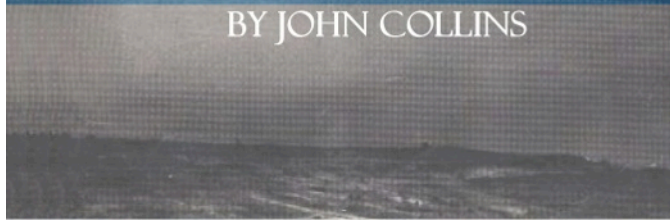


WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

*FALSE
TEACHER*



BY JOHN COLLINS



Do not despise prophecies, but test everything;
hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form
of evil. -- 1 Thessalonians 5

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Preface

My name is John Collins, and I am grandson to Willard Collins, pastor of the Branham Tabernacle in Jeffersonville, IN. Many of you may be unfamiliar with this name, but it is a rising denomination of faith around the world based on the teachings from a man by the name of William Marrion Branham. My grandfather is one of the men who walked with William Branham, and knew him personally.

From birth, I was taught to believe that a man I never knew was a “vindicated prophet.” I was told stories from family members who were blessed enough to walk with the “vindicated prophet.”

Their stories of the blessings this prophet gave them touched my heart, as it has many of you that still follow this religion. Good, Bible-believing Christians told stories of their conversions to Christ in several churches I grew up with from coast to coast.

Our family moved to the heart of this religion when I was around twenty years old, Jeffersonville, Indiana. Many of you that have read my book, *Seek The Truth*, know about my battle with depression. I knew that when I reached the “new Jerusalem,” this would be the end of my battle.

I never will forget the words of one man when we came here. He said, "If you are looking for spiritual bliss, don't come to Jeffersonville!"

This confused me. But over time, I started to realize that this man was right! There were those who stood by my grandfather, clinging to his every word. There were those who stood by Joseph Branham, William Branham's son, calling him a 'prophet' – ***some even praying in his name!*** There were those who told me that William Branham was Jesus Christ walking among us. One poor fellow told me that he watched Branham preach in Shreveport, and he watched God on the platform. According to him, we are now in the millennium.

For about fifteen years, I watched things worsen. One brother was "shunned" because he disagreed with another. Family members of the congregation shunned for one reason or another. One church not fellowshiping with another less than ten miles away, and this seems to be more common than not.

Was this the fruits of God?

Looking back, I know that God had His hand in my life. I went through many hardships, many

things that I don't understand. Each trial had a purpose, and that purpose was to humble my pride.

I never knew that pride was a sin. I had been taught that certain clothes were a sin. I had been taught that certain music was a sin. Many things on the outside were considered sinful. But I was taught that these things showed others what was on the inside!

I was taught that these things on the outside were the "elementary things," and that they were required in order for greater things of the Spirit of God. Yet, I looked around these churches and realized that what was showing on the outside had very little to do with the inside. Holiness dressed people were divided. How could this be?

The more God pushed me, the more I started digging deeper into what I believed. Why did I believe it? Did I only believe it because my family did?

For me, there were two underlying foundations to my religion, both of which were laid by William Branham:

The First: he was a "vindicated prophet." I had heard this phrase over and over from church to

church. One of the songs I often sang had this phrase in it, and this was something I proudly told others.

Second: I was told that he was a messenger preparing the way for Christ's return. This was essentially "The Message!" I was told that God gave Branham the "revelation" of the church ages and their time periods, and that seven angels came down from heaven to give him the "revelation of the seven seals." I had a photograph of their cloud circle in my wallet, as well as a photograph of the halo picture taken in the Houston Coliseum.

I started thinking about these two main points of my religion, and was afraid to question them. I'm learning now that for many, fear of questioning is programmed into the minds. For some like myself, God has to push you into that journey or you will never take the first step.

I purchased a copy of all the recorded sermons by William Branham, and I started studying every single thing that he said as "prophecy" or as "Thus Saith The Lord."

