they were a part! That is an assumption on my part, but I bet it is an accurate assumption. The problem with you and me is that it did not happen to us! It did not happen to us! To some degree there is a callousness in our souls that keeps us from having a sensitivity that gives us the ability to commiserate, or to empathize with them.

Now, I did not say to have sympathy with them. There is a difference between compassion and sympathy. Do you hear me? Compassion will motivate you to do righteousness. Sympathy will have you in agreement with whatever it is, whether it is right or wrong! It never says that Jesus was ever moved in sympathy. It always says that He was moved in "compassion."

Brethren, I do not know what it will take for you and me to really realize what God is saying to us. Before it is too late! Do you hear me? BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE! It says in Matthew 24 that in the last days it will be even as it was in the days of Noah. They will be eating, they will be drinking, they will be marrying and giving in marriage. They will be raising families; they will be having babies. Come on? Alleluiah. It is all a façade. All of that position, all of that place of

activity brings to us a false sense of security. It is because we think that today was like yesterday, and it is going to be like that tomorrow! However, what the Bible tells me is that in the course of events, there comes a time when tomorrow becomes as "*in the twinkling of an eye*." There is a moving of God! There is a demonstration of God, and in that position of false security we will find ourselves short of it!

You and I are in trouble! Do you hear me? You and I are in trouble by virtue of the fact that we have been sitting here listening to the word that pertains to the Kingdom of God. There is a verse in Revelation 3 that deals with that thought. Do you understand that? He says, "I would that you were hot or cold but you are not hot and you are not cold, but you are a mixture. You have a little bit of warm, you have a little bit of cold, and you are all mixed up together." He says that it is unprofitable and it is of no value! He says, "I want to spew it out of My mouth. I have to! There is a need for Me to spew it out of My mouth!" Not because He wants to cast you aside, but because He wants the process of redemption to be worked within the environment of your own soul!

You do not come into the kingdom of God standing up. You do not come into the kingdom of God vertical. Do you hear me? You come into the kingdom of God horizontally. What was the word that Jesus spoke to Peter? "When you were young, you did what you wanted to do; you went where you wanted to go; you said what you wanted to say. But I am telling you, Peter, there is coming a time and a change in your life with regards to your youth and your love for life, where you are going to go where you would not go, and you are going to be borne along by the hands of others."

Have you ever looked at the life of Paul and how he was motivated from one position to another position? It was usually by the Roman guard. It was usually by the Roman guard that was carrying out the will of God for Paul's life.

Do you know that Paul knew that he could be released? Do you know this man was a teacher of the law? Do you hear me? Not only Jewish historical law, but he was a lawyer. He knew the ramifications of Roman law. He said, "I am a Roman citizen. It is unlawful for you to beat me, though I am a Jew, because I am a Roman citizen!" He knew the law! Do you think that his testifying before Festus and his saying, "I appeal to stand before Caesar," was something that he did just to get out of that particular set of circumstances, or something he did just to save his life? Especially, when he had had the word that came to him by Agabus the prophet.

We become too familiar. We become too familiar, and I do not mean in having a relationship with someone. We become too familiar with one another on a natural level. We become desensitized! Do you hear me? I bet that Isaiah and Jeremiah, especially Jeremiah and Micaiah, were a pain in somebody's side. Do

you remember the account given in 1 Kings 22? King Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah, was going down to help the King of Israel fight in a battle. The King of Israel brought out all these prophets to prophesy victory, and Jehoshaphat said, "Don't you have any other prophets around here who will prophesy the word of the Lord?" King Ahab answered, "Oh yes, we have one here (Micaiah), *but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me.*" Now, why didn't Ahab like this man? It must have been that he was always confronting the king and saying, "YOU NEED TO REPENT!" The king had become anesthetized, desensitized, by the familiarity of this ministry, which had been given into his court to save his life. It must have been the attitude that Ahab had with regards to this ministry that influenced Jehoshaphat, because you know what? He ignored the message. Hello? HE IGNORED THE MESSAGE! And King Ahab went out, and you know what happened! Micaiah did not have to prove his point. He stood vindicated. When the smoke cleared, he was still alive, and the king of Israel was dead.

We need to become concerned, not with our position of financial security, not with our position of retirement, or with satisfying our own position of preeminence, but we need to be concerned with the condition that our soul is in with regards to the word of God that says, "YOU ARE NOT READY!" What are you going to do with this word? What are you going to do with it? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?

