

Holiness Unto The Lord
Hidden Manna (Vol. 1)

Perfection
The Mystery Of Godliness
No Pleasure In Death

By Rev. George L. Pike Sr.

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Perfection

In the book of Hebrews we are told by the apostle Paul that we are to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1); to be perfect; that we should come to the fullness of the stature of the perfect man, Christ Jesus. The Scriptures state be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect, and that no man shall be above his master, but everyone that would be perfect shall be as his master.

Christ was the head or the first member of the body of God; God, the Word or Spirit, manifested in the fleshly body of many members. Christ, through His own righteousness or works, which was God within Him, obtained the first and head office of this bodily ministry. We obtain offices as members of the body of Christ through Christ. Christ (the Word) prepared a body of many members for the Spirit of God to dwell in. Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. This body is to rule heaven and earth. God will come back after a church without spot or blemish. This means, of course, that each member will be purified and every member, having come together in its right place, will be perfectly whole. We are perfect in the inward man by His works of righteousness. The faith of Christ in our hearts is imputed unto us for righteousness, the kingdom of God being within us, and we in it by translation. That was Christ's works, but the creature, which is our body, must receive the glorious liberties of our God. Our labor and travail or duty to God is to perfect the outer man; Christ being revealed in His saints. The body is changed by this appearing from terrestrial to celestial. Glorification is what we mean.

God has perfected forever them that are sanctified; sanctified them once and for all by the offering up of Jesus Christ on the tree. He has justified, predestinated and glorified His elect, made them elect according to foreknowledge, and sealed them unto the day of redemption. Now, nothing can separate them from God.

Have you ever noticed the children around us running and jumping, playing, laughing, or singing? Have you noticed the people at the ball games hollering, shouting for the children at their play? The life of the church is for spiritual children to shout, speak with tongues, prophesy and enjoy the milk of the Word, the rain on the just and the unjust.

There is more to do than that. "The parents are to lay up for the children, and not the children for the parents," Paul said. The ministry, as parents, are those who are full of age. To them God says, "Let there be meat in My house, both bread and drink." The meat is for the strong, they who are full of age, who, by reasoning, have exercised their senses to be able to discern good and evil, between the just and the unjust, or between the tare and the wheat, with knowledge, in order to protect the children. Don't stop the children from their play. Don't take away the natural ordinances of the Bible, such as foot washing, the Lord's Supper, etc. Though these are only allegories or types and shadows of the spiritual revelation that Christ intends for us to receive, yet they are the steps or the entrance through which the children come. We are within the revelation, and some day the steps (natural) will be taken away so that others cannot find their way in. This is gradually taking place now, the closing of the door to the Gentiles, when all the children are in the ark, or have come in for rest from the night. Spiritual ignorance or darkness will fall and the door of allegories shall close. These things won't be practiced or explained anymore by the ministry. The voice of the bridegroom shall no more be heard in the city. The same rain, nourishing wheat and tares, is life to both, but their harvest reveals their nature. One is meat for whom it is dressed, the owner; while the other is burned in the fire. Christ's nature of life is in the wheat. The satanic nature, that is ever pricking people in their hearts, is in the tare.

Just as Saul, when the Spirit of God departed from him, went up to Ramoth-Gilead with murder in his heart to kill David; then in the presence of the prophets, the spiritual rain falling upon the just and the unjust caused him to prophesy like the rest. Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness, yet the rain of God brought him visions. Many people follow this way of Balaam. Ministers of Satan are transforming themselves by the renewing of their minds to minister the words of light.

People in double marriages and women preachers, along with many other things, this being condemned by God, the Word, through His biblical expressions; like Balaam, they are asking again, saying that the Spirit said go ahead. God said, "Go ahead, Balaam, to your own destruction."

We, as Christians, like little suns, have our own light, while wandering stars, who are reflectors, hold no post of duty. The mist of darkness is reserved for them forever. Like Judas, they are among us in the natural religious aspects of the Bible for fame and popularity, prestige or money, but like Pharaoh at the Red Sea, the blood line swallows them up; Satan within the fleshly blood line, called the red dragon. In the natural aspect, the chain of red communism filling all the earth is called the serpent or red dragon that was cast out of heaven in the book of Revelation. It is like a stream of water and is called the serpent because of the crooked and perverse generation in which it flows. Satan contaminated that first blood line of Adam, replacing life by his own self, the spirit of death, to kill all generations. Even a baby is born in sin, having the spirit within him, because all nations are of one blood. Jesus, at Calvary, stopped this wicked stream of death by spilling it upon the earth once and for all, starting a new generation, a new blood line, and yet not blood, but a spiritual people who live not dependent upon blood, the Spirit being in them by the innocent blood that Satan had never defiled, which Judas recognized (Satan within Judas), crying out, "I have betrayed innocent blood." Jesus said, "Satan has no part in Me."

The Spirit within this blood line was God returning to humanity after He was driven out of humanity in the garden. Overpowering the lust and corruption of blood by translation, He was bringing man back to his original or celestial body. Man had to fall for God to process him and bring him to be a God like Himself. He had to expose him to good and evil that he might have power of choice to accept the one and refuse the other by his own will, and to master all of the appetites of the beastly body, bringing them to temperance by developing the nature of Christ, proving them to be sons of God rather than just merely beastly creatures. We were subjected to vanity with the hope of glory within us, even Christ Jesus, by foreknowledge; or, that is to say, there is no sin of the soul for the predestinated, for the sin of the soul is a willful transgression, and God preserved them from that sin by His own bodily sacrifice of Jesus Christ; while He allowed the others to commit the sin of the soul, having seen each man's desire. There is no hope for them. The soul that sinneth is dead eternally. We, having sinned in the flesh, had a fleshly body of atonement which took away sin in the flesh.