What I found absolutely shocked me. I'd been told that not a single prophecy failed, and that is true if you only look at the sermons in the later

years. But if you look from the beginning, not a single one happened! In fact, I did not remember many of them in the sermons from any of the preachers that I listened to!

I never knew that Branham prophesied that Mussolini, Stalin, or Hitler would rise into power and face a terrible end. I'd heard his prophecy that Mussolini would die! How could he not know which one of the three would raise to power?

I knew that he prophesied that a Woman would be president. I never knew that Branham claimed this was fulfilled with President Kennedy! And president Kennedy is not even a woman! Why? Because the vision changed to "a woman or a woman who is president or a woman who is vice-president, or the catholic church," and Kennedy was catholic!

Every vision that I looked into shocked me more and more. How many people knew this? Again, I ask the question, "What would you do?"

Then a HUGE shock: I listened as Branham broke into prophecy, condemning Los Angeles to fall into the ocean, with the phrase I had memorized him saying: "Capernaum, oh

Capernaum.” Capernaum is in the bottom of the sea, and Los Angeles will fall into the sea.

Thank God for pushing me, so that I watched television, even though the prophet told me not to! National Geographic is one of the greatest apologetics to the Branham movement! Capernaum has never been at the bottom of the sea! In fact, there is archaeological evidence that it has been rebuilt several times, never under the sea! Now I know the reason why he didn't want us watching television!

Could the “Angel of God” lie? What would you do?

In my mind, I was so deeply programmed that I didn't care. Even this was not enough to drive me away from the religion that my family is responsible for spreading.

What about “The Message?” If Branham was sent to foretell the coming Christ, then I sure don't want to miss it!

I read every thing I could read about the Church Age messengers that Branham described. I compared their writings to the teachings of William Branham. I studied what they stood for, and what they stood against. This time, it was

not just National Geographic that opened my eyes, it was the writings of these great men! Irenaeus (or Irenaeus as William Branham called him) condemned the very thing that William Branham stood for! Christians that believed you must know "hidden mysteries!" They were called Gnostics!

Then, the biggest shock of all: Not only did William Branham copy these church ages from a book he read, he made a big mistake! When he copied the Church ages from Larkin's "Dispensational Truth," he added messengers to the ages. One of them was not even alive during his church age!

It was all downhill from there. He was in Houston, TX when the "Spiritual Cloud" appeared, not directly under it as he claimed. His story about the "Spiritual Cloud" also grew over time, and eventually combined three spiritual events! It changed from a "mist from the ground" to five angels, and then seven angels.

His photograph of the halo was sent to Washington DC as he claimed, but that is about the only part of the story that was true. Why was it sent to Washington? For copyright so that he could sell them exclusively!

George J Lacy was never head of the FBI as Branham claimed. His assessment of the photograph is accurate, but has nothing to do with the supernatural. The light struck the lens, because the coliseum had overhead lighting. Later photographs inside the building also give other men "halos." Does that make them 'prophets' also?

Every single thing that I had been taught from birth, every single thing that I knew to be "true," every single fiber of my being was being ripped apart. The man I once was would never again exist.

So again, I ask: "what would you do?" If you knew that between two and an evangelist and his sons tricked four million people, what would you do?

This song started going through my head: The Rocks Shall Not Cry Out In My Place!

I knew what I had to do. I knew that I would make everyone I knew mad at me. I knew that I would lose friends and family members. I knew that I would be shunned, like an Amish man. But who else would do it?

There had to be others that knew all of this! Why did they not step forward for God? Was I the only one who would take a stand? Thankfully, no.

Peter Duyzer tried to tell us years ago. His name was hidden from the people, as were his findings. John Kennah after him – same thing. Nathan Rivera not long after that, his book hidden from the people. Now, many are rising against the deception, like the Bergens with Believe The Sign and Joshua Keith. Manuel James and others are stepping up for Christ.

The scripture is always accurate, and God keeps His Word. The rocks did not cry out!

So now I will leave you with this question: What will you do? Will you serve God, or will you serve man?