I THINK, BRETHREN, THAT WE ARE STANDING AT A LINE! I THINK THAT WE ARE STANDING AT SUCH A LINE THAT SOME OF YOU THAT ARE HERE TODAY WILL NOT BE HERE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR! YOU WILL HAVE PASSED YOUR POSITION OF OPPORTUNITY. YOU WILL HAVE MOVED IN A DIRECTION THAT IS CONTRARY TO GOD. YOU WILL HAVE NOT DONE WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE!

We think that God is longsuffering, and Oh my, He is! Can you imagine any of us laboring for six thousand years with a rebellious, stiff-hearted, hardheaded, backsliding heifer that He called Israel? Do you think those are words for a different time and that they do not pertain to us? Do you know to whom the message of God is coming to? It is not coming to the church out there. The invitation of Sonship, the coming into the wedding feast, it is being given to you and me! It has been coming, not for a year, not for two years, not for three years, not for four years, IT HAS BEEN COMING FOR OVER FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS TO A CHURCH THAT SITS ON ITS LEES AND MOVES AND THINKS THEY ARE IN A POSITION THAT THEY ARE NOT IN! Loose them! WE ARE NOT IN THAT POSITION!

BLOCKAGES! SIN! SIN! We are sinning! We are sinning with our mouth, we are sinning with our eyes, we are sinning with our ears, we are sinning with our hands, we are sinning with our feet, we are sinning with our bodies, and we are sinning with our money! SIN!

Now, why do you think Brother Campbell had a vision of a man with stones in his pockets? Jewels? Why? Why? The Bible says first the natural, then the spiritual, and I do not believe that it is something to be taken only on a spiritual level. We sit on our money. Some of us sit on our money like a chicken sits on her eggs! And any time anybody comes close to our nest, we go, "CLUCK! Cluck, cluck!" Our hope is that sitting on that egg will produce more money! However, do you know something? Money has a lie in it. It promises you something that it cannot give you! One day you are going to wake up.... Hello? and you have heard it. You have heard it! And you have heard it! You are going to wake up, and your dollar is not going to be worth a dollar! You might be lucky to get ten cents on the dollar. MAYBE!

It is all designed. It is all laid out. It is all ready to go. All the financial finagling in the world is all manipulated. It is all controlled. Do you know there are men who could wipe us out with a shake of a hand? Money cannot deliver to you whatever it is that money has promised. It cannot give you what it promises. There is only one thing (that will provide security for us in this hour), and it is obedience to God's word.

You know, one time I began to ask God. I said, "You know, God, I have a little money. I need to invest it! Maybe I can make more money. I can help the kingdom of God! I can help do some of the things out here. I can do this. I can do that." He said, "Invest your money in the kingdom of God!"

Do you know what wickedness goes on in the midst of high finance? Do you know that there is no sanctity of life in the financial world? Absolutely not! None! None! None! How many of you saw the movie, "The Godfather"? Oh, do not raise your hand. We might be in trouble with that one. They kill their sons. They kill their daughters. They kill their wives. They kill their brothers. They kill their fathers. Alleluiah!

We are talking here about human beings and natural affection. You say, "Well, I am above that!" You have never been given the opportunity to find out what is the wickedness in the depths of your human heart. You have not been given the opportunity! Thank God for the grace that has been apportioned unto you, and the word that says that you will not be tried above or beyond that which you are able to bear, but I want to tell you something. If you are destined for prosperity, it is for a purpose. It is for the sake of the Body. It is for the sake of the work of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. And as you come into prosperity, if you have not dealt with your soul in a manner and fashion in which God has

worked out of your soul the lust for things, you will be like that man in brother Campbell's vision, sitting at the end of the ladder looking up, wishing he could get there, but not willing to turn loose of his finances!

It does not start with a million bucks! Hello? It does not start with a million dollars! It starts with one dollar.

It is scriptural. Did you know that? Did you know that that was in the Bible? Oh, all these religious fellows, these spiritual big shots, coming down the aisle! "Clink. Clink. Clink. Clink, clink, clink." Looking around. "Clink. Clink. Clink. Clink. Clink. Clink." Dropping their money in the bag. "Clink, clink, clink." Making sure everybody heard!

You know, the further it fell, the louder the sound it made! It did not impress Jesus! Do you think your ten percent impresses Jesus? Do you know what the definition of a "profitable" servant is? It is one who goes beyond that which is expected of him. We did a study of it here in our congregation on one of our Bible study nights.

Boy, I will tell you what, we need more Bible study. We need a little less preaching and more Bible study! We need to be digging into the Word like a miner digging into the ground. What does it say in Proverbs? It says that wisdom is like hidden treasures, and you are expected to get in with your pick and your shovel, and begin to investigate! Not that you might prove your worth, or justify your position of ministry, but to bring righteousness into the confines of your personal environment! The Bible says it is the "*washing of the water of the word*." Washing of the water of the Word! There are a lot of us going around spouting Bible verses, but there are very few of us who stand still long enough for the brush to do some scrubbing!

