The Masterpiece 124

The Doctrine of Christ or the Doctrine of Balaam

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This evening we will again speak from the Masterpiece Message of Brother Branham's and we shall again look 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, last week we took the subtitle "***Making ready for the Rapture by being cleansed by The Word***". We spoke how that there is absolutely nothing that you can do for righteousness that will amount to anything with God.

In the book of, **Isaiah 64: 6** we read, *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.*

Now, all means all, and therefore nothing we do can merit anything with God, not even our own choice as the Baptists would have you to believe.

Jesus Himself said in **John 15: 16** *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

So it is not even our choosing, but His choosing that merits anything with God. For God chose us before the foundation of the world. Even before we had any chance to do good or evil.

Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. of course my first thought whenever I here words spoken about cleansing of our hearts*

And last week we saw just how we are cleansed and made ready for the rapture and it comes through the Word of God and that only.

David said in **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.*

You see, although we could do the very same acts of righteousness as the next person, that is not what makes us righteous before God.

The apostle Paul said in, **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:*

Now, as we mentioned, righteousness is from the old English word Right-wise-ness. And to be righteous means that you are rightly wise, and that means as the Apostle Paul said, it must come by Faith. And Faith is something that has been revealed to us, as we learned through the teaching of William Branham. Therefore, Faith is a Revelation. It is something that has been revealed to you. And since it is something that has been revealed to you, then you did not discover it as though you had some great breakthrough on your own, but it is a gift from God.

Therefore as the Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 2: 8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

In **Romans 3: 27** we read, ***"****Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law?, of works? Nay: but by the law of faith".*

Now, what I would like to focus on this evening from this paragraph of Brother Branham's is where he said, *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.***

Now, notice that he is asking God to cleanse us from all evil in our hearts and thoughts. Now, that can be just the ordinary sinful thoughts of the human race, but it can go much deeper than that. And that is what we want to examine this evening, are what is actually called evil by God?

Let's begin by turning to ***2 John:8*** *Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have worked for, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever goes beyond the limits, and remaineth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that remains in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*
So we see here that the real test at the end-time will be whether we remain in the Doctrine of Christ or whether we go out from it and are tempted with the Doctrine of Balaam.) *10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his* ***evil*** *deeds.*

Now, this is quite a statement from the Apostle John because it is very strong language concerning the Doctrine of Christ and our behavior towards them that do not believe it. And John says if you even bid God speed to those who do not have this doctrine, you are participating in their evil deeds. So what are these evil deeds John is speaking of here? And why is he so strong in his language towards those who oppose the doctrine of Christ?

The word John used here for "evil" was translated from the Greek word *"Poneros"* Now, this word *"Poneros"* speaks of *"evil in effect or influence,* and differs from other Greek words for evil which have to do with *the essential character* as well as those words which speak of *degeneracy.* This word *"Poneros"* also is used to refer to the *devil himself*, and thus his influence upon others.

So what John is saying is that those who do not have the doctrine of Christ are teaching contrary to the Doctrine of Christ, and if you assist them in any way you are in essence assisting the devil himself. That is why brother Vayle is so careful not to assist with funds those who teach wrong concerning the Godhead which is the doctrine of Christ. Why? Because, to fund heresy or one who preaches it, is to assist the spread of it.

Now. Let's take a further look at this word *"Poneros"* as John used it in **1 John 3:12** Notice here he says, *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one* (and that word for wicked one is the Greek word *"Poneros"* again, ands it speaks of the person of the devil himself.), *and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil,* (notice that Cain's works are said also to be *"Poneros"* which means that if he was "***of***" that *"Poneros"* "***one***", then the influence of that *"Poneros" "**one"*** also has affected his sacrifice to God, and thus has made that sacrifice itself evil. But notice it is said that Abel's sacrifice was righteous.) *his brother's righteous.*

Now, we know that this word righteous means Rightly Wise". So we see that Abel's offering was based upon Revelation which is Faith, and that is something that comes from God alone. Thus, *by this Revelation he offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain*. Cain's sacrifice was not a wrong sacrifice. In fact Cain had a Biblical sacrifice, as we see in **Deuteronomy 26**, for it was a first fruit offering, which was a harvest offering, which represented the time of Rapture. But it was evil because it was out of season. "*For without the shedding of blood there's no remission of sin*." **Hebrews 9**

In the Book of Jude we are warned at the end-time there will be those who depart from "***The Faith***" and who go in "***the way of Cain***". Cain was the first on earth to depart from "***The Presence of the Lord***", and those that depart from the presence of the Lord will be religious just like Cain was and they will make great sacrifice to God like Cain did but their sacrifice will be considered evil just like Cain's was.
Notice further, that Jude describes these men as not only following the way of Cain, But notice also that Jude warns us these men shall also follow after the "*error of Balaam"* and they will do it for money just like Balaam did.