Like God falls on the just and the unjust, Satan also falls on the just and the unjust, for darkness falls on both, for, as God is within us, Satan is within them, hence two different natures. As God is on them, Satan is oppressing us from without through the five senses of the flesh. Jesus ended this at Calvary; made us His body in righteousness, became our body in sin; thus destroying the sinful body of humanity once and for all. Sin and corruption is in the flesh. A Christian cannot sin. There is no will to sin. His sins or transgressions are from oppression. It is not his nature, so it is not imputed unto him.

This work of perfection that we speak of shows that parents must work so that there will be spiritual meat on the table at meal time. The children are unconcerned and busy at play.

Paul said, "I speak to them that be perfect." As many as be perfect, be thus minded, let's be moderate in all things. We could have a funeral march or a rock and roll party, but let's surrender and have moderation in church activities. As soldiers, let us be strong by feeding off of the meat of the Word. Meat is not fattening, but too much milk and dessert has made a fat lazy church called the Laodiceans, but the laborer is worthy of his hire. Let's quit like men: not when we are tired, but men must finish the day's labor so that there will be food at home. Remember, charity is the perfecting bond that ties each stone together, as a mortar that makes part come to part, member to member, making the body perfectly whole, the perfect church. Parts will be swallowed up in wholeness or perfection. We will know everything instead of knowing in part. When that which is perfect is come in its fullness, God, the Spirit of love, you will share your part with me and I will share my part with you. The revelation of each member of the body completes the mind of Christ within us. Love is perfecting as it draws together. We have the Spirit in measure or part as individuals, but we have it in its fullness of power and revelation when we become one in strength and body, all in one mind as at Pentecost, the mind of Christ, all in one accord to do the will of God. Then, the Spirit, as a mighty rushing wind, shall fill all this spiritual house, and our word shall be a devouring tongue of fire. Our deeds shall be mighty, God working with us, confirming the ministry with signs and wonders following us. Faith worketh by love. There is no condemnation to them that love. Faith is perfect. It is unhindered by accusation, because love worketh no ill to its neighbor; leaves no room for guilt; but it is the bond of perfectness. Faith unhindered, perfect and not in part, is no longer human faith, but the faith of Christ, through which the Spirit of God flows freely, unhindered to do its work, translating the body. Perfect knowledge manifests perfect love. Perfect love means perfect faith. Perfect faith means perfect power.

Friend, this is the end of the world. The age of perfection is here. All natural, physical and spiritual things have at last reached perfection. The spiritual parallels the natural, and the natural progress of mankind in this world is a revealer of the spiritual. Paul said, "All the invisible things of God from the creation of the world are understood by the things which do appear." The natural is the counterpart or the allegory of the spiritual, or the veil of the Spirit. The veil is removed in the mind of Christ, and everything is revelation; the natural for the natural man, which is the body of the beast; the spiritual for the spiritual man, which is the Christian. God having set man in a primitive world when He put him out of the garden to search out his life or means of livelihood with each new invention or discovery, or daily progress through these means, revealing Himself to man until man finds his way back to perfectness and the comforts that God wanted him to have from the beginning.

God, in the invisible world, is unveiled as He takes away the covering of the natural, like the egg within the shell. Man has progressed unto perfection. We see something in this. Angelic beings or fallen angels, who live on a higher plane than man, have woven themselves with the spirit of man, and the thoughts of man have become angelic. These angels require a higher plane of living. They have driven man to perfection in natural things for their own convenience. This means that which is perfect is ready to be revealed, for fallen angels are still pressing for heavenly comforts, thus man is changing into a spiritual being with a satanic nature or a godly nature. Flesh is at an end. It will be spiritual conquest from here out. Jesus led natural Israel, just like Moses to the crossing of Jordan, but that which was spiritual, which was the Holy Ghost, took over where the flesh left off.

Joshua was an allegory of this crossing of Jordan. Jordan, a type of death, being a national boundary line, types the spiritual boundary line between heaven and earth. That is why Christ chose it. Running its course like a serpent, it empties into the Dead Sea, showing hell, or rather, death, emptying into the lake of fire.

The natural word has brought us thus far, but the natural be longs to the natural. Now, the spiritual word of revelation must take us on over Jordan to the Canaan land. The brute beasts, or Egyptians, cannot go beyond this point. Jesus said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this unto thee, but it was the Spirit." Intellectual theology will fail, but revelation will do the job. This is the knowledge that translates, crossing from flesh to Spirit (Egypt, the wilderness, the Canaan land). This is the natural, or first dimension; physically speaking, it is from sight to reasoning, from reasoning to faith. The reasoning is where the serpents are, with thoughts of disillusioning fear and torment. Demon spirits present themselves in the form of thoughts. By spiritual impression of the five senses of the body, they enter the human mind, transforming themselves into human thoughts. They become one with your thinking or spirit, control your body, and sap your temporal life, keeping your inward man in a prison while he starves. They live your life for you like a tick on a dog, a leach, a tare, or a vine that wraps itself about a tree and saps the life from it.

Spiritually, we find earth; and Satan's kingdom between heaven and earth; and then, heaven. These angelic beings, pressing for heavenly comforts, are to be likened unto our rocket age. We, as ministers, are God's scientists who search out the invisible, for, we know in part until we bring forth the whole, or until that which is perfect is come. By these means scientists perfect a modern world, thus eliminating the old world which is now in existence. It is not you that speaks, but your heavenly Father, or the anointing that abideth within you, which teaches you all things. God spoke the world into existence by His Word; by the mouth of His ministry, He is speaking it out of existence.

Time elements shall be no more. The one eternal day that was from the beginning with God, before He ever set up the garden and time elements, shall soon emerge again; the angel, setting one foot on the land and one on the sea, and a man who can live in the flesh,

which we would call the land, having understanding of both, and like Paul or William Branham, be absent from the body and present with God; declaring the end of time, as our brother did, pinning it down to the year of 1977 for the millennium and 1974 for the rapture. We can throw our time elements and markers, such as calendars and clocks, into the sea. The time creature needs time markers, but sons of God are eternal. They do not mark time; they have eternity for their desire.