Have you ever had a silverware dining set? Well, I don't think that they have the kind of problem that they used to have, for I think that they have invented something now to eliminate tarnish. I think that is a little like some of the gospel we have now: spray it on and the tarnish just disappears!

My mother had a set of silverware that had an endless supply of knives, forks, and spoons. Do you know what I mean? You sit down to the table. "One, two, three, four...fifty, fifty-five...seventy, seventy-five...hundred, hundred and five! Mom? Isn't there any end to this silverware? I have been scrubbing from morning to night!"

You polish it. You get your rag out. You get your little grit polish; you put it on there, and it takes a lot of time and effort. You cannot even pick your hand up at the end of the day. It feels like it is broken!

"*Washing of the water of the Word*"! It takes a process of time and determination. WE READ A VERSE, AND WE ARE OFF ABOUT OUR BUSINESS! WE HEAR A MESSAGE AND WE ARE OFF ABOUT OUR BUSINESS! WE GO ON TO THE NEXT DETAIL, WE GO ON TO THE NEXT STATE OR POSITION OF BUSINESS WITHOUT THOUGHT, WITHOUT MEDITATION, WITHOUT DUE RESPECT FOR WHAT WAS SPOKEN, OR HOW IT WAS SPOKEN, OR FROM WHERE IT CAME! Come on, Brethren! Come on! Did you hear me?

Do you know, man does not have to validate or vindicate his position of ministry? Do you know that? He does not have to do it. He is not required to do it. If he is God unctioned and God moving, God does it! Whether it is five minutes later, an hour later, or twenty years down the road!

A brother this morning read a scripture passage from Isaiah 53, with regards to Isaiah the prophet. Five hundred years! It was that long before this word was fulfilled. How many of you could wait five hundred years for a promise to come to pass? How many of you can wait twenty years? How many of you can wait ten years? How many of you can wait an hour? Some of us cannot even wait thirty minutes!

I believe that we are living in the last days, and I believe that God is getting very direct and I believe He is getting very exact. Now, my Bible tells me that the way into the kingdom, or the gate into the kingdom, is straight and narrow! Hello? Now, if I were to take a poll in here, I bet every one of you would raise your hands, saying that you wanted to be in the Sonship Company. In the seventh chapter of the Book of Judges, it deals with the matter of Gideon's three hundred. How many of you think that those that drank at that river, that prior to the drinking, they wanted to be in the position of the 300 as much as the 300 who were in the position? How many of you think they had that desire? HOW MANY OF THEM DO YOU THINK WERE HAPPY ABOUT THEM BEING DELEGATED TO BE LEFT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BANK? It says that the way is very straight and very narrow, "*and few there be that find it*" FEW! How many is a few? Few, I believe, is not very many. It is not a multitude of people, especially when you begin to look at the odds, the ratio. I am not a mathematician, but 300 out of 10,000! Three per-cent! That is a small ratio! That is a small percent.

Here in 2 Timothy 3:1, it says, "*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*" I believe that we are living in the *last days*. I believe that we are living in *perilous times*! Perilous times! I believe that you and I are living in the decade, in the dispensation, of seeing this scripture come to pass! We are witnessing it with our own eyes, just as the Jewish hierarchical system was witnessing with their eyes the prophecy to Israel that was prophesied over them

by Isaiah! I believe it! I believe it! I believe that we are living in that time frame! Do you hear me? And we could be in the same position!

We could be in the same place and doing the same thing that they did, where we are actually working in opposition to the thing that was prophesied and promised in the Word. It says that they took Jesus and they crucified Him! Do you know that some of us are going to rise up with a shout! Something that is spoken and sent by the hand of God is going to put its finger upon something in our soul, and there will be some of us who will rise up with a multitude of people who have the same problem, and we are going to say, "CRUCIFY HIM!"

Do you know that there was a word that came to me when I heard Brother Campbell's vision. It said that if I do not deal with the aspects of my wretchedness, of my humanity, I am not going up in the ladder! I am not going up! I am not going up that ladder into the light above! If I do not make time for God! If I do not get down to business!

You know, we are busy hovering around the Golden Altar, when we should be back at the Brazen Altar. We should be working around the Brazen Laver, because it brings about DEATH-TO-SELF!

Isn't it strange that in Verse 2 here, that the first thing that he deals with, in the fact of being in *perilous times*, is the fact that people will be lovers of themselves. It says, "*...for men shall be lovers of their own selves.*" Now, the rest of this scripture goes into the attributes that are pertinent to being a lover of your own self. Hello? It says that being a lover of your own self is to be "*covetous*," it is to be a "*boaster*," it is to be "*proud*," and it says that it is also characteristic of those who are "*blasphemers*."