Sola Scriptura

Sola scriptura is Latin for "by scripture alone." It is the idea the Bible contains all knowledge necessary for salvation and holiness.

This, in fact, was one of my motives to dig deeper. Was William Branham really "sola scriptura?" I truly believe that all teaching should be filtered through the Bible. If it agrees with the Bible, then the teaching is accurate. If not, then we are following a false teaching, and likely a false teacher.

When William Branham preached his sermons, he would often say, "Let me take this verse as a 'context'." This strikes me as very odd, because a single verse could very easily be taking OUT of context, not vice versa. I quickly realized when I learned about "sola scriptura" that this was my largest stumbling block in my walk with Christ. I had single verses programmed in my mind, rather than the underlying meaning of these verses as they were intended.

Since I was once in this lost state of confusion about the Bible, I could only assume there

were others out there in the same state. I wanted to want to remind cult followers what "sola scriptura" really was, so that they do not remain in a state of confusion by William Marrion Branham.

A good example of Branham's extra-biblical teachings is found in the one of Branham's sermons, two topics he claims to be found in the Bible:

Branham says, "I was speaking this morning of this woman--immoral woman, washing Jesus' dirty feet, wiping them with her hair. Some of our pentecostal sisters have to stand on their head to get enough hair to wash the feet. Cut it all off. See? That's right. It used to be wrong for you to do it. It's still wrong for you to do it. The Bible plainly teaches, if a woman cuts her hair, her husband has a right to divorce her, put her away. Said if she cuts her hair, she dishonors her head, her husband. And a dishonorable woman should not be lived with. I better shut up now. I'll get you preachers right here... I'm only telling you the truth. You're going to face me with it at the day of judgment. That's THUS SAITH

THE LORD, in His Word."
Branham, 61-0520

There are two points Branham makes here:

1 - Outward things (hair) can make us immoral

2 - If a woman is immoral, the husband can divorce her (this, Branham claimed, came directly from God, and was plainly stated in the Bible.) If it came from the Bible, this indeed would be "sola scriptura."

I wear on my hand a ring. This ring has no power over me. I can place it on my ring finger, tell others I am married, and the ring signifies marriage. I can also place it on my pinky finger, tell others I am wealthy, and use my ring to signify wealth. I have control over this ring.

This ring does not make me a sinner. I can sin with this ring on, but the ring does not cause the sin.

This ring is an example of an “outward thing,” and I use it as a demonstration of the falseness of this teaching.

When I examine Ezekiel 16 to see if these two points Branham makes is actually "sola scriptura," I find a very interesting conflict.

Ezekiel 16 is describing “The Lord's Faithless Bride”:

Again the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.”

Remember: This is God, speaking directly to

Jerusalem.

"And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

"When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

I want to pause here. Those of you with King James Bibles may not see the part of the nose ring. Why? In this particular instance, the King James translators were NOT sola scriptura! Newer translations, such as the ESV, fix this. The Hebrew word in the scrolls is "appek", and it literally translates to "nostril."

Nevertheless, God, speaking of His Bride, put earrings in the ears and nose of His Bride! When William Branham spoke so harshly against earrings, was this "sola scriptura?"

Like this ring on my finger, jewelry of the ear has very little to do with your salvation.

Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord

God.

Now remember, God is faithful. He is speaking to His Bride, and His Bride is not faithful. Listen to this next part.

"But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be. You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore. And you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set my oil and my incense before them. Also my bread that I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord God. And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter that you slaughtered my children and

delivered them up as an offering by fire to them? And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood.

"And after all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! declares the Lord God), you built yourself a vaulted chamber and made yourself a lofty place in every square. At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring. You also played the whore with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, multiplying your whoring, to provoke me to anger. Behold, therefore, I stretched out my hand against you and diminished your allotted portion and delivered you to the greed of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. You played the whore also with the Assyrians, because you were not satisfied; yes, you played the whore with them, and still you were not satisfied. You multiplied your whoring also with the trading land of Chaldea, and even with this you were not

satisfied.