In this rocket age in which we live, you see spiritual men breaking the gravitational powers of sin and worldly lust, going into the heavenlies to find the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Like the spies that spied out the land of Canaan and brought back their report, we must encourage the hearts of the people. The giants are big, but the grapes are beautiful. It is a land of milk and honey. We are made a little lower than the angels, and the fallen angels stand between us and the land. They are giants, but our God is able. Let's take the land. Wherever we set our foot, He said He would give it to us. He told Joshua to be of a good courage. Jesus said, "Fear not, only believe. All things are possible to them that believe." As these ministers under the anointing go into spiritual orbit, being absent from the body, as Paul the apostle; through the medium of this body, they transmit their heavenly discoveries back to the viewer or those who are watching, while they project Christ upon the screen of their life. If we can lift up the antennae of our faith, we will be enlightened to comprehend the height, depth and width. In this last day, men shall see visions.

The carnal mind, with its gravitational powers and desires, can no longer hold our spirit. The fire of God within us has created a spiritual burning and a blast that separates the carcass from the inner man, and he is homeward bound. The great spiritual conquest is on. We are the qualified and chosen of our generation. We are God's great commanders and generals, His leading politicians, ambassadors for Christ. Like the movie stars of Hollywood, who are only allegories of sons of God, we are the true stars, playing the leading role. As they commemorate or reproduce the great men of the west in their life and character, they are only an image, pointing to the sons of God, who are reproducing in their lives the role of Elijah and Moses in commemoration of these great frontiersmen who fought courageously to bring God's civilization to safety, to a modern world of perfection.

We are near the end time. The change is upon us. Two in the field, one being raptured by spiritual revelation into the heavenlies or the mind of Christ, and one left to face tribulation. He shortened the days for the elect's sake, coming at Pentecost in His appearing in the saints, that His coming to the world might be unto judgment, but unto His temple, whose temple you are, unto salvation unto them that look for Him. Jesus said, "I've chosen you out of this world. You are not of this world, even as I am not of this world."

Having been translated into the marvelous kingdom of our God, we are in heaven with Him; hid with Christ in God, whom the heavens have received, unto the restoring (restitution) of all things, which is now at hand. The sons of God are being revealed. They are spiritual sons, made manifest in the flesh as their Father was, that people might see and recognize them. Being superior in faith, knowledge and wisdom, superior in power, life, strength and health, they will correct the perversion, changing this perverted system and perverted world into its original form. The whole creation groaneth in a prison of perversion, awaiting the manifestation of these sons of God, when all the members of the body are caught up into the heavenly revelation, then, the door of the ark, the door to the Gentiles will be closed, turning back to the spiritual Jew in revelation. As a Spirit, He will leave off with the revival of the world. The turning to the natural Jew marks the closing of the door to the Gentiles, as does the turning to the spiritual Jew; to the Jews naturally and to us spiritually. Like a room filled with gasoline, we will all be inside, His Spirit filling all in all; and, just as Joseph showed himself to Benjamin first, Jesus will reveal Himself unto us, the bride. This is the flame that will ignite the gas-filled (Spirit filled) room, causing a change in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye.

To the natural Jew, or the rest of the brethren, He will then show Himself, while we feast at the marriage supper of the Lamb, having been baptized by one Spirit birth that was released from His wounded side, and baptized into His body as a member.

Remember that Satan is finished. Like a fire that has been set in a forest, the spirit of lust hath consumed the dry trees, but we are full of sap, Jesus said. The trees of God have been scarce and so few that a child can count them, but life within us will heal the wound. Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, and, only the elect or the few will find it. Jesus, the Word, is the way of revelation to heaven.

Satan has done all that he can do to seduce us, but God has immunized us to his poisonous lust by the revealing of lust gradually, giving us the nature of Christ within to overcome. Lust now is at its all time high. We have seen it all; the complete exposure and disrobing of humanity, yet we have survived by spiritual resistance and godly strength to say no. Satan, depending on secrecy and gradual exposure to conquer the human mind, at last, has no more strength. He had grown strong, getting his strength by the law through the means of accusation, creating fear and killing faith, but now he is finished. We have seen it all, but we have overcome. Holding our faith in Christ's righteousness unto the end, has put Satan's accusations to an end, having nothing left to show us of the lust of the world, to create a hunger or desire in our hearts, and leaving him nothing to tempt us with or to accuse us by, for the law is fulfilled by love in our hearts. Thus, we have escaped the web of Satan, being justified by faith all the way.

Coming to perfection means leaving the foundation of repentance, a perfect state of love that needs no repentance over and over; not trying to live on yesterday's manna, but getting new manna every day. The message for yesterday's generation should be only a foundation for today's revelation.

If you preach yesterday's message, it will not be anointed. Today's message will do a new thing. Give yesterday's message to the generation or people who are in line for yesterday's message. If a man has repented and been baptized in Jesus' name, take him a little farther into the Scriptures, or else, you will breed worms with a dead printed word that is not anointed with the Spirit of life. Feed each one according to his birth and age, as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let perfection be our goal, for if we sin willfully after we have come to the knowledge of the truth, this is not backsliding, but the great falling away for the last days, because knowledge was to increase. Christ would have to be crucified the second time, for where there

is knowledge of wrong, it is sin, and you are only allowed the atonement of the blood for sins in your life when you did not know right from wrong. If you willfully and desiringly do wrong, you must reap every wrong. The blood will not cover it.

As the truth is revealed to you, put sin away, or the light will become judgment rather than salvation, and it will be darkness. Walk in the light as it shines on your path. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Come into the fullness of the stature of the man, Christ Jesus. Amen.

By Rev. George Leon Pike Sr.

Founder and first President of Jesus Christ's Eternal Kingdom Of Abundant Life, Inc.

