

To Be An Epistle Of God

II Corinthians 3:1-3, "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

We all want to please God, and have a desire to be the epistle of Christ. God's Prophet for our day said a few very important remarks. Please read them carefully.

You know, as we might not want to believe this, but everything that we do, we are influencing someone else.

I many times preach funerals. And I never try to say too much about the person that's passed on, because there is no need of saying it. The people, the life the man has, or woman, whatever it might be, has lived, will speak louder to the congregation than anything I could say about them. That would never change their opinion. Their life told what they were.

And then we never know just what we're doing, what influence and what we're doing is having upon others. The Bible said, "We are written epistles, read of all men." That is, your life reads so loud to the public, until your testimony, if it's contrary to your life, is without any effect. It's what you are inside of you, that people read; not so much what you say, but what you are. See? You can pin something on somebody, say, "This is that, and so forth," but your life being different from what they say, your testimony of your life is louder than the testimony that someone could say something about you. Yeah. So just keep that on mind, that we're bringing influences every day, and the life that you live proves what's on the inside of you. You cannot change that. It reflects. Every person reflects, outside, what he is inside.

And if we take the testimony of being Christians, I think that that is one of the most solemn things that a man or a woman, boy or girl, could do, would. When he takes on the Name of Christ, that he is going to be a representative of Christ, you should watch every move you make, because somebody is watching you. And, in this, it reflects what's God has done for you, inside of you.

Furtheron the Prophet said:

And now as when we die, like in the physical body as we are now, we are separated from one another. But it's really this body is the only thing that identifies us to each other, because we are bound in five senses: see, taste, feel, smell, and hear. And as long as we can see or feel one another, why, we have evidence that we're here. If you're blind and can't, and can't see, then you can feel one another, and we... or hear one another. And the earthly senses declare one another.

But really, frankly, we have never seen each other. Did you know that? We have never seen one another. You hear something speaking out of a body here that impersonates whatever it's on the inside. So then when we talk to each other, we're really not talking to the body. It's the spirit inside, but the body is the thing that identifies the spirit that's on the inside. And therefore, when we speak to each other, we quickly can understand right away whether we are Christians or not, because **there's a fellowship in the spirit** that we talk from. You see, that it vibrates to one another that whether we are Christians or not. Therefore we have never seen each other.

Jesus said, *"No Man has seen God at any time, but the only begotten of the Father has declared Him"* (St. John 1:18). See? In other words, God was identified. The Person of God was identified in the Body, the Lord Jesus Christ, so He was the expressed image of God. Or, God expressing Himself through an image, through an image, Man. God expressed Himself to us, and He was God. Not a third person or second person; He was the Person, God. He was God Himself, identifying Himself, so we could feel Him.

"Without controversy, that's argument, great is the mystery of godliness, for God was manifested, or made known, in the flesh..." (I Timothy 3:16). Isn't that wonderful? God! And we could never understand God as He moved through a Pillar of Fire, and so forth, as He did. But we understood Him when He become one of us, when He become Man. Then He could talk to us, and we could feel Him, handle Him, touch Him, and everything. And as the Scripture plainly says that "we have handled God," See? with our hands, touched Him with our hands.

God is in man. And He's identifying Himself today in His church. In the borned again Christian, God identifies Himself, that He remains God. And the outside world will only know God as they see God in you and I. That's the only way that they'll know God, is when we are written epistles, epistle of the Scripture, we are read of all man. And the life that we live reflects what's on the inside of us. A man is identified by the works that he does. So our works should be good, always good, because we are representing our Lord Jesus Christ.

He was with the children in the wilderness coming out of Egypt in the form of a Light. He spoke to Abraham in the form of a Man. He spoke to Moses in the form of a Man. He spoke to the Church in the form of a Man (His Son Christ Jesus). And He's speaking through His Church today, through the anointed Church of the living God, through vessels of clay, "Ye are the branches; I am the Vine." God's still speaking, and the world sees Jesus as you present Him. You are written epistles, read of all men. Your life tells what you are.

Further Brother Branham speaks about his life:

We've never left a city yet, owing one cent, but what everything was taken care of; we just don't believe in anything else. You mustn't owe anyone; you must be square and straight. And if you owe somebody, go face them and tell them that you owe them, but just give you a little time, and you'll pay it. That's a good mark of Christianity: being honest, upright.

You want to live just what you talk about. If you don't live it yourself, how could you expect somebody else to live it. See? So you are written epistles read of all men; so always be honest, just, true. Tell the truth, no matter how bad it hurts something. Tell

the truth anyhow, 'cause you can always tell it the same way each time. And if you tell a lie, you'd have to go a million miles around, and still you have to come back to that lie again; and you just made an awful thing. Just be honest, and you can always tell it the same way because it's the truth.

That's the way with the Bible. Tell it just the way the Bible says it; don't compromise with it; say it just that way, just... It's written right here and you can point your finger to it. That's the way you defeat Satan. Satan said to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, let's see you perform a miracle. They say you're a miracle worker. Turn these stones to bread, and let's see. You're hungry."