"How sick is your heart, declares the Lord God, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute, building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment. Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband! Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings. So you were different from other women in your whorings. No one solicited you to play the whore, and you gave payment, while no payment was given to you; therefore you were different.

God is speaking of His Bride, calling her a whore! We know who William Branham said was the whore: The Catholic Church. But this is Ezekiel, remember, and the Catholic Church did not yet exist. This is God's bride!

"Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God, Because your

lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy. And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare. They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more. So will I satisfy my wrath on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be angry. Because you

*have not remembered the days of your youth,
but have enraged me with all these things,
therefore, behold, I have returned your deeds
upon your head, declares the Lord God. Have
you not committed lewdness in addition to all
your abominations?*

Revelation speaks of the "mother of harlots." William Branham called "denominations" the "daughters of the Catholic church," taking Freemasonry teachings and claiming them for his own. But let's see what Ezekiel says about the 'daughters' of the Bride:

"Behold, everyone who uses proverbs will use this proverb about you: 'Like mother, like daughter.' You are the daughter of your mother, who loathed her husband and her children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. And your elder sister is Samaria, who lived with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you, is Sodom with her daughters. Not only did you walk in their

ways and do according to their abominations; within a very little time you were more corrupt than they in all your ways. As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. Samaria has not committed half your sins. You have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations that you have committed. Bear your disgrace, you also, for you have intervened on behalf of your sisters. Because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right than you. So be ashamed, you also, and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous.

So, after reading about how unfaithful God's bride was, how dishonorable she was, we ask ourselves: Was William Branham "sola

scriptura?" Does the Bible really say that men should divorce their wives? Did God really speak through William Branham as "Thus Saith The Lord?"

Let's find out:

"I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes in their midst, that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all that you have done, becoming a consolation to them. As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former state, and you and your daughters shall return to your former state. Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth in the day of your pride, before your wickedness was uncovered? Now you have become an object of reproach for the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and for the daughters of the Philistines, those all around who despise you. You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the Lord.

So, we ask you. Was William Branham "sola scriptura?" Or have you been led into believing something that is not scriptural?

All through the Bible, there is one "theme." God and His Bride. Every story is about God's faithless bride, God's unfailing love for her, God is ever full of forgiveness for Her. Even the very first story, Adam and Eve, is about this subject. According to Paul, Adam was a 'type' of Christ.

Is this teaching that men should divorce their wives "sola scriptura?" Or is this teaching against the very fibers of the Bible itself?

In my opinion, no!

Are Branham Followers Saved?

This is a subject that has been bothering me deeply. I have many friends and family still trapped in this cult, and the question that I battle in my mind is this: "are they saved?"

Paul says in Colossians 2:18: "*Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind.*"

This is a very scary statement! Disqualified means that you can't finish the race, because you violated the rules. Asceticism means denying yourself things that you might enjoy for a purpose of "holiness." Paul describes worship of angels. William Branham even prayed to his angel! Are my friends and family "disqualified?"

This reminds me of the Corinthians. The people of Corinth were easily swayed, and Paul continually wrote the Corinthians to put them back on track. In one of his letters, he rebukes the Corinthians with this statement:

"For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you

receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough." - 2 Corinthians 11:4

This thought astounded me, when considering all of the many strange things I'd been taught about Jesus that were simply not in the bible. Were these teachings, from William Branham, a "different Jesus?" Was the "angel" William Branham had with him Christ, or was it a "different spirit?"

Let's find out.

In 1955, William Branham says this:
"Michael was Christ, of course, Who fought the angelic wars in heaven with the devil"

So I asked myself: "Is Jesus Christ an archangel as Branham claimed, or is Jesus Christ the eternal God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth as the Bible says?"