Jude 1: 11 *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran* ***greedily*** *after the error of Balaam* ***for reward***, (Notice that they run greedily. In other words, these are greedy men. And they run after the error of Balaam because of their greed. So what was the error of Balaam that men will run after it because of greed? The error of Balaam is a message of unity. Bring everyone together for after all are we not all the same? *and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

What was the gainsaying of Koreh? Korah led a rebellion against Moses and said, we are holy too, and all the people are holy, and why do you take it upon yourself to rule over us. There's plenty of room for more than one to rule. We are holy too. You see it was the gainsaying of Koreh. There was something in it for him to gain from what he said. They didn't want a One Man Message from a One Man ministry. So they rebelled using the multitudes of people to stand with them against the movement of God. And they are doing that same thing today, saying "we are five fold ministry, we got something to say as well, "*God doesn't speak through one just one man!*" And right there they separate themselves from the true Five Fold ministry who will only say what the vindicated prophet has told them to say.

Notice how Jude continues to describe these false ministers at the end-time. *12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear* (Notice he says when they feast with you, so these are those who come right into this message and start eating with us from the Spiritual Food in Due season that was laid up for us. But the message did not go out to them, they came into the Message. And

then notice that Jude further describes these men by saying,) *clouds they are without water.*

Now a cloud without water is one without rain. And Paul calls witnesses of what took place clouds. He calls them "*clouds of witnesse*". So Clouds represent people who have witnessed this end-time ministry but those without water are those who are witnesses with the doctrine.

Paul spoke in **Hebrews 12: 1** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a* ***cloud of witnesses****, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Yet Jude speaks of these clouds as having no water. *These clouds are without water,* Therefore clouds without rain. Now, why is this so significant? Because God said in **Deuteronomy 32:1-2** *Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*) *carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

So if these are clouds, which are witnesses, think it not strange that there are so many witnesses to the ministry of William Branham who haven't a clue to the doctrine he taught? We are warned here in scripture and in **2 Peter** of the same, as well as the Apostle Paul.

Notice here that Jude said clouds, not cloud. Now, this brings us to the fact that there are two doctrines which are predominant in this hour. The Doctrine of Christ for which if you do not have that Doctrine, you do not even have God. And then there is the Doctrine of Balaam which we are warned about that will come in among us. And notice we are warned that men will run after the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.

Now, the doctrine of Balaam is not that he went for money, but the doctrine of Balaam is that he tried to unite the people of God with those people who are not of God. And in order to do that they must forsake the right way, which is God's way.

2 Peter 2: 15 *Which have* ***forsaken the right way****, and are gone astray, following the* ***way of Balaam*** *the son of Bosor,* ***who loved the wages of unrighteousness****;* Notice he loved not the wages, but the wages of un-right-wise-ness. In other words the wrong understanding pays. In other words, there's more money in preaching error than truth.

Now, the doctrine of Balaam is explained further in the book of revelations. ***Revelation 2: 14*** *But I have a few things against thee, because* ***thou hast there*** (Thou hast there where? Right in the Message that's where. Right in the end-time Church of the Living God, there are those who regard the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.) *them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

Now, how is it possible that the Doctrine of Balaam could come right into this message? Just the same way it came into the Pentecostal movement.

From Brother Branham's sermon called, **Who do you say this is? 64-1227 P:80** *See, that's what he done to the Pentecostals. They said a few years ago, when you all start up, "You wouldn't go nowhere. There wasn't nothing to you. You'd burn out. You just a bunch of fanaticism." But every time they tried to curse you, you come right on back again.* ***God kept revealing His Message****. Down from the old Assembly, way back in the beginning, the General Council. Then He brought in when they received the Name of Jesus Christ for water baptism. Then one jumped this way, and one the other, and one went off organized this and that. God kept blessing. Now,* ***when he seen he couldn't***