The Mystery Of Godliness

The Bible tells us that great is the mystery of godliness, for God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, caught up into heaven. Paul said, I am a steward of the mysteries of God, and that a steward should be faithful. I want to expound this mystery as faithfully as I can. He also said to preach the Word, and that faith cometh by the hearing of the Word. By faith of the Word we are saved. Anything we believe outside of the Word is not salvation faith. It must be the faith which, by Him, is the Word. Peter said that the faith which is by Him (Christ) hath made this man whole, at the gate called Beautiful.

First, is it necessary to know who your God is? Yes! By all means! Because Jesus said, "Lest you believe I am He, ye shall die in your sins." Notice, to begin with, it says in the beginning God created heaven and earth. We know that was God the Father, because Jesus, the Son, had not been born yet, for in the Scriptures we are told that when Mary the virgin conceived, she brought forth the Son of God. God said, "This day have I begotten Myself a Son." Look at Saint John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God." Look at the third verse! "All things were made by Him, and without Him was nothing made." See, in the 14th verse it says, "The Word was made flesh and we beheld His glory, as that of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Now look at the 10th verse: "He (God) was in the world and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not." Now, see what Paul said: "Because, when they knew Him, they glorified Him not as God, and God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient." Notice this verse: "For, when by the wisdom of men, the world knew not God (recognizing Jesus), it pleased God that by the foolishness of preaching, men should be saved." God is a Spirit. Jesus said, "Hear O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord." Jesus is the image of the invisible God. The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that you cannot serve two masters, so God cannot be two or three.

In Matthew 1:23, we are told that His name shall be called Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, means God with us. That was the whole purpose of God: to show Himself to man through the body of flesh, Jesus Christ, the Son. Jesus continually confirmed, "It is not I that doeth the work, but the Father in Me."

In John we are told that there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. There is no record of son-ship in heaven. He is called the Word in the beginning. He is called the Word in John's vision (Revelation 19:13). God the Spirit made Himself vocal utterance, called the Word, the trump of God, to express Himself through and to create by.

He made Himself flesh to feel our infirmities and to taste death in human flesh; also to master every situation of man to become man's master or to be worshipped of man. He made a fleshly creature, and then became the head of that fleshly creature by mastering its problems to show man His superiority and to give him a hope of something to rely upon. God robed Himself in a body of humanity to show oneness of man and God, the ultimate in God's plan for man. Faith makes them one even as we are one: Christ the head; God the Spirit, the mind and controlling power; the Holy Ghost, the life.

We are the members of God, manifested in the flesh collectively speaking, just as Jesus was, individually speaking, the fullness of the godhead bodily, which means as far as the head to the church and as far as the body. There is no other human body manifested by God, the spiritual Word. The Bible says that we have known Him after the flesh, or son-ship. God gave His Son in death for our sins. He, the second man Adam, was made a quickening Spirit as God, to overcome and sit down on His throne with Him. Some people say they've seen Jesus at God's right hand written in the Bible. This is right, but where is God's right hand? Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. He is everywhere, and the Bible says that the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. He was a Father and He beget a Son. He was a Son to show us discipline to God. He was the Holy Ghost. The son-ship relation is where the trouble is. That is why God wanted to do away with it and make us one. We are His temple, His body, His members, to sit on the throne as His bride, one with the head, and rule heaven and earth; to control the children of men who never came to this great revelation of oneness with God or His bride.

God, the Word, was made flesh. Philip said, "Show us the Father." Jesus said, "Philip, have I been with you so long, and yet, you have not known Me?" The Bible says, "God is the great light whom no man has seen, nor can see." You will never see God the Spirit, except through the veil of Jesus Christ His Son. Some say, "But God is in us! This doesn't make us God!" Yes, it does make us God, manifested in the flesh, a member to the head of the body. We are the Word made flesh, collectively speaking, for we receive the Spirit by measure, and altogether we are the body, but He receives the Spirit not by measure. The fullness of God dwells in Him. We are in part. He is that which is perfect, the perfect man, Christ Jesus, the perfect stature of God, which is the head to the body. Part will be done away with. We, the members in part, will come together to see eye to eye, to speak the same things, unto the fullness of the stature of the perfect man, Christ Jesus. Then the head will come to claim His members, to perfect the body. Part will be swallowed up in completeness and perfectly bonded with the mortar of charity, the bond of perfection; love, that holds the lively members, a lively status, together in oneness. We will be one as He and the Spirit are one. Jesus is the express (given) image of God the Spirit. The Spirit made flesh, just like your spiritual man is made flesh in his identity, is made known to the human body. You are dead when the spirit leaves the body, for the Bible says that without the spirit, the body is dead. That is why Jesus cried, "Father, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Jesus said to Philip, "I and My Father are one. He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." No man can see God the Spirit, the great light, and live. The Bible says that Moses saw the Lord on the mountain.

Who is the antichrist? How can we know the antichrist spirit? Watch here, how John said that if any man denies that God is a Spirit and that He is come into our body of flesh as the Holy Ghost, to walk and talk in us, that that man was anti to the teachings of truth, and that he would make God like unto corruptible man. God is the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, or three specific acts or offices as one God.

Man is made in the trinity image of body, soul, and spirit, the three in one. How could man be made in the image of God if God was three persons as the denominational teachings say? If God was three human bodies, we would have to be triplets to be made in His image. These three are one: body, soul and spirit. There is one Father, Son and Holy Ghost. There is one body of Jesus, the fullness of the godhead

bodily; that is to say, as far as a God-body, Jesus is the only one. Someone has asked, "Who was Jesus praying to in the garden?" The Spirit of course, the one that we pray to. If God was in Christ reconciling the world back to Himself, as the Bible said He was, then where did His prayers go? The Bible says that His prayers returned into His own bosom. Read it for yourself!