Researching this statement with other cults of the past, I found that this teaching was not Branham's "divine revelation," it is a teaching

of Charles Taze Russell of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Studying the works of Charles Taze Russell, I found that many teachings that I grew up with were the "divine revelations" of this false prophet that created another cult! In studying this, I found something else interesting:

Jehovah's witnesses deny the power of God by limiting the full nature of God. They teach three main points:

1. Jesus of the new testament is Jehovah of the old
2. Jesus was a man when he was born, but "turned into a god" when John baptized him
3. Jesus died on the cross as a man.

Around the 13th century the term "Jehovah" appeared when Christian scholars took the consonants of "Yahweh" (YHWH) and pronounced it with the vowels of "Adonai." This resulted in the sound "Yahowah," which has a Latin spelling of "Jehovah." The first

recorded use of this spelling was made by a Spanish Dominican monk, Raymundus Martini, in 1270.

This troubled me. These things were exactly what I'd been taught! If Jesus died on the cross as a man, could a man bear my sins? Wouldn't it take God to bear my sins? Was this a "different Jesus?"

William Branham says this:

1950: They can't realize the--the Presence, this great thing, the Jehovah of the Old Testament, Jesus of the New

1956: And John said, "I bare record, seeing the Spirit of God like a Dove coming down, and abiding on Him." Hallelujah. There you are. The Dove and the Lamb united together. That's when God and man became one. That's when heaven and earth embraced each other. Hallelujah. That's when God was made flesh...? ... it; that's when God came down from the Spirit form and was made a Man and dwell among us. That's when all eternity embraced each other. That's when the human

fallen race of Adam's people and Jehovah God and every angel come together, when God and man was made one on that great memorial day when John baptized Jesus.

1960: When He was--last cry, "Eli, Eli. My God, My God," That was a man. "Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" In the garden of Gethsemane, the anointing left Him, you know, He had to die as a sinner. He died a sinner, you know that; not His sins, but mine and yours. That's where that love come in, how He took mine. Oh, hallelujah, how He took mine.

Why was William Branham teaching us the doctrine of the Jehovah's witnesses? Is this a "different Jesus?" Let's find out.

Let's review Hebrews 1, start to finish:

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

Wow! I had read this before, but never caught it! Who now speaks to us, prophets or Christ? Paul says the Son of God speaks to us! Is His Son God, or is His Son an Archangel? Let's find out:

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

"For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

So let me get this straight: If Branham said that Jesus was an 'angel,' and Paul said that the Father told His angels to worship Christ, does that mean that an angel worshipped an angel? Let's keep reading:

Of the angels he says, "*He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.*" *But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.*

If Paul gives a clear separation between the Son of God and an angel, why did Branham teach that Christ WAS an angel? And is this teaching of the Jehovah's witnesses that Branham copied from Charles Taze Russell the "same message that Paul preached?" Let's find out:

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

So, if Christ was the one who laid the foundation of the world, and if Christ was the Creator, and if Christ was eternal -- having no beginning and no end, how could he have not been God when he was born?

In fact, it almost sounds like Paul is speaking directly to Branham, arguing with him. Rightfully so! William Branham claimed that he taught the same "message" as Paul. Listen to how this chapter ends:

"And to which of the angels has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

So I ask you: Why did William Branham teach a "different Jesus?" Since Branham claimed that his "angel" was Jesus Christ, and all prophecy came from his "angel," how does that saying align with these words of Paul? Were we listening to a fallen angel instead of Jesus Christ? Let's find out!

The Fallen Angel

Though his description of it changed often, William Branham claimed to have an “angel” on the platform with him during his ministry. He claims to have met the angel in a cabin (or cave depending upon which version of his story he told), and claimed that he could do nothing without that angel present.

Was an angel really with him?

This is a loaded question. Though there is enough evidence of contradictions in Branham’s own words to make the story seem like a small school child telling a big fib, I believe that it is possible.

This is thought sends chills up my spine after learning the Truth about the Supreme Deity of God. God is not an angel, and God is worthy of all worship and praise. To pray to an angel would be to worship it, which the Bible forbids.

