

March 29, 1936, Bethel Temple, Seattle, Washington (four pages)

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Bethel Temple

Seattle, Washington

Pastor W.H. Offiler

Reading of Scripture from Joshua 4.

In the earth and in the world are so many different ideas of salvation and so many different religions and denominations, and all of them are built about their own ideas and creed of the gospel in such a way that others are barred from them. The breaking down of these denominational lines is coming but not in a good sense. If these lines were being broken down that real holy, Godly fellowship might be brought to the hearts of the members of these various religious orders today, then the breaking down would be good. They need to be swept out of the way. The time is coming when there will be no such thing as a Methodist or a Baptist, etc.

God has sworn in His gospel and it is one of the details of the divine fact as concerning God and man in the end of these latter days that in the dispensation of the fulness of times -- I am going to analyze that scripture for you again) -- the fulness of times is that one we are living in now. There has been the dispensation of the Father, and of the Son, and we are now in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. These dispensations in the past have reached their climax in God's appointed time of periods of 2000 years each. Our bible shows us that Christ was going to die about 4000 years from creation, and Christ died on the very stroke of the clock that God had marked out for that dying, for thousands of years previously in a prophetic sense and the hundreds of thousands, or maybe, millions of years in the pre-eternities. Who can tell when God, in the Councils of the Courts of Heaven, laid the plan of salvation. It was not laid until Satan fell, and Satan was at one time the chief arch angel that attended the glory and the power of the throne of God.

Friends, whatever you do, don't try to make God something different from what you are yourself. I don't mean in holiness; He is more holy than you. He is Holiness, He is incorruptible, immortal, perfect and holy God. We are passing through various reforms and re-creative processes that by and by are going to bring us out in the image and likeness of Almighty God. And friends, if you will stand true to Jesus, all you need to do is to believe that Jesus is, that God is, and that He came and died for your sins according to the revelation of the Word of God, that He was buried and that He arose again from the dead and by and by ascended to sit at the right hand of Power, where He received the Spirit of Promise and poured out the Holy Ghost on the church, on that first Pentecost Day. If you will believe that and hold to it, God will find a way to work out your perfection, and to take out of your way every obstruction and every hindrance. God has sworn, over the bruised body of His Son that He will make perfect that people who simply believe. We must hold fast to His truth.

When Lucifer heard the plan discussed and when he came to know that the supreme position in the entire universe, both eternal and temporal, in Heaven and earth -- when he heard that the very highest pinnacle prophecies were going to be invested in that One whom God called His Son, even Jesus Christ, Lucifer rebelled. Christ was there. There came the first fine point of sin among those powers, and when sin came, it came into the Heavens and into the one that was closest to the very throne of Almighty God. Sin is a marvelous thing; sin is terrific and terrible; sin is something that no man can handle. It is beyond manking to handle it unaided and unsupported. Sin is the master and conqueror of all human flesh apart from God. But when you take God into your makeup and by faith you pass through those regenerative powers of the gospel, God, the great Conqueror of Conquerors comes in and takes up His abode with you and throws His weight on your side and then you, too, become a conqueror of sin.

When Satan, Lucifer the arch angel, was cast out, Jesus was there for He said that day to the Disciples as they came back (Luke 9) rejoicing because the devils had become subject to them in His Name, "I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven." Christ was there -- an intelligent Christ -- a Christ that could see and know and understand, long before the incarnation of His birth, in the body of the Virgin, took place. He was there in the bosom of the Father and all the power of God at His disposal, even unto death.

I want to emphasize one thing to you this evening -- you have never seen a time when God did not punish sin. Always, throughout the whole Book of God, and before the Book of God was written, sin always involves a penalty. There never has been a time when sin has

not come under the power of God in condemnation and punishment, and I am telling you right now, there never will be a time when sin, as sin, will not receive its just reward, and I am telling every man and every woman out of Christ, if they continue in that attitude, the time will come when the judgment of sin will fall on them. The body and blood of the Lord will be moved out of the way, and may God have mercy on those on whom the judgment falls without the Atonement.

When Christ died, it is true, the blow fell on Him. He endured the blow for all sin and there is not a sin ever committed or ever will be committed that has not been pardoned by Jesus the moment that sin was confessed. But there is just one way of getting rid of sin and that is to confess sin. There is a time coming when this world is going to confess its sin and when it does, may God have mercy. Many are going to confess their sin when it is too late. All the operations of His love and mercy are on this side of that line God has drawn. When the moment of that line comes, the mercy of God will cease, and men will seek it, but as sure as Noah's Ark was closed by God, there is coming a moment in this present Age when God is going to close the door of salvation and shut it forever more.

One of the bad things of the last days is the multiplicity of doctrines and any doctrine that robs you of your opportunities of perfection in Christ is of the devil. Remember, there is a class called the "foolish virgins" and when you study that class and you take the word "foolish" through the New Testament, you will find that God does not speak of a sinner as an "out and out fool." His ignorance is wilful, but Christ classifies those in the New Testament as "foolish" who have once known God and enjoyed the blessing of salvation, and some have even pressed into the experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire, and then, because of some idea propounded by some man or woman, they have been led aside from the pathway that leads to the perfection of God. They have gotten off on a side track.

Today the preaching will give you an idea that any kind of an experience will pass with God, as long as you claim a measure of grace. You are a foolish virgin! Time was when the knowledge of God was not shed abroad throughout the earth and the law had not been given. Paul says, "God winked at man's ignorance" but now He is not doing that. He is calling men and women to repent before God. If you think you have nothing to repent of get down on your knees and God will sharpen your memory.