Some people say that the godhead cannot be understood, and that we will get confused if we try to understand the godhead or Jesus name baptism. This is not true. They say the same thing about predestination, all because they do not understand it themselves. If these things are confusing, then Paul the apostle was the author of confusion. He taught them, and he was one of the greatest apostles. The truth of the Word is that all of the things of God are clearly seen by the things which do appear (types and shadows) even to the eternal godhead, so that we are without excuse. Jesus was a man when He slept on the boat. He was God when He controlled the sea and storm, made Himself twain, and said to them, "These things you see Me do, you can do also." The trinity churches, as well as the oneness churches, are missing the mark when it comes to the revelation of Jesus Christ. Each of them have some of it. God is sifting the trinity and oneness churches to bring out the elect of God, the sons and daughters, and the bride of Christ.

There is but one revelation, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, that God gave unto Him to show unto His servants. We have in us a puzzle in many parts of revelation, but we must put it together; the Baptist, the Methodist, the Catholic, the Presbyterian, the Pentecostal, all of the churches; but we must come out of her and be a separate body called Christians. They were first called Christians at Antioch; Christian meaning Christ-like. He said, "If they which are called by My name shall humble themselves and fast and pray, I will hear from heaven and heal their lands."

All of the denominations will go to make up the beast of Revelation's body (brute beast) whose image is the National Council of Churches. They came from the beast in the garden, and will go back to the beast in the end. This is why scientists keep tracing their lineage back to the beast, and we keep tracing our lineage back to Adam. Adam was called a son of God.

The antichrist, the head of the beast's body of many members, will come to his image of sinful people, who love the things of this world and its pleasures. Jesus said, "If you are a friend of this world, you are the enemy of God." He also said, "If the love of this world is in you, then the love of the Father is not there." Love not the world nor the things in the world, for the world and its lusts will pass away. Sin is in the world because of lust (desire -- Greek rendering). Seek the kingdom of God and all these other things shall be added unto you. Seek then, the glory of God, and don't place your affections upon the things of this world, but place your affections upon things above, for where your treasures are, there shall your heart be also. A wise man's substance is precious in his sight, and we should take care of the things that God gives us. This is why people don't get anything from God. They consume it on their own lust. The whole duty of man is to fear God and to keep His commandments. All other things are to be a sideline which follows. God will not have second place. He said that you must offer Him the firstfruits of your life.

Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Why did Thomas call Him both? It is because the Bible says that He hath made Himself twain, both Lord and Christ. Trinity isn't mentioned one time in the whole Bible. The number three is only mentioned where he said, "These three are one." To the churches which teach three gods who are coequal, He said, "Who is My equal? I know not any." God did not let Israel make an image of God at any time, though He appeared in many forms: in a donkey, in a burning bush, in a cloud of fire, and in many other ways; but He did not let them make an image, because He was to give them His true image as a man. We are made in His image. If they had made other images they would have been led astray.

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Founder and first President of Jesus Christ's Eternal Kingdom Of Abundant Life, Inc.

Introduction

I believe that one of the greatest mistakes of the church world today is their lack of understanding concerning the things of God. When someone does not thoroughly understand their Creator, they cannot properly relate to Him. It is like a little chick that has been separated from the hen, or that which has mothered it. It cannot find its way back into that warm, consoling environment, and so it becomes greatly alarmed. Fear and frustration strike the heart, when perhaps the mother hen is just around the corner of the barn and is diligently searching for the little chick.

Confusion always brings about that feeling of insecurity, that loneliness of being all alone in a great big world where no one cares, and where no one will offer a helping hand in the time of need. Oh my! That's such an awesome feeling! Terror begins to strike, and Satan begins to undermine the foundation of man. A person begins to stumble and stagger like a man drowning, clutching to a straw while he begins to lose sight of all the principles upon which life is founded. In that he has not been thoroughly indoctrinated with the Word of life, suddenly, he becomes aware of the fact that all hope is gone. He is at a total loss and doesn't know what to do.

There is a time when all of the additives of life fail, and there are no available means by which you may cope with the situation. The circumstantial environment of the web in which you are caught has become such a hideous prison until it seems impossible to retain sanity. It is at this point of desperation that you scream out in utter defeat, "Oh, dear God! Have mercy on me!"

It is then, and only then, that God can actually begin to relate to you, and you likewise, to God. When your ability, your powers of ingenuity, and all other sources have failed, it is at that time that Christ Jesus comes to your rescue, for it is written in the Scriptures that it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Remember that God has no pleasure in death. God is not pleased in seeing you defeated in your purpose or cause, so long as it is according to biblical standards, for He desires to strengthen and help you. The Bible teaches that God will not pervert a man in his cause.

Out of human weakness, godly strength is born. Out of the depths of despair, hope in Christ will create a possibility. To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to find a real refuge in the time of storm. To accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is to find an eternal guide that knows the way through the shadows of death and deep despair.

This is why the Bible teaches us that we should call upon Him while He may be found. We can see the deepening shadows of tribulation as they begin to fall across the pathways of mankind.

Even the greatest leaders throughout the world have exhausted every means, and yet the problem still remains unsolved. They cannot find the answer, yet Christ is the answer. If you've never given Christ a chance at your life, let me encourage you to do so, for the time of His coming is at hand.

The Bible teaches, "Be ye also ready." May the Lord bless you. We are praying for you.

No Pleasure In Death

You know, it tells us here in the Word (Ezekiel chapter 18) that God has no pleasure in them that die. So many times, we deal with the subject, God the Spirit of life, and Jesus the Prince of life, and we try to emphasize that God hath no fellowship with death. God has a plan for death, but the one thing that we really need to get in our minds and settle deep down in our hearts is that God is not the instigator of death. God is not the one that sent death into the world. Death never came by God. It's never been God's plan. God had nothing to do with it, and He certainly has no pleasure in them that die. I want you to understand that. I've ministered so many times concerning life, and I've tried to impress upon you the importance of being able to understand and believe that God is life. There is a great need in your heart that you should believe that God is the Spirit of life, and God is concerned about life. If you don't believe this, then the devil can confuse you, take advantage of you, misuse you, and steal all of the blessings that God has for you in life. There are no blessings in death. There are blessings only in life, because God is the Spirit of life. Anything that is not life does not hold any blessings, because blessings exist within the realms of life. If there is no realm of life present, there are no blessings present, because there are no blessings in confusion. There are no blessings in death. All of the blessings of God are in the realms of life and in the world of light. We are the children of light, and we dwell in the world of light, and we are children that live in the Spirit of God, because we are born of the Spirit of God. Hallelujah! This is why God emphasizes to us in the Word that we should live holy and we should live righteously.