Now, you may not be "full-blown." Do you know that you can be carrying certain diseases in your body for years and years, and not be aware of its aspects and the death that is working in your body. Hello? Do you know that a man can have the AIDS virus in his body, and it is all the time, through his life, working, working, working, working, working—and yet never manifesting itself as full blown "AIDS"? WORKING! But, that is what Paul was dealing with. In the seventh chapter of Romans, he said that he saw a law in his members working to bring about something that he called "sin."

I want you to notice that all of these attributes, all of these things that Paul is addressing in these verses, it is as he is writing to Timothy! This is a son, begotten of him in the Lord. Why was he writing this? Do you think that he was giving Timothy fuel or ammunition to preach? Or do you think that Paul wrote these things, knowing that Timothy was aspiring to a place of a high calling in God, and that there was something in Timothy's own nature and in the

environment in which he was working that needed the light of God, the finger of God, to come into the very depths of his being, and to begin to examine him?

I have always been told, from the time that I have come into the things of God, that this Word of God is a "*two-edged sword*." That means that as the word is being delivered, it has an action both backwards and forwards. I have always been taught that, and I believe it, because every time, every time, every time that there is a word that comes that I am involved with, there is without exception always a ramification of that word in my own personal environment! I do not know why anybody wants to be in the ministry. It seems that we just do not have very much sense! You would think, wouldn't you, that it would be a lot easier just sitting back there listening to somebody else preach it?

You know, Brethren, we talk a lot about God! We talk a lot about that which is righteous. We talk a lot about that which pertains to the kingdom of God and the revelations of Sonship, the 144,000, the throne, the four and twenty elders—all of those things! We talk about it, talk about it, and talk about it! My children can talk about it. My grandchildren can talk about it! HOWEVER, ALL THE TALKING, TALKING, TALKING! ALL THE PREACHING, PREACHING, PREACHING! ALL THE TEACHING, TEACHING, TEACHING IS OF NO AVAIL IF WE DO NOT PUT IT INTO SOME SORT OF PRACTICAL APPLICATION! IT HAS NO VALIDITY FOR US PERSONALLY UNLESS IT IS SOMETHING THAT TURNS INWARD, AND BEGINS TO DO WHAT IT IS DESIGNED TO DO!

If you are guilty of loving your life, you are not in a position of righteousness! If you are in a position of speaking and not walking, you are an unclean animal! You and I are unclean if we are not allowing the manifestation of the Word to be worked in our lives! If we are gossiping, if we are talking bad, and we do not repent and do not move in a manner that brings the salvation that is designed to come with repentance, we are unclean! We are leprous!

We are leprous, and we are unclean! We are not fit for human society. Do you know the Bible says that they isolated those who were lepers; they put them off all by themselves. There was a separation! There was a division! (I think I am really in trouble.) If you do not think that Jesus Christ divides, you are wrong. We disqualify ourselves by our own lack of application, by our lack of putting into practice that which we hear!

I think about Jesus... or well, just think about Peter, Paul and all of them. They were wishy-washy and they were tossed to and fro, but there was something that happened in their lives that changed them, that revolutionized them. Something put them on a track that they said, "There is no turning back! I am not going to the left. I am not going to the right. You do what you want to do,

but my mind is made up! I am going on!" Can people say that about you? Can they say that about me?

In Revelation 12 it says, "*And they overcame him....*" They overcame him! Who? Who did they overcome? They overcame Satan. They overcame the *lust of the flesh*. They overcame the *pride of life*. They overcame the *lust of the eye*! How many of you have made covenants with your eyes, that you will not sin with your eyes? How many of you have made covenants with your ears that you will not listen to sin? How many of you have made covenants with your mouth that you will not speak evil or allow evil to be spoken out of your mouth? Have we made that covenant? Have we moved into that place of relationship?

When we move in that, that does not mean that you are not ever going to slip, or that you are not ever going to fall. That does not mean that you are not going to be tempted! Oh boy, you are really going to be tempted! You are really going to be tried, because the devil says, "He does not really mean it. She does not really mean it. I can work this woman around. I can work this man around. I can make them do what I want them to do. I know his flesh. His flesh is flesh, and it is as alive as it ever was on the day that Adam fell. It is just as much flesh now as it was then!"

