

The Masterpiece 123
Making Ready by Being Cleansed
April 21st, 2007
Brian Kocourek

This morning we will return again to the Masterpiece Message Brother Branham preached in July 5th 1965 in Jeffersonville, Indiana. We are now in brother Branham closing prayer and we will pick up at paragraph 214 where brother Branham says,

THE MASTERPIECE 64-0705 214 *Heal all the sick people here, Lord. We did esteem Him, smitten and afflicted. But He was wounded for **our** transgressions. God's Masterpiece was smitten. And He was wounded for our transgressions; with His stripes we were healed. Heal the sick, Lord, in Your Divine Presence now, **while we know that You're here. Cleanse our souls, our hearts from all evil, all bad thoughts, all evil communications; all things that's wrong, cleanse us.** And we pray, Father, that You'll heal our sickness, and let us leave here feeling that we are Your sanctified children. And with the Blood over us, we speak through the Blood, the Word. Grant it, Lord. We ask in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.*

Now, this morning I would like to look at this closing prayer and especially those words Brother Branham is asking God to cleanse our souls, and our hearts from all` evil and from any communications that would be wrong he is asking God to cleanse us.

Now, of course my first thought whenever I here words spoken about cleansing of our hearts or soul is what David said in Psalm 119: **Psalms 119: 9** *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

And also the apostle Paul's words in **Ephesians 5: 26** *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

And of course what Jesus spoke himself in **John 15: 3** *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

Now, I hope and trust that you are paying close enough attention to notice that not one time here did we see anything that even came close to our cleansing ourselves by some action we have taken or some work that we have done. David said we are cleansed by the word, and Paul said we are cleansed by being washed by the Word, and Jesus told us that His own Word is what cleans us.

So we see that in Brother Branham's prayer he is asking God to do something by His Word for these people that they can not do for themselves. And that is a beautiful thought because no matter how disciplined a person you are, your righteousness is as filthy rags to God. In fact the exact words from the prophet Isaiah are as follows.

Isaiah 64: 6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

So you see unless God does something by His Word we are all considered unclean and even our attempts at living a righteous life are seen by God as just filthy rags.

And those are not just dirty rags as thought they became soiled somehow with some dirt from all our efforts. Those are menstrual rags. That word "filthy" which describes the rags, comes from a Hebrew word which speaks of the "menstrual period". And the only thing proper to do with those is to discard them or burn them and destroy them. So what God is saying here is that all our efforts no matter how righteous we might appear to others, it means nothing to God, and He considers it worthy of destruction by burning, and that is exactly what awaits all those who are not cleansed by the Word of God and justified by the Faith of Christ.

The apostle Paul said, **Galatians 2: 16** *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

And again in **Galatians 3: 11** he said, *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

And then he said in **Romans 3: 28** *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

And again in **Romans 5: 1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

And of course since God not being a respecter of persons, it did not matter whether you were Jew or gentile, God justifies you by faith in His Word and that alone as we see in..

Romans 3: 30 *Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith,(that's the Jew) and uncircumcision through faith. (that's the Gentile).*

And once more we see in **Galatians 3: 8** *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

Now, this word justify was translated from a Greek word "**dikaioo**" and it means "*just or innocent*": in other words to "*be righteous*". So according to God, the only way that he will accept us as righteous is through His Word. And that is a beautiful thing, because

The Apostle Paul said in **Romans 3:10** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Now, let's take a closer look at these words the Apostle Paul is quoting from Psalm 14 here. Notice he says, *As it is written*, the question is where is it written, and the answer is of course in the Word of God, and more precisely in the book of Psalms chapter 14.

Psalm 14:1 *The fool hath said in his heart, (in his understanding), "There is no God".* You know, that is the atheist, and he is a fool. Any person with any modicum of intelligence by just opening their eyes would know that some One had to create this earth. It just didn't come by coincidence or by some big bang. But they deny God exists so God denies they exist. And when they come before the white throne they will be cast into the lake of fire that they don't believe in either. And then he says, "*They are corrupt*", that means they are decaying and spoiled. Now when does something decay and spoil? When life leaves it. "*they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.* Now, of course this latter statement could put one into a panic that they might try to do good, but that is not what he is saying here. We are not saved by our good works, we are saved by *the Washing of water by the Word.*

Isaiah 14:2 *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, (not the children of God but the children of men) The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. (and what did God find when he looked down from heaven at the children of men? Did he find any that understand God? Did He find any that seek God? No, he says...) 3 They are all gone aside,(that means they have all turned their Back on God and His Word, and*

they have all forsaken Him, and they are all on the outside) *they are all together become filthy* (they have all become morally corrupt) *there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* (there are none that are loving, kind and gracious, no not one? Why? Because, if they do something that might look to be loving, kind and gracious, it is because they have an ulterior motive in mind. Notice how David explains this.) *4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.* (so they use and abuse God's people.) *5 Therefore were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.*

So we see here that the sons of men are not God's seed. And thus they will be in fear. But this is not so with God's Seed. *for God is in the generation* (or the lineage) *of the righteous.*

And that same word for generation is also found in **Genesis 6: 9** *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations,*(lineage) *and Noah walked with God.* (So Noah was the last man that was genetically Son of God. The word perfect means complete or whole, so we see here that Noah was the last man that was genetically whole as a son or seed of God). Then all others on earth had the mix in them.