What are the benefits of living holy? What benefit do I get in walking before God or doing the right things? What benefit is it to me, in that I'm saved by faith? A lot of people ask, "Well, Brother Pike, you're saved by faith in God. What difference does it make?" It makes all the difference in the world, because faith will not work in a wicked heart. Faith will not come forth from a careless heart. Faith in God will not work in an unrighteous person. You must live right. You must give your deeds to God. Give Him your service. You must surrender your whole life to God if you're going to have faith, and to be saved, you must have faith. Faith will not work in a heart of iniquity. Faith will not come forth in a heart of unrighteousness; therefore, you must live right. You must do your best to keep your deeds right, to make your life conform to the ways of God, if you are ever going to have a heart that will produce faith, or a conviction that God loves and cares for you and has made a place for you.

So then, we must live right; otherwise, our hearts will condemn us. Now, the Bible tells me that if my heart condemns me, God is greater than my heart. He knoweth all things. He knows that I've been born of the Spirit, but He said that if my heart condemns me not, then I would have faith toward God, that whatever I ask of God, then I would receive of God. If I stumble and stagger when I know that I'm doing my very best, then I should never let condemnation overwhelm me. I should never be swallowed up by condemnation, because I have done my best. I have tried my best to please God; therefore, if I stumble, I should not condemn myself, but I should repent and say, "My God, forgive me. I made no plans to do that. It wasn't my purpose and desire, but God, Satan cunningly prepared a trap and caught me in it. O God, I beg of You to forgive me for it, and just put this thing behind me." Then I should go on with God.

Now, the Bible tells us that if we turn away from righteousness, that God will not remember all the good we've done. You know, a lot of people love to believe that if they've ever done anything good, that God is going to remember it when they come to the judgment, and if they've ever lived a few years for God or tried to do anything right, they love to believe that God, on the strength of that, is going to take them into heaven, no matter what they do for the rest of their life. I want you to know something friend, that God in His Word tells us that if you don't continue to do right, then all that you've ever done will be forgotten, and God will not remember any of your righteousness, but in your sins ye shall die.

Now you say, "But Brother Pike, what are we going to do with predestination?" We're going to do the same thing that Paul did. What did Paul do? Paul taught that we are predestinated in Christ. So then, if you are in Christ, you are predestinated unto God, and that, unto good works. My brother, if your deeds are not found in Christ, then your life is not found in Christ, and your predestination is not unto the kingdom of God nor unto eternal life. If your deeds and ways and desires are found in this world, your foreknowledge and predestination is unto eternal damnation and separation from God. Our predestination rests within Christ, if it be godly predestination.

The Bible tells us, "He that endureth unto the end shall be saved." If I hold on to what God has given me, if I continue to walk upright, and if I do everything I can to please God, then faith is going to be in my heart. If I struggle against this old outer force, which is my flesh, this power of evil that comes against me that is always harassing my mind; if I struggle against the outer man, the Adamic or natural man, and I fight against it with all that I have within me, then I can overcome it, and I can come into the great and wonderful inheritance of God.

The Bible teaches to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. Every one of us has a fleshly body or temple. We are tabernacling as an inner man in an outer body of clay. In this little temple or tabernacle, we go through the earth, and inasmuch as this inner man is on the inside, he is struggling against the outer forces of Satan. Paul speaks of corruptible flesh and he tells us that within our flesh (body) there dwelleth no good thing. Now, one thing that we've got to understand, brothers and sisters, is that you, me, or anybody else, it doesn't matter what church, organization, body of people, or whatever, we are all classified as corruptible flesh in the sight of God, and there is no good thing in the flesh. Paul tells us that to will is present, but the performance of that which is willed by the inner man, he couldn't find. He said, "I find that when I would do good, evil is present with me." Paul found in his outer man a law, warring against his inner man and against his inner mind, and that law, being strengthened by the powers of Satan, closed in on him, and when that force came, he found it harassed his mind and overrode his ability in the outer man. He couldn't make the outer man do anything, because that power was so great, and his human senses were subject to the passions and things of this world. The powers of oppression were so great that he couldn't manage them. Paul might have said, "I've got to have some kind of super strength or inner ability, some kind of divine intervention. I've got to have something that comes from somewhere that will rise up on the inside of me and put this outside being to silence." He did say, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" He said that his body was a living

death, and that he was caught within this body. He thanked God that He had sent His Son, Jesus, to die at Calvary, to take the corruptible flesh and nail it to Calvary, to put the middle wall of partition out of the way, thus making an end to that old outer man. It did away with that outer you, and there is no more outer you or outer me in the sight of God. As long as we walk in the Spirit, that outer you and outer me is dead, because it's been buried in the name of the Lord, and it does not exist in the sight of God anymore.

When God sees us after our new birth, He sees us as the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Pilate said that he found no fault in this just person. So then, Paul added, "It's not I that liveth, but Christ that liveth within me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Son of God. It pleased God to reveal His Son in me." This is the revelation of Jesus Christ.

You know, we who are the body of the Lord Jesus Christ are nothing less than the revelation of Jesus Christ made manifest to the world! Hallelujah! We should stand up for God and let the world see what God is doing for our inner man by overcoming the outer man.