Yet, in 1948, we find William Branham doing just that:

March 5, 1948, sermon entitled “At Thy Word, Lord,” Paragraph 48:

*Now, shall we bow our heads now for prayer.
Father, realizing that I be afraid to step into this*

realm now, without. You would hold my hand... Now, my mind is going back to around two years ago, when in the room that night, that Angel of God came walking in there and said, "You are-- been borned in this world to take a gift of Divine healing to the people. Many will not believe you; yet many will. If you'll be sincere and will get the people to believe you, not even cancer shall stand before your prayer."

Notice. In the first part of the prayer, Branham was praying to the Father. And he said that he was "afraid to enter the realm" that he was about to enter! The chills up my spine continue to grow, because this is the very thing that sorcerers did in the Old Testament. The very thing that the Mosaic Law called an "abomination" worthy of stoning!

The second part of the prayer was NOT to the Father. It was not to Jesus Christ. It was directly to the angel:

Angel of God, I do not see You. But I know that You are standing near. Please, Thou knowest my heart, and know how I love these people. Stand by me tonight. And may not one go through without faith. And I know that Your Words have been true. I've took You at Your Word, for You said You were sent from God. I believed You. And You've stuck by

me. You have confirmed the Word with signs following. Now, again tonight, in this March the fifth, this Memorial night, may You stand now and heal every one. Grant it. May every demon be submissive to the Name of Jesus Christ. And now, Father, I step out here in this realm of Spirit faith, challenging every demon that's here in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The “organization” capitalized every reference to the “angel,” in the same way they capitalized the Name Jesus Christ. Though the editors are reading the very same abomination that I’m reading, they also worshipped the angel.

Branham makes a clear separation between God and this angel, because he says that it was “sent from God.” And not by Branham’s own understanding, he says that he “trusted it” not to have lied to him!

In Colossians 2, Paul condemns the very thing that Branham had did, even in the New Testament:

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of

understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Notice this. All of the “mystery” was in Christ. There are no longer “hidden things.” Why did Paul say this? Let’s find out:

I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

It is almost as if Paul were writing directly to us! Plausible arguments are very difficult to see through, and Paul writes this letter so that we are not led astray.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Here comes the warning:

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the

whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

There is no greater authority! We have been Paul warns us not to be led captive, not to create another leader! He says that the entire fullness of the rule and authority now dwells within us!

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

I've been asked many, many times. If not Branham, whom do we follow? Paul just answers this question directly: follow NO man! Christ disarmed the rulers and the authorities. They are put to shame!

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Paul repeats the thought from earlier; the one that sends cold chills up your spine. This time, it sounds like he is speaking directly to us about William Branham himself:

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Branham held fast to an angel. He even prayed to it. His mind was sensuous. That's why his stories grew and grew over time! This made him puffed up, so much that he called himself "Jesus Christ" before the people in 1965!

He insisted on asceticism for his people, denying themselves the things they enjoyed for a holy cause. And worst of all? He not only worshipped an angel, he prayed to it!

The very last paragraph of this chapter speaks directly towards the asceticism that Branham and those like him tried to spread. Paul says that these teachings come from the elemental spirits, and the legalism behind them cause us to submit to worshipping a fallen angel:

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulation? "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

As Christians, we should ask ourselves: Why did Branham worship an angel, when the Bible calls it an abomination? Why did he pray to it instead of Jesus Christ, after speaking to the Father? Isn't Christ our Mediator? Were we worshipping an angel by practicing asceticism? Were we also an abomination before God?

It appears that our cult was worshipping a fallen angel from the simple fact that William Branham himself prayed to it. But asceticism is a topic that requires further investigation. It is our

mission, as Christians, to discern the Truth from error.

Grace or Law?

Most false teachings with a foundation of asceticism revolve around “law.” Without rules, there can be no asceticism.

When a Christian teacher incorporates asceticism into his teachings, the Gospel of Grace is suppressed, and the Old Covenant Law is brought back into focus. To have asceticism, you must have law.

William Branham taught that each covenant God gave was still in effect. According to Branham, God just added to the covenants and made them greater. In addition, he claimed that the Mosaic Law was still in effect under the new covenant of Grace, and the Law itself became greater.