He said, "But it is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" See? He took the Father's Word and defeated the Devil, right on his own grounds. So you can do the same thing: defeat the Devil on his grounds with the Word of the Lord.

God uses people for signs, to show His sign. And many times that sign, and every time mostly--unless it's with the elected people--that sign is overlooked and criticized, made fun of, cast out, and considered...

Everyone, they was always come to me, said, "Brother Branham, them seven thunders that the voice thundered, and he said 'Write it not, but close it up,'" said, "that'll be seven thunders that will be revealed in the last days? See, seven thunders that'll tell us?" Now, don't that sound real good? See? But watch what you're talking about when you say that. He said, "See that you write it not." See? These seven thunders uttered their voices (Rev. 10:1-7), and He said, "Don't write that, but It's to be sealed up in the Book until the last day."

Now, someone has been, many has been saying to me, and theologians said, "If with your experience that the Lord has given you for His people," humbly saying this, said, "you'd be eligible to write a Bible yourself, your Word that God has manifested."

I said, "That might be true." See, he was trying to catch me. See? And I said, "But, you see, I couldn't do that." He said, "Why couldn't? You have all the qualifications."

I said, "But, you look, one word cannot be added or taken away." See?

And he said, "Well then, them seven thunders," said, "wouldn't them seven thunders blasting out, won't that be a revelation be give to some man?"

I said, "No, sir, it would be adding something to It or taking something from It." It's all revealed in there, and the seven seals opened up the revelation of what that was. See?

He's still in the Word. You see, you can't get out of that Word. It won't leave the Word. And God's Spirit will never leave that Word. It'll stay right with the Word, blinding some and open the eyes of others. It'll always do that.

"Ye are written epistles, read of all men." Translate that, turn it around this way, just turn It around, "You are epistles that has been written," 'cause you can't add nothing to It, "that's read of all men." "Manifested Word of God," in other words.

And Peter and John, to show it, when they went up there, they perceived they were ignorant and unlearned; they had no education, but they taken notice they'd been with Jesus. See? They were ignorant and unlearned, but they were written epistles, read that they had been with Jesus, 'cause Jesus was manifesting Himself through them, Christ veiled in their flesh, manifested, made alive, like He was in Moses.

When the Word was in Moses, he was God in flesh. When It was in Jesus, It was God in flesh. See? Only thing He done was change His mask, not His Word, not His nature. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He only changed His form. He changed from Noah to Moses; He changed from Moses to David; from David, Joseph; on down till He come into the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. See?

It's still the same God. Amen. Amen. I hope that gets through. See? It is the same God, but He just takes on another veil. See, He puts on another veil.

Now, where's the fruit of the Spirit? See? Not by speaking in tongues, not by dancing in the Spirit, not by joining the church, not by fruit of the Spirit (Christian Science can out smother any of you on that, see, and deny even Jesus Christ was Divine.); not that, but it's the Word living. There it is. If they would've looked, He was Messiah. He was the living Word made manifest. And a man that's got the Spirit of God in him, or woman, that Word lives right out in them. That's the heart beat, the predestinated. For the Word of the Lord comes to them, and they are the Word to the people: written Epistles read of all men. Is that right? Could the Third Pull be on?

And about Brother Neville, the Prophet said:

I like to listen to Brother Neville. I love him. He's my brother, and I think he's a marvelous speaker, wonderful minister. One thing about Brother Neville I like, when he says anything, he lives what he's talking about. Now, that's the main thing. You know you can live a fellow a sermon, better than you can preach him one? "For ye yourselves are written epistles, read of all men."

In prayer, God's Prophet has expressed his longing:

Now, we ask You, Lord, to be with all around the nations; as today we heard so many around everywhere that's in need. Grant them their requests, Lord, and we pray to see the great hand of God moving all over the world among those who are looking for this great thing. Forgive us of our sins. Chasten us, Lord, with Thy Spirit and Thy Word, that we might discipline ourselves obedient servants, as obedient servants to the will of God. Let us remember and try to think in our hearts what the early Christians done, what type of people would we meet if we met those who had personally been in contact with You. How their faces must've lit up with faith and joy. How their lives must've been the living Word of God, just written epistles read of all men, as they walked in among people. God grant it once more.

This little church, these people that come day after day and drive hundreds of miles, O Eternal and loving and never forgetting a deed, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Jacob, Who raised up Jesus from the dead, and now He sets at the right-hand of the Majesty on high, God tabernacled in flesh, bless these people whom I bless in Thy Name. May they always remember and know that there is a sign, a sign of the end. I pray that You'll give to them and make them winners of others--on their work, wherever they may be, in the street corners, filling stations, or wherever it might be--to testify in the grocery store, to the milkman. Whatever it might be, Lord, if something warns upon their heart, may they be a witness. May they live such godly and sanctified lives until they'll be written epistles read of all man.

God", par. 273-282 / "Souls In Prison Now", pg. 50 / "The Third Exodus", pg. 6 / "Paul, A Prisoner Of Christ", pg. 1

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