IT IS FLESH, AND IT STINKS! It is not something that comes up before God in the manner of a sweet smelling savor. God is not pleased with the stench of flesh! If I am not mistaken, didn't they remove the skin and the remains from the offering and burn it outside the camp? Why did they take it outside the camp? It was because there was a stench that was an abomination! Are you hearing what I am saying? What was Jesus talking about in Matthew 24 when He said, "And when you see the *abomination of desolation* standing within the holy place..."? He is talking about your flesh and my flesh, on fire and burning, and coming up before God. Not as an offering, but as something that is substituted for the offering!

Of course, we know how God feels about substitution, don't we? "Oh Brother, Sister, will you stand in for me tonight?" What if that is not what God wants? Or, perhaps it will be, "I have other things, I have things pressing on me. I have things to do. I have to be at another place, but will you cover for me tonight?" You know, substitution is not something that is in God's vocabulary. Substitution is something He does not want!

Do you know that is scriptural too? Do you know that? There were two priests (*Nadab* and *Abihu*, in Leviticus 10:1) that tried to substitute something (*strange fire*) for that which was ordained and designated for God. They tried to bring something from home of their own personality, their own position, their place of personal preference; some of their little bits of self-preservation. They put it

into their pot and mixed it all up, and thought, "Who is going to know the difference?"

One wonders at the mentality of man's mind to think and completely obliterate the knowledge of God. These men had walked with Moses! They saw the Red Sea part. They knew that God talked to Moses. They knew that God had given Moses instructions about what was supposed to be done and how it was supposed to be performed. They had been there when there had been a rising up in the midst of the congregation, and the Spirit of God moved upon the congregation and smote those that had rebelled! They saw Miriam when she was smitten with leprosy. They saw it with their own eyes and yet they had the audacity to go contrary to the word of God, and to ignore the word of God that came to them in their own environment! They ignored it! The Bible says, "*And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*" God was not hard or unjust in doing what He did, because He was proving to them that He was God!

My children used to say to me, "That's not fair," and I would answer them that fairness has nothing to do with it. "But, that's not fair, Dad." I would tell them, "Fairness does not have anything to do with it. We are not dealing with fairness; we are dealing with righteousness." This is another thing that we need to know. Righteousness, as far as you and I are concerned, is not always fair, because fairness to you and me is something that vindicates, or justifies, or allows us to have some position of compromise. Do you know, however, that there is no compromise in God. There is no compromise at all!

We compromise with our children all the time. "Sweet little things." They know how to smile at you. They know how to work you around their little finger. I have these grandchildren and they are always smiling at me. Sweet little lovable things! And all the time they are doing just exactly what I told them not to do! And they think they can do it because "Grandpa loves me" and because they have such a sweet little smile. Nobody can smile like one of my grandsons. He just smiles at me, and Grandpa's heart just goes flip-flop and rolls over like a dog. Do you think they do not know that? Oh yes, they do!

But, let me reiterate it, that fairness has nothing to do with righteousness, and many times righteousness seems to be very unfair! If you view it with the eyes of humanity, it is very unfair, because it deals with our attitude of self-preservation.

May I tell you another little thing? Maybe you already know it, but it was a revelation to me. Usually, in a relationship, whether it is a marriage relationship or a friend relationship, contention and strife come because of the opposition of will: "I will!" "I will not!" Now, what does that sound like to you? To me that sounds like self-preservation! Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ. Yet I live!"

Yet it is not I that lives, but Christ who lives within me" (Galatians 2:20). Most of us are going around getting up off of the altar. Our position or our place of submission is symbolic! We are as bad in this hour and in this day as the priest who would go in the midst of the tabernacle and begin to perform the ritual with *strange fire*. We think that coming and performing the ritual brings some sort of righteousness. THE ONLY THING THAT IS GOING TO BRING RIGHTEOUSNESS TO YOU AND ME IS DEATH TO SELF!

I think we made a mistake. I think we made a mistake and we left the "death to self" message back there somewhere! Somewhere back in the past, when the revelation of Sonship, and the Golden Altar, and the Holy of Holies began to be unveiled to us, we just jumped from that position into that place of holiness! We are as guilty as those who say, "One, two, three! Let's step into the Holy of Holies!" I can identify with Paul in the book of Romans, when he begins to talk about, "*Oh wretched man that I am....*" I can identify with him. I can identify with him because I know that within me (within my flesh) there is no good thing. I let my flesh have one little space, one little inch, and you know what? My flesh rises up and it begins to usurp the position of God in my life, and before you know it, I find myself moving in a direction that I do not want to move in and doing something that I do not want to do! Why? Because I pulled him up out of the fire and I allowed him a space of life!

