

The Mystery of the Cross Now Revealed

- Christianity is Self-Denial -

Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Listen what the Prophet of God said about it:

Now, if we want to see Him, if you ever expect to see Him, you'll never see Him by some joining a church, some book of laws that you keep, some creeds that you serve. **You'll see Him when you die. When you come to Calvary and are crucified to yourself, then you'll see Jesus.**

You find Jesus at the cross when you're crucified with Him. You cannot find Christ until you die to yourself and accept Him, the Word, then you find Life.

A real true disciple would bring you right straight in the Presence of Christ, and from there Christ would show you what you had to do (*John 12:20-26*).

But Christ brought them to the cross. And when you get a real disciple that'll point you to Christ, Christ will bring you to the cross where you are crucified with Him (*Rom. 6:6*). And His Eternal Life and your life meet together, and your life dies, and you take on His Eternal Life, and then you're a son of God. Amen. What a difference from the disciple of old and the disciple of today!

Christ Himself pointed people to His death and said, "Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground, it abides alone." (*John 12:24*).

I'll point you to a place where I'm going to be crucified for you. And in there, if you'll be crucified with Me, and take up your cross and follow Me, you'll know Who I am (*Matt. 16:24-25*).

Oh, how different it is! Yes, sir. How different! But your life and His Life find each other, not at the church, not in a building, not in a creed, not in good works, **but in (at) the cross where you are crucified with Him (*Gal. 6:14*).** **That's where you find Christ.** You don't find Him by doing better, turning a new page, starting a new life, you don't find Christ. **You find Christ only in death,** not in a manger, not in a confession. To believe in certain creeds and fables, you don't find Christ there. **A true servant takes you to Him, and He is the Word.**

You say, "Then, Brother Branham, if Christ is on earth today, a real servant would take him to Him, Christ." Well, Christ is here in the form

of the Word; and the Word brings Life, because He is the Word (John 6:63). Christ is the Word. Yes, sir. He is the Word Himself. The true servant always takes you to the Word.

Now, He is the Word. He is this Bible made living. **And when you die to yourself with Christ like a corn of wheat, then the Word lives in you,** brings forth the same results as It did in that living Corn of Wheat that had to drop into the earth. Amen. You're partakers in His resurrection. **You're partakers with Him in all of His blessings, in all of His manifestations.** You're partakers with Him in all that He did. [1]

Now if you are a son and daughter of God, **then you were in God at the beginning.** You're His attribute. If you weren't there then, then you never were or never will be (*John 17:6,9-16*).

Sons and daughters were in God at the beginning. Now look. You've got Eternal Life, you say. We believe it, **that we got Eternal Life (John 5:24). Well, there is only one form of Eternal Life, and that's God.** That's the only thing that is Eternal, is God. Then if you've got Eternal Life, that Life that's in you always was, **and you were in the loins of God before there even was a world (Eph. 1:3-5).** Jesus Himself is called the Word, and in St. John 1 said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." (*John 1:1-2,14-18*). **Then you were in the loins of Jesus, and went to Calvary with Him. You died with Him, and you raised with Him.** And today we're sitting in Heavenly places in Him (*Eph. 2:6-7*), filled with His Spirit, sons and daughters of God. Die with Him, raised with Him! Sure. [2]

In God's own thinking; God, the great Spirit. In the beginning, before there was a beginning, **He was God, and did you know you were in Him then? If you are a Christian now, you were in Him then.**

And then, if that be so, **the whole Godhead bodily shaped up in the Person of Jesus Christ (Col. 2:9-10).** **And then when Jesus died at the cross, I died with Him, for I was in Him then; for He was the fullness of the Word, manifested, knowing that we would be manifested later. And we were at Calvary with Him.** We went in the grave with Him. And we raised with Him and His resurrection (*Rom. 6:3-5*). And now we've ascended, by His Spirit, to the Throne of grace, sitting together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Always!

For as the germ of natural life is brought down, germitized from father to father, to father, to father, so is the Life of Christ germatized. That's the reason God uses Elijah's Spirit five different times. What is it? It's the handing down.