In 1958, he says this: *We went back in Deuteronomy and showed that an illegitimate child, bastard child, could not even enter the congregation of the Lord for fourteen generations. That was under the law, and Christ come to magnify the law. HOW MUCH MORE IS IT NOW?*

Ironically, William Branham was less than fourteen generations descendant from a “bastard child.” According to genealogy records, Nancy Branham bore Lewis Riley Branham out of wedlock, Branham’s great grandfather. But we don’t want to discuss this particular law from

Deuteronomy; we want to discuss the entire idea of Law verses Grace. Are we still under the Law?

In 1962, William Branham preached a sermon entitled "The Restoration of the Bride Tree," in which he mentions the word "law" almost seventy times. In the sermon, he mentions several things that he claims to be "worldly", yet are not in the Mosaic Law.

Some of these include: smoking, drinking, gambling, bunco parties, soup suppers, dancing (didn't David dance?). Having studied both William Branham's sermons and the Mosaic Law, I truly believe that Branham had never read the book of Deuteronomy or Leviticus.

The Old Covenant consisted of two parts: blessing and curse. There are around three hundred blessings if the children of Israel kept the law, but they would fall under the curse of the law if they did not keep it. Around three hundred curses are listed as punishment.

The Old Covenant was a two-part contract. God promised blessings if Israel held their part of the bargain: keeping the Law. When Christ "magnified the Law," he brought it under a microscope so that all would see how sinful they were. Then, he fulfilled the part that the children

of Israel could not keep. Christ came to fulfill the Law! Christ fulfilled the part of the Old Covenant that the children of Israel could not keep!

The Mosaic Law, which Branham claimed to still be in effect, contained many laws that Branham himself did not keep. Some of these include:

- Disobedient children should be stoned (Deuteronomy 22:18)
- Don't let cattle graze with other kinds of Cattle (Leviticus 19:19)
- Don't have a variety of crops on the same field. (Leviticus 19:19)
- Don't wear clothes made of more than one fabric (Leviticus 19:19)
- Don't cut your hair nor shave. (Leviticus 19:27)
- Any person who curses his mother or father must be killed. (Leviticus 20:9)
- If a man cheats on his wife (or the wife her husband) both the man and the woman must die. (Leviticus 20:10).
- If a man has sex with a woman on her period, they are both to be "cut off from their people" (Leviticus 20:18)
- People looking into the inner thoughts of others (what Branham called discernment), are to be stoned to death. (Leviticus 20:27)

- If a priest's daughter is a whore, she is to be burnt at the stake. (Leviticus 21:9) ... imagine what would happen in some churches in Canada if this were the case!
- People who have flat noses, or is blind or lame, cannot go to an altar of God (Leviticus 21:17-18)
- Anyone who curses or blasphemes God, should be stoned to death by the community. (Leviticus 24:14-16)
- Kill anyone with a different religion. (Deuteronomy 17:2-7)
- If you find out a city worships a different god, destroy the city. Kill everyone ... even the animals. (Deuteronomy 13:12-15)

Concerning the Old Covenant, Branham says this in a 1955 sermon entitled "Doctor Moses":

"And if He did that under that covenant, how much greater is the covenant today? If He did that under the type, what will He do under the antitype?"

In my opinion, Branham did not fully understand the covenant God made with Moses, or the New Covenant of Grace. Partly, Branham was correct. God DID magnify the Law, but God did this so

that man could see how sinful they were regardless of the set of “rules” in the old covenant. The part Branham seemed to have missed was the purpose behind the magnification of the Law. In 1962, he also says this:

He said in the old atonement... how much better. He said, "Thou shalt not kill." He had to kill, the act. But "Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause has killed already." The old covenant said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." This one said, "Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." See? It's a greater. So healing was lifted up also from the old to the new.

Branham claimed to have preached the same “Message” that Paul preached, so to find out, we must examine the Old Covenant and Mosaic Law that Paul was referring to, and Paul’s statements.