Now, we see that David actually repeats this Psalm 14 in **Psalm 53:1** *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. 2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. 3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God. 5 There were they in great fear, where no fear was:*

Now, in all these renditions of this Psalm, it is interesting to note that one of the great attributes in common to the children of men is that they do not have any understanding, and they do not seek God.

Even Jesus told them to search the scriptures for in them is eternal Life, but would they do it? Never! And why won't they do it? Because they have no place for the Word in their souls.

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

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; (they said, we are not serpent seed) *we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech?*

Now, that is a good question because David said the same thing in Psalm 14 and again in Psalm 53. he said there are none of the children of men that understand God and that seek Him. And Jesus says, *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.* (Now, remember, Faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God. But Isaiah said they would hear and not hear, so to hear means to understand.)

From his sermon called **Hear recognize act on word 60-0221 P:18** brother Branham said, *First, faith cometh by hearing, hearing of the Word of God. Then the believer hears It, recognizes It, and acts on It. The carnal man will hear It, the sound of It, but*

never... **"Hear" means to "understand" it.** "Look at," is looking at something; but to see it, is to "understand" it. "Except a man be borned again, he cannot see or understand the Kingdom of God."

And Jesus said, **"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word."** In other words they couldn't understand what he was saying.

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?(Why? Because he goes on to tell them, the reason they can't believe Him is because they are not seed of

God.) **47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**

Now, that is the evidence of the new birth, that you are God birthed, is that you believe God's word, and as brother Branham said, You hear it, you recognize it, and then you act upon it. Anything outside of that shows you are just a carnal believer. Not born again. So those who hear the Doctrine of Christ and do not believe it have not God.

2 John 1: 9 Whosoever transgresseth,(or goes beyond the limits of) **and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in** (he that stays within the limits of) **the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

But if they do not abide in the doctrine of Christ they have not God. Then they have not the Holy Spirit, and thus they are not even born again, because, if you are not born again, then the Spirit of God is not in you. And if the Spirit of God is not in you, then how could you even understand the things of God?

The Apostle Paul said this very thing in **1 Corinthians 2: 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man,** (that's the understanding) **the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for The Spirit** (God's Spirit) **searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.** (So if you have God's Spirit in you, you will not only search out the deep things of God, but you will understand them) **11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God** (knoweth).

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God;(So the Apostle Paul tells us that we have received the Spirit of God for a purpose and that purpose is) **that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**(Notice Paul said the things the Holy Ghost teaches compares spiritual things with spiritual.) **14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ**

So we see that only by having His spirit can we receive the same mind that was in Him. **Let this mind that was in Christ be in you.**

Notice that the natural man or the unregenerate man, the man that has not the new birth, can not receive the things of God, and neither can they know or understand them when he hears them. Now, that is just the opposite of the child of God. For in **John 1: 12** we read, **But as many as received him,** (to them that were of such a nature as to get a hold

of Him, to seize Him as their own, to take a hold unto themselves, these are the ones) *to them gave He* (God's own power) *power* (exousia, the ability to make a right decision) *to become* (Now, this word become was translated from the Greek word "Ginom ai" where we get the word genome from that speaks of the attributes expressed in the genes. And this takes us to the place of manifesting what we really are, or it causes us to be, or brings us into manifestation as) *the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

Then John says of those who were of such a nature as to be able to receive Him and thus become like Him. He says we were born from the spirit of God. *13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

So you see what we are dealing with in this hour is that those who are receiving the Doctrine of Christ, by their receiving it, they are manifesting that they are those who receive Him, and as John says, if they don't they don't even Have God, but if they receive Him they also have eternal Life.

1 John 5: 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. So to those who receive Him as he truly is, are they who are sons of God.

1 John 3: 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: (we have not yet appeared of phaneroo'd which is to manifest in our true character what we really are) *but we know that, when he shall appear,* (when he shall phaneroo, when he shall manifest in His True Character) *we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* We will see Him as He truly is, we will understand Him as He truly is, for seeing is to understand) *3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, (makes Himself clean) even as he is pure.* Even as He is clean.

In fact Jesus makes mention in John 13 that the Apostles were all clean except one, and that was the one that would betray Him. Which takes us back to David's Psalm) *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside,* (that means they have all turned their Back on God and His Word, and they have all forsaken Him, and they are all on the outside)

So we are thankful in this hour that God Himself came down with a Message, and that there was a man by the name of William Branham that was ordained to receive that Message and take it to the world, so that we might freely partake of those things which before hand been hid from the world but are now made manifest by the Spirit of God which came down to us in this hour for the purpose of cleaning us up to take us home.

Let's bow our heads and our hearts in a word of prayer. Dear Gracious father, we know Thee that thou are a God of mercy and full of grace and you didn't have to come down in this hour with a shout, but you had kids that were in trouble and they needed you. And So Father we want to thank you for what you have done, because we know that He which means you, that began the good work in us shall also perform it, *For in You we live, and move, and have our being; For we are Your offspring. Amen.*