I lived all my life in a church and I can truthfully say I lived under the sound of the bible and every day repeated some portion of my bible or prayed, but I knew nothing of repentance. One thing I knew was that I was a sinner. The tears would come down my cheeks because something within me prompted me of my sin and showed me my need of a Saviour, and my cry and my prayer was, "Lord, let me find you; let me know God; let me know for myself that the Word of God is true and that the power and Spirit is real." One day God granted me repentance. You may think that the Gift of the Holy Ghost is the best gift of all. When you pass through various experiences and you reach the apex of those experiences and your whole temple has been swept and the Holy Ghost comes and you hear God speaking through that temple of yours in languages of the Nations -- that is a magnificent and blessed experience. But ~~Repentance~~, I believe, was the most wonderful moment in my life, when God granted it to me. How clean I felt! It is impossible for me to describe the absolute brightness and brilliance of the holiness of that heart that has been granted repentance.

I don't know whether repentance, as at the first, ever comes the second time into a human heart. Oh, if God would touch us as a congregation and out-breathe on us that experience of repentance. Maybe He will. It is better to go to God and confess our sins than to think God winks at it. In these last days we are coming back to a standard. We are on our way to absolute God-likeness. Ever since the time God gave us Martin Luther and others, the progress of God's people has been up and up, until today we have a people in the earth as they were on the Day of Pentecost. The final manifestations of the Church of Christ and the final events of the world are coming to pass, and we are standing today on what I consider to be, more or less, of a standstill. Don't lend your ear to that fallacy of men that tells you, you are perfect. I mean it! You look at Christ and in Him you will see the perfect man, but you and I have to be changed from glory unto glory.

When God saved me from sin there was a change unto the glory light of God. I stepped upon a light wire and my eyes were opened to truths I never knew before. When I heard of the Baptism and the Fire of God, I began to study, and pray, and wait before God until I received it. Still, I feel today a great hunger within me for higher heights. I am not satisfied; my soul is not satisfied, but I realize that I stand today, in some respects, in a better place than I ever stood before in my Christian experience, for the simple reason that, line upon line, God has laid the foundation of that bible in my heart and I cannot dis-believe. I have reached the place in my experience where I can truthfully say, "I believe God." I believe the Atonement and the Holy Ghost opens my eyes to the truths of that Atonement as altogether un-explored. I want to go on and, as a child of God, I want you to go on. I want God to build you on the Rock of His Eternal Word so that when the storms come and the waves of sorrow and distress and persecution and bitterness of soul sweep over you, your faith and experience will be built on the Rock of God and you cannot be moved.

When I started to speak this afternoon I had one thought and that was in that scripture where Israel, after passing through the wilderness experience, stood on the banks of Jordan and on the other side lay the God-promised land of Caanan. Remember this -- there is an end that comes to everything but God. There will come an end to your troubles and distresses and difficulties. Folks are always asking me if, when I confessed my sin, did I confess it all? Did God forgive me everything? Jesus said, "If you confess your sin, God is willing and just to forgive you your sin." It is a wonderful and marvelous thing to have those urgings that hunger and thirst after the perfect work. When Israel stood on the banks of Jordan and God ordained a certain order for them, He said to Joshua, Now Moses is gone but I am with thee as I was with Moses and I want to tell you that this day I am going to begin to magnify myself in you.

And I thought, Oh, that is what the church needs -- God to magnify His Name -- to make big His Name and Presence and Power in you and me as members of the Body of Christ and He ordained that the Ark of the Covenant should be carried by the Priests and they should go into that river bearing the Ark. Jordan has always been looked on as the river of death because it turns down into the Dead Sea and that is the reason we sing "Crossing over Jordan" today. That is when we die. Just as Israel crossed over Jordan into the land of God's promise God said, You shall choose twelve men and they shall take up twelve stones and go before the Ark into the midst of Jordan and this shall be a memorial to your children for ever more. God instructed them how to instruct their children, to tell them it was all because of the glorious deliverance of God.

Sometimes, as I look back in my bible and span this dispensation and see the figure of the Blessed Christ on the banks of Jordan and I hear the voice of the Baptist John saying, "Behold the Lamb of God", and I see the crowds of men and women, and the Son of God as He chose twelve men on which to build the gospel of the Kingdom in these last days, I say, "What was God's idea?" What is the shadow and what is our expectancy for these last days? God is trying to get into your inner consciousness by the Holy Ghost. He is trying to get you away from yourself and to forget your little troubles and pin your faith on God and to know that He is able to deliver you and to fix every and any circumstance of your life that ties you down to this world. How can we be anxious if we believe God? How can we be troubled if we believe God?

What do you mean, Father God, by all this wonderful showing? Friends, He means the greatest Anti-typical end fulfillment of everything that has been promised and we are in the days of it right now. Are we going to wait until the world reels to and fro and rocks and trembles? "Yet shake I once more, not only the earth but the Heavens also." Christians progress towards God when they pray and have the victory when they believe. Put those two things together. Don't try to wear out your life. This is the work of God for you when you believe. May God pour down a Spirit of faith on us, something that will believe God, take all fear from our lives and hearts and fill us with a simple faith in God. May we know that the end is on us; that the earth, with its money making, is dissolving before our eyes. Money will never be made as it was before. The order is changing and a new thing is coming

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into existence, and the order is going to keep on changing until the Son of God, the Stone that was cut out of the Mountain without hands, smashes all the impurities of man, making room for the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is real!

Spend a little time in prayer and in believing God.

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Stenographic notes by
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