I received a revelation one-day, and I said it before, and I will probably say it again. I have probably said it so much that you are getting tired of me saying it, that there are no Asbills in the kingdom of God. There are no Asbills in the kingdom of God! Furthermore, there are no Americans in the kingdom of God. My passport is not going to work as I go in before God? There is no customs official there to stamp my American passport and say, "Because you are an American, you are able to enter into this place." That has absolutely nothing to do with my relationship with God! The only position, the only place of validity that it has is on the cross! On the cross! What did Jesus say? "*He that does not....*" What? "*...deny himself and PICK UP HIS CROSS.*" Hello? Are you bearing your cross, or are you mumbling and grumbling? It says that as Jesus walked up the hill bearing the cross, and as He was put through the process of crucifixion, that there was not one word that was spoken or came out of His mouth that was contrary to the will of God! He did not mumble about how heavy the cross was. He did not complain to God about the fact of the condition and the place that He was in! There was a revelation that had been given to him that had given Him the strength. YOU AND I SHOULD HAVE STRENGTH BECAUSE WE HAVE THAT REVELATION!

It says here (2 Timothy 3:2), "*...blasphemers, boasters, proud, disobedient to parents ...without natural affection....*" You know, I believe that there is a thing

called the *reprobate mind*. I have seen it. I have seen it in individuals. I have seen it work.

It says, "...traitors." Oh my! Turn with me over into 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11. Traitors! You ought to look up the word "traitors." I think that it will bring a revelation to you, but I am going to give you the Bible definition of a traitor. 1 Corinthians 11, and let us begin reading in Verse 23. *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."*

We are talking about the act of being a traitor. Verse 28, *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*

Turn with me over to Matthew 4, and let us begin reading at Verse 1, *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*

We have read these verses many times, but I do not think we read with the understanding. I think we hear, but we do not hear. I think we see, but we do not see.

Verse 4, *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* Now, you know what this means to me...I am taking it up a level beyond the natural substance of bread and wine. The Bible says that it is the natural first and then the spiritual. There is a breaking of bread that you and I do when we come into a place of fellowship like we are in fellowship today. There is a position of relationship, there is something happening in the spiritual realm as the bread is broken and as the wine is poured. AND AS YOU AND I PARTAKE OF IT, WE ARE COVENANTING WITH ONE ANOTHER! HELLO? WE ARE COVENANTING!

The act, in the natural, of partaking of the bread and the wine together, is just a means by which to bring us to a position of spiritual understanding. God wanted us to do it again and again so that we would again and again be

reminded what happens to you and I! We covenant with one another that we will be brothers, that we will be sisters, that we will love one another! And we turn right around and we go out the door and we move contrary to the word of the covenant that we made! Now, you know something? Nobody is going to come and say to you, "You are a covenant breaker," but God says, "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh himself into a position of damnation!"

DEATH! DEATH! DEATH! Do you know what damnation is? It is death without hope. It is death without mercy. It is death without resurrection! Hello? It is death without the hope of resurrection! Do you hear me?

I was once involved with a man who was a sinner man, and he went through the tragedy.... He had one son and the man was training the son to take over his business. He was semi-retired and things seemed to be going very well with him. They were traveling and he was doing his hobby in his garage, and his son was doing his things for him and what not; and then tragedy struck his family, and his son was in an automobile accident and was killed.

It completely devastated the man. He gave up all hope of living. In fact, he died not too long after that. He took cancer and he only lived for a short time. I was able to lead him to the Lord before he died; but you know, I said to God, "God, it is one thing to be in that situation...." Because, you know, his situation, his circumstance was speaking to me. I had children of my own, and I know what it is to have a family, and your aspirations and your hopes and your desires for those children. I am very much aware of the potentiality for pain. And I said, "God, it is one thing for an individual to go through the situation that he did. It is very sad, it is very tragic, but, you know, God, that isn't the tragedy of all of it. The tragedy, the tragedy, the thing that is really a tragedy is that he had gone through it without You!"

He had no hope! He had no ability to hope beyond the aspect of the life and the living of his son, and the thing that his son was able to do; and when his son died, all hope ceased! ALL HOPE DIED!" And that is what happens when you and I eat contrary to the preciseness of righteousness! When we partake of the bread and the wine unworthily. The word damnation comes from the word "damned," which means to be condemned to eternal punishment. It is death that has no hope of resurrection.

I cannot testify for any of your lives. I do not know how God has dealt with you in your life, but I know the exactness of God in His dealing in my life. HE IS EXACT! he is exact to the dot and the tittle! he is exact! there is a line that he expects me to walk, and if I am veering to the left, or if I am veering to the right,

God's hand of discipline and judgment is always there to bring correction into my life!