Just as your natural life and traits is handed down from the natural breeding of your father, so is the Spirit of God, that was predestinated before the foundation of the world. **And when the entire Word of God, in**

complete, was headed up in a human body called Jesus Christ, in there God made me pay for my sins, in Him there. Then He rose me, raised me up with Him, in the resurrection. And now we are seated with Him, **with power and authority over every devil** (*Eph. 1:15-23*). Oh, if you could only believe what God has given! But if you're not seated there, you don't have it. And if you're seated there, and don't believe it, and afraid to move, you'll never use it. **But if you are seated there, you will use it, for you're ordained to do what you do.** [3]

Just remember, when you were in your father's loins, you were with him then. But your father didn't know you then, and you didn't know your father. And you had to come and be born. God made a way through your mother, for the seedbed, and then it come. And then you become a man or a woman, whatever it was, then you recognized your father, and your father could have fellowship with you.

Now, remember, if you've got Eternal Life, your Life was in God at the beginning. And, **the Life, God is the Word.** And then when the Word was made flesh in Jesus Christ, **God coming down to dwell in His Own body** (*Phil. 2:5-8*), **made Himself the Son of God. When God came down to dwell in that, you were in Him when He was crucified.** And you were crucified with Him, and you died with Him on Calvary. You were buried with Him, on the mountain. And you rose with Him, on Easter morning. And now you're setting together in Heavenly places, in Him, **and now you've got fellowship with Him.** See?

God Himself became one of us. "No man has seen the Father, any time, the only Begotten of the (Son) Father has declared Him." (*John 1:14-18*). **That's, God became a man, so He could fellowship you as a man** (*I Tim. 3:16*). See? And now you are flesh, and He is flesh. God is made flesh among us, in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. And in Him was God. **He was God, nothing short of God. He was God. "God manifested in the Son, Jesus Christ,"** which made Him Emmanuel, as the prophet said He would be (*Matt. 1:21-23*). [4]

You've got to come... **the way that Jesus came, through self-sacrifice; giving your all to God, and walking to Calvary and be crucified with Him.** And rise again, **to wear His garment of sacrifice and death to the things of the world.** [5]

And every believer that comes to Christ must come to the same cross of self-denial (*Luke 9:23*), **and die there with the Lamb, with his Lamb.** Die out to own thoughts; die out to your own mental thinking! **Just take what the Holy Spirit says in your heart, then live for Christ!** [6]

Friends, I don't want to say this critically, **but we have failed to carry out the program that Christ sent for us to do.** See? He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." Now, He didn't say build schools. He didn't say build churches. Which, they are all fine. But we've put all of our time building schools and churches and denominations, which has played a part. But that isn't what He said. **"Preach the Gospel,** and these signs shall follow them that believe." In other words, to preach the Gospel would be **to demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit** (*Mark 16:15-18*). And there is where we have failed.

The church needs, today, not a soft hybrid something, soft and flabby like the church is, just make a confession, be baptized, and you're a Christian. **To be a Christian is self-denial. "Deny yourself! Take up your cross! Follow Me daily!"** (*Luke 14:25-35*). Today it's so soft, and people call themselves Christians. When, it used to mean death, to confess Christ, and you had to depend on Him daily for everything you had need of. [7]

And what a mix-up the people has got in, today, that, think that, that Christianity is one of the softest things. All they do is put their name on a book, and have somebody to sprinkle them, or something another, and give the minister the right hand of fellowship. And that's all there is to it. Go on out. **That's not Christianity.**

Christianity is self-denial (*Luke 9:23*). **"Take up your cross daily! Follow Him"** (*Matt. 16:24-25*). **Die out, to the things of the world! When all condemnation is gone, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."** (*Rom. 8:1-2*). How do you get into Him? By joining? No. Shaking hands? No. By a union? By education? **"By one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body"** (*I Cor. 12:13*). **By Holy Spirit baptism we're in Christ.** "And there's no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, that walk not after the flesh, **but after the Spirit.**" Amen. Oh, that, that would make anybody shout. Amen. [8]

Reference:

- [1] "Sirs, We Would See Jesus" (61-1224), pg. 15, 17, 22
- [2] "God's Power To Transform" (65-0911), par. 232-234
- [3] "The God Of This Evil Age" (65-0801M), par. 67-69
- [4] "Thirst" (65-0919), par. 194-196
- [5] "Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par. 109-110
- [6] "Christ" (55-0221), par. E-17
- [7] "Greater Than Solomon Is Here" (63-0605), par. 37-38
- [8] "Be Not Afraid" (63-0607), par. 105-106

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]