Let me tell you something, friend. When you walk according to the passions of the body and the desires of the flesh, you might shout, dance, speak in tongues and confess Christianity all you want to, but you're going to die and go to hell. There is no escape for you, because God said that it would be that way. See, that outer man is condemned to die, for the Bible says that they that are in the flesh cannot please God, but ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now, if the Spirit of God dwells in you, then He shall quicken your mortal body by His Spirit, for with the same Spirit that He used to raise up Christ from the dead, He shall also quicken your mortal body.

So then, we see that Israel could not please God. This is why God chided with Israel, and was continually at variance with them. What was wrong with Israel? Israel did everything that they knew to do, but you see, they still couldn't please God. Why? Because ritualistics aren't going to please God. Trying to do things in the natural isn't going to please God, because at your very best efforts, it's going to be as filthy rags in the sight of God. Now, when you get full of the Holy Ghost, and your cup is running over with godliness, then you're going to find out that the old outer man is going to take a bow to the inner man, and God is going to do something very special for you.

Nevertheless, if I walk after the flesh, I must die, because I am condemned to die. But, I have escaped death. How did I escape death? By the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am now free from the bondage of the flesh. I am now free from the law of sin and death, free from that which hath a penalty of death upon the flesh, because the law hath no power over him that is dead. There is no power nor authority of the law over the man that is dead, because he is dead to the law. If I am dead to the law, then I can never die, because I am free from the law of sin and death. Hallelujah! The Bible tells us that death came because of sin, for the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its strength by the law; but if the law is folded up, laid away, then it hath no power or sting. So then, if it hath no sting, then it hath no power to kill me. If sin hath no power over me, then the sting of death is not there, because sin is the sting of death. If there is no sin, there is no death. Do you know what I'm saying, friend? The Bible says whosoever is born of God cannot sin. It didn't say that maybe he wouldn't sin if he got a case of do better, or if he tried to hold on, but it said he cannot sin. Then, if he cannot sin, he cannot die, because the sting of death is sin. Therefore, we have passed from death unto life, and shall never come into condemnation.

Now then, you say, "Brother Pike, how then do you account for what you just said: 'If a man does righteously and falls away?'" The Bible said that Judas also obtained part of this ministry. Is that right? The Bible also tells us that the spirit of Satan did not enter Judas until the supper, when Jesus gave him the sop. Then Jesus said, "That thou doest, do quickly!" Amen! Do you understand what I am saying? Somebody would say, "But Brother Pike, if you do righteously, and then turn and do wickedly, all of your righteousness shall not be remembered, and in your sins you shall die. How do you account then for what you are saying?" The Bible says that if they'd been of us, they, no doubt, would have continued with us, but they went out from us, that it may be manifest that they were never of us. Somebody might ask, "Now, do you mean to tell me, Brother Pike, that they can do righteously and still not be of us?" They certainly can! A man can come and do righteously, but he still may not be born of God. He may come in and do good almsdeeds and still not be born of God. The Bible tells us that the satanic ministers of our day can transform themselves into ministers of light. These have the ability, by the transforming of their minds, to minister the Word of light to you, but that does not mean that they are right with God.

Paul said that after you have come to the knowledge of the truth, having been partakers of the Holy Ghost, and having tasted of the heavenly gift and the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come, then if you fall away, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but only the fearful looking forward to the fiery indignation of God that shall devour His adversaries. So then, we understand that once we receive a knowledge of God, it is required of us. You cannot go back into the world, and as you say, backslide, and turn around and say, "Well, God said to be hot or cold! I'm not going to be a hypocrite! I'm just going to be cold, and God will have mercy on me." I want you to know that when you come to the knowledge of God, you can never be cold again. People that are cold are those that are considered not to know anything about God. God will have mercy because of their ignorance, but friend, when you come to know God, you can never be cold again. If you turn away from God, you are only in between. You are in the place where God will spew you out of His mouth, and you are in the place where you will reproach God and the world will see it. Knowing that you have been with God, and then to turn back to the beggarly elements of this world, you stir up the wrath of God and He will literally destroy you. The Bible says, "Beware, ye that forget God, lest I tear you into pieces."

All right, look at Israel. What has caused the Lord to be so wroth with Israel, who are termed the apple of His eye? It is simply because they had learned about the things of God. They were better off never to have known the way than to come into the ways of God and then turn around.

Oh friend, let me tell you something right now. You that have come to the knowledge of God, whether you be young, middle aged, or elderly people: the greatest mistake you ever made in your life was coming to the knowledge of God if you are not going to serve Him. Did you know that the worse thing that ever happened to Israel was when they received the law? Israel was doing fine until they received

the law. The mercies of God were with Israel. God led Israel like a son. He loved them, but when God gave Israel the law, and it said that thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not covet, thou shalt not do these things, then when Israel continued to do it, having those things in their mind and heart, it caused God's wrath to burn against them like a flame of fire. Just think, four hundred and thirty years before the law ever came, God gave our father Abraham a plan. Hallelujah! It wasn't by the law, because by the law no flesh shall be justified. By the law came the knowledge and strength of sin. Death came by sin, although four hundred and thirty years before the law ever came, God looked down from heaven, took a man of faith and said, "Thou art My friend, because you believe in Me. You did not withhold that which was dear to your heart. Thou art the friend of God." The Bible says that God justified Abraham by faith. Years before that, when Enoch came along, he walked with God for over three hundred years, and was not, for God took him. When we get the record of it, Paul tells us in the New Testament that before Enoch's translation, he had this testimony, that he pleased God and was translated by faith that he should not see death. I know there are Bible scholars in the world that lack understanding. They say that Enoch must come back and die, and that every man must taste of death. Now, I've said many times that if Enoch comes back and dies, it will break the Scriptures, and the whole Bible will be in error. The Scriptures would be broken, but the Bible tells us that the Scriptures cannot be broken. You say, "Where did you get that?" Paul said, "By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death." Brother, if he has to come back and die, then it's going to change the whole situation.