Now, I have a choice. I can either submit myself to that rod of correction, in the attitude of hope, in the attitude of having an aspiration for deliverance; or I can resist and rebel, and determine to have my own way. There will come a point, there comes a time, when the Spirit of God ceases to strive with me, and He lets me go. He lets me go, and I find myself in a situation where God has withdrawn Himself from me.

Just because I am in trouble and because I am crying out to Him, does not mean He responds! Do you hear me? It does not mean He responds! There is an onus that is upon me as an individual. I am not getting into the promise of God and the Sonship that I desire by saying, "I am going in there!" I am not getting into it because I say that I want to be in there! Alleluiah! I am going to only get in there under the aspiration and the ambition and the determination that I demonstrate in the face of adversity and transgression!

"*TRAITORS!*" Treacherous traitors! I am talking about what it comes to, as you extend it out. We do not see it. We do not understand it. We do not know the ramifications! We cannot understand the reality of death that is working in our members! It is like AIDS; it is down in there in our blood system, moving around in our flesh waiting for the right time! Waiting like a silent killer! Like an assassin! Waiting, waiting for the right moment! And you know what? The devil always plays his trump card! He always plays his trump card.

We think the devil is stupid. There is nothing stupid about this devil! There is nothing stupid about him with regards to how he manipulates and works in humanity!

Do you know what kind of an opinion the devil has of you? Do you know that he was there when you and I were made? He saw God fashioning us in the mud. He saw God fashioning us in the mud. You know, the Word says that we were created lower than the angels. There is a substance of which the angels were created. It is a substance that was something that was above us. Do you understand? ...The Word says that Satan is the prince of this earth. He does not have a very high opinion of you and me. The devil plays us for the fool. He plays us for the fool, but it is time that you and I stop playing the fool! We have heard in these meetings that verse from Ephesians where Paul prays that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened that we might understand what are the riches and "*the hope of His calling.*" Notice that it does not say, "*your calling,*" but it says "*his calling.*" HIS! Not yours. Not mine. His! His! Everything is His! HE MUST HAVE PREEMINENCE IN EVERYTHING!

"...traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure." I think that is why they went to the four-day week, isn't it? It was for longer weekend holidays so that the people would have more time off, and they could have more time for playing golf, going to movies and things like that. To have more time for fun.

Now, I am not against having fun. I believe in having fun. I think that everybody should have fun, both young and old. I think they all should have fun, but I think they should all have fun IN THE LORD! I think there are things you can do in the Lord that are fun! Winning souls is fun! A soul winning party! Oh, yes! Going out! Testifying!

"Oh, that's not fun. We would rather play volleyball." (I shouldn't have said that.) We want to have fun! We want to be entertained! Hello? We do not want to think, we do not want to meditate, we do not want the time, or silence. God might talk to us! And if God talks to us, it might scare the daylights out of us!

I believe in having fun! I believe in having fun IN THE LORD! I do not believe in doing things that enhance, or manipulate me into a position of transgression. Hello? Do you know that you can be manipulated, and moved into a position of transgression by a set of circumstances? You can be manipulated. How many of you have gone to the store and say, put something in your basket that for some reason you did not get charged for? You walk out the door and you say, "Oh, praise God! I got a free gallon of milk!" "Thou fool! Knowest thou not that which thou sowest is not quickened, except that it die?" You need to go back into the store and humble yourself, even though it is not your fault.

I do not know, but God must love me a lot. I was in the store the other day, and I was buying some parts for the sprinklers. We had broken some sprinklers out here, and I was buying some parts; and I was going to change the sprinkler over here, so I bought one of those pop-up sprinklers. You know that pop-up kind.

When I picked it up off the shelf, I put it under my arm. Right? Then I went about my business and I collected my other parts. I walked around the store with my little parts in my hand and this thing under my arm, and I finally decided, "Well, I have looked enough, and I am ready to go." So I walked over to the checkout counter, and I walked through and I laid down my items; and I opened my wallet and I was going through all the mechanics, and the clerk was running it all off. And all this time, I have this thing stuck under my arm! I have it stuck under my arm! The woman, she is looking right at me, not saying a word! I do not know if she even saw it.

After I got checked out, I was still standing there at the edge of the counter with my bag. I was ready to leave, and this thing is still stuck under my arm! I decided, "Well, I want to go over here and I want to check the price on something." So, I walked back past the counter, I walked back over there, and

I was looking around, and I was looking at the things that I wanted to look at. And after I got through looking at them, satisfying my inquisitiveness, I turned around and I proceeded to walk out of the store! I have the thing still under my arm! I am not even thinking about it! Right? Like it is part of my armpit!