So then, when we think about the glory, power, and ability of God, and what He does by faith, it's such a great moment that we're living in! Hallelujah! When the law came, sin and death came. The Bible tells us that if there had been any kind of law that God could have given that would have saved mankind, He would not have caused Christ to come into this world and die.

Paul and Peter once had a dispute, because Peter got turned around. Some of the apostles came together, and it shook Peter up, and he turned and began to withdraw from them that were walking by faith. Paul the apostle, just as bold as a lion, stepped out into the midst of them, and said, "I know you've got the keys to the kingdom, Peter, but I blame you to your face because you're to be blamed. If salvation, or the grace of God, is come by the law, then Jesus Christ died in vain, and all hope is gone. But I'm not going to frustrate the grace of God. If there had been a law that could have saved man, God wouldn't have sent His Son down here to die." Glory to God! Paul had the revelation of Jesus Christ. He understood what he was doing, where he had been, and what he was telling them. Peter didn't say anything, because he knew that God was with Paul. Peter in turn said, "I tell you, Paul says things that are hard to be understood, and they that are unlearned take them and wrest them to their own destruction." Notice, Peter didn't fuss or find fault with Paul, because he knew he had erred. The Bible states that if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Hallelujah! What a day we're living in! I can't fathom that anyone would go back into Egypt (the world) and desire to return to the beggarly elements, especially in the day we're living in. The Bible states but now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, God having delivered you from those things, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Would you then follow that outer man that hath the sentence of death on him? Would you then walk in the corruptible flesh of this world and in the ways of the wicked and return and be entangled in death again, when God has put life before you? Would you do that? Oh, I tell you, this is the most beautiful hour that man has ever known. This is an hour when man can have life. God hath no pleasure in death. He did not put death in the world. The Bible says that God did not send death, neither is He the friend of death. Death is the enemy of God, and the Bible tells us that death came by man and not by God. Man brought death into the world, not God. Glory to God! In knowing that I don't have to fellowship death, and knowing that God doesn't want me to die, it makes me feel real good, because I don't like death. Hallelujah! Death and I have nothing in common. Glory to God, I like to live! David said, "I can't praise You, God, if You put the dirt in my face and put me down in the dungeon of death, but as long as I live, as long as I can walk, and as long as I can stand in Your presence, I can praise You, God." Hallelujah! Don't you know that makes God feel good?

The Bible says that God hath no pleasure in the death of him that dieth. How can God have pleasure in Brother Frank Taylor if he can't say, "I love you, Jesus!"? How can God have any pleasure when you go down into the dungeon of the chambers of despair, where you can't hear His lovely name and can't tell people about His greatness? The Lord hath no pleasure in them that die, but glory to God, when we stand and tell about Jesus and praise Jesus and love Him and we tell all the world about Jesus and His great and mighty deeds, this makes God feel good, because that's God's pleasure. God hath pleasure in them that live. Let's live, brethren! Hallelujah! Let's live! God doesn't want you to die.

Let's use our faith in God to overcome sickness, poverty, death: for all of these are the enemies of God. Let's live, not only for a few years, but eternally. Paul said, "Behold, I show you a mystery! We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed." Hallelujah! We shall be changed. Somebody's going to discover that God and the spirit of death are not friends. Did you know that? I said, somebody, some generation, is going to discover that God and death are not partners, and that they do not have any fellowship. They don't get along at all! They're just as contrary to one another as they can be. That generation is going to turn their backs on death and walk on with life. Like Enoch, one day the world is going to start looking for them, and they're not going to find them, because they'll be like Enoch, who was not because he was translated that he should not see death. Before Enoch's translation, he had a testimony. What kind of testimony was it? He had this testimony, that he pleased God, and the Bible says that without faith, it's impossible to please God. I'm talking about believing in His Word. That's what faith is.

You know, people everywhere believe in everything, from any direction, but when you talk about faith, you're talking about believing what Jesus said. What did He say? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life, and that more abundantly." The word "abundant" means

filled up and overflowing. Jesus is the Prince of life. He's come so that you can keep on living. Hallelujah! Don't you believe Jesus died at Calvary so you could keep on living? Don't you believe that? If I didn't believe that, you'd have to put me in a strait jacket. Jesus died at Calvary so I could keep on living. Hallelujah! Remember, the Bible said that He is the Prince of life, and that He has come that you might have life filled up and overflowing. He made you to live! Hallelujah! Death came by man, not by God. Keep on living, folks! If you enjoy living, keep on living. Live in a greater way and in a greater measure.

Don't base your life on a calendar and say, "January, February, and March, and I'm thirty-five years old. April, May, June, and I'm sixty-five years old. Oh, I hope my insurance is paid up!" Don't be foolish! What does January and February have to do with it? God didn't put us on a time table. You say, "Well, who did?" The devil! If your faith is in the devil, you just keep on doing what you're doing. Out in the world they tell you to keep on trucking. Remember, if you've got faith in the devil, you're headed for the same place he's headed. Paul said, "We use great plainness of speech."

If you've got faith in God, just keep on living, because God did not instigate death. He is not the friend of death. You say, "How then can I escape death?" Just keep on living, for how is a man going to die if he just keeps on living? Now, if he quits living, he's going to die. Just keep on living. Somebody said, "But Brother Pike, you can't do that!" The Bible says that by faith, Enoch kept living. We'll all do like Enoch did one day. Paul said, Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all sleep. Somebody is going to discover that we can keep on living.

Let's keep on living, folks! Hallelujah! I could go on and on talking about the wonderful things of God. It thrills my soul, but the thing is, let's just keep on living. One brother said in his prophecy, "You haven't seen anything yet." You know, that reminds me of a singer named Al Jolson. He filled up large auditoriums across the nation and world, and he would sing until the crowds were just literally spellbound. Then, he'd throw out his chest and throw back his head and say, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" Glory to God! That's confidence, isn't it? That's the way it is with Jesus. You've seen all of this, and you haven't seen anything yet.

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