I walked right out the door; and as I walked out the door, I heard some commotion behind me. I did not pay much attention to it. It was one of the cashiers calling the name of a supervisor. Somebody was awake! They saw me walking out with this thing under my arm.

But, you know, as I walked out the door, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me. He said, "Check your invoice!" And when He said, "Check your invoice," all of a sudden I became conscious of this thing glued to my armpit, and I stopped! I looked at my invoice and I said, "You know, I did not get charged for that. How did that get there?" As I turned around, this man was coming out, and he said, "Is there a problem?" I said, "Not yet!"

You can be manipulated! Do you know, you can be manipulated into a position or a place of compromise? Hello? You can be manipulated into a position or a place of compromise. It takes diligence!

What about the little white lies? Have you ever been put in the position where somebody asks you a question that you do not want to answer, or where you do not want to give him or her the right answer? So you give them some other answer that is not the right answer. You and I can be manipulated! It says we are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices!

He says here in Verse 5, "*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...*" "Oh, I am saved, I am baptized in the Holy Spirit. I speak in tongues. You know, I even prophesy occasionally. God even speaks to me and I have the opportunity to share!" Does your prophesying, does your speaking in tongues, does it have a form of godliness but it denies the power? The power to do what? CHANGE! He says in Romans 7, "Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" He says, "I thank God, through Jesus Christ, my Lord."

If we are willing to bring it and to lay it upon the altar, if we will allow the fire of God to fall and do whatever is necessary, (He will consume it). Sometimes, you have to stir the ashes. You put a log on the fire and it burns, and burns, and burns; and you come back the next morning and there are still those outer husks, the outer shell. You stir the ashes up in order to get the fire rekindled, so that the whole log is consumed!

He says, "...*from such turn away*!" Turning is an action that comes from being motivated in another direction! If you are sinning with your eyes, if you are looking at something that brings sin—STOP LOOKING AT IT! If you are listening

to something that creates sin—STOP LISTENING TO IT! STOP LISTENING TO IT! STOP LISTENING TO IT! If you are using your mouth as a weapon of destruction, to bring devastation to the Body of Christ and for bringing damnation to yourself—STOP IT! STOP IT! REPENT AND STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT!

You know, it is not just saying, "I am sorry." That has nothing to do with it. I can say I am sorry all day long. There is a restitution to be made. Brethren, there is restitution that sometimes needs to be perpetrated in order to bring us back to restoration. We try that in the prison systems, but it fails there miserably. It has lost its ability to restore and all it does is incarcerate and penalize! God is not like that. There is a judgment of God that God enacts in a situation that is determined to bring about a restoration with Him. It is just like the man that goes to prison to pay for his crimes! There is a paying that we have to do in order to rectify some of the problem that we have stamped on our internal mechanisms. I do not think that there is anything hard, harsh, or bad about the judgments of God. I think that it is rehabilitative.

It says, *"...denying the power thereof, from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with diverse lusts."* I do not believe that it is just talking about the ladies. David said that, *"My soul shall make her boast in thee Lord..."* (Psalm 34:2). God, when He looks at the Church, He calls it a "her." He calls it a "she." It is a woman! And there is a nature that humanity can move in that God identifies with the women, that is just as much like a woman in the men as it is in the women! It is a position of deception by which our soul falls into subjugation to the spirit of LUST! The Word of God says, *"From such turn away."* Turn away from it! One action is required. One position you and I are being motivated to is to voluntarily do the opposite to what we have been doing. "STOP DOING IT! TURN AROUND, AND BEGIN TO PROCEED IN A DIRECTION THAT IS OPPOSITE TO THE DIRECTION THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GOING!"

"...ever learning." Ever learning! You know, we are ever learning. There is more revelation coming forth all the time. We just had Volume II of the Revelation series come out, and we have Volume III coming. Revelation, that has not been known or shared with humanity. God told Daniel to seal up the book, for it was for the people of the last day, but you know something? We are getting revelation that we are not prepared to handle, or to move in a manner that will sanctify them that are handling it! And it will bring death and destruction to those who move in that place and in that position as though they were walking in compliance with it!

"...ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses so do these also resist the truth." Do you think that God was not speaking to the man in Brother Campbell's vision who

had the jewels in his pocket? Coming to "*the knowledge of the truth*" would be like climbing up the ladder and coming into the light.

It says, "...*resisting the truth. Men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further for their folly shall be manifest unto all men as theirs also was.*"

I believe that we are living in the last days. I believe, not only are we living in the last days, but God is giving us a last chance by which to set in order the things that are out of order.

I trust and I pray that we all will have the determination and the tenacity to do whatever is necessary so that we will be found in a position or a place that these scriptures do not apply to us! God bless you.