Let’s examine Hebrews 8:

“Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

Notice that Paul did not say that he was the “Messenger for the age” as Branham taught; Paul said our new minister was the Lord.

For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.

For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Now I want to pause here. Paul basically just called the Old Covenant faulty. Within the Old Covenant was the Law! According to Paul, there would have been no need for a New Covenant if the first covenant were sound.

Compare this with Branham’s statements in a sermon entitled “Jehovah Jireh”: *“God hasn’t taken His covenant away from you, but your*

blessings is gone, because you've got worldly, went out in the world and begin to flirt with the world. Then you're out of the promise. But the covenant still holds. Only thing you have to do is come back"

According to Branham, the **people** were faulty, not the Covenant! And the Covenant was still in effect! The Law was still in effect!

Let's continue:

For he finds fault with them when he says:

*"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a **new** covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.*

For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be

merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

So let's ask ourselves: Is the Old Covenant still in effect as Branham claimed? And why does Branham pick and choose which of the old covenant laws that he wishes to keep? Did he stone his children when they disobeyed?

Let's see how Paul ends this subject:

*In speaking of a new covenant, he **makes the first one obsolete**. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

As Christians, we should ask ourselves: Why did we follow a man who seemingly did not know the subjects he taught? Why did we allow him to impose rules that are not even in scripture? Why did nobody stand up and remind Branham of his great grandfather, the illegitimate child?

Why did we willfully ignore the Gospel of Grace that Paul preached, to accept the Message of Law that Branham preached? Did we really give up freedom in Christ to practice dead works?

The only way to find out is to continue in scripture.

Forfeiting Freedom In Christ

I am a lover of music. I absolutely love to play the guitar, and when time permits, I will once again become deeply involved in my music.

When I pick up one of my guitars, I can see that it has a very nice body. The wood is beautifully constructed, stained to perfection. Though it has a body, my guitar does not have a soul. It has no power over me; God has given me power over everything through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Using this guitar, I could play satanic worship music, and this guitar would be used for evil. I could also play Christian praise worship, and this guitar would be used for good. I have power over this guitar.

The cult headquarters in Jeffersonville, Indiana has a doctrine that some of you may be unfamiliar with. At the Branham Tabernacle, the church where William Branham taught, this guitar (itself) is evil.

All through my life, the pastor at that tabernacle (my grandfather) promoted a doctrine that was not according to scripture. The teaching is this: a 'Christian' should, not play my guitar, or instruments like it.

From an early age, I knew that this was a false doctrine. I did not know by association this made this pastor a false teacher, and I did not realize that by association the man who this false teacher followed was a false leader. Though William Branham told my grandfather to forbid his family to play these instruments, and from the platform the pastor spreads this doctrine, it does not align with scripture. It's strikingly odd that most in that same church also knows this is a false teaching. Many of them own these instruments for themselves, but allow the false teaching to continue all of these years.

After accepting the REAL Gospel of Jesus Christ, by faith, I have accepted freedom in Christ. I have allowed the Holy Spirit to speak to my heart, leading me in the path that Christ wants me to follow!

Galatians 2 teaches us a lesson that many Christians today have forgotten: The freedom we have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While proclaiming freedom, many legalistic churches today have denied Grace and accepted Law – and not even the Mosaic Law! They have accepted a new law that was laid by mischievous men!

Paul talks about the time when the Apostles first accepted him:

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

Notice this: Paul did not run with his revelation without first discussing it with men who knew the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He privately discussed this revelation with those who were the most influential, and only then did he proclaim it to the Gentiles. He said that he made sure that he was not doing this in vain.

But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

What we see in churches today is nothing new. Paul is describing exactly what we have today:

false brothers that try to bring the people back into some sort of slavery by imposing rules or laws instead of what Paul calls the Truth of the Gospel. He says that he stood firm against them so that the Truth of the Gospel would be preserved for the Gentiles, for you and me!

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas (Which is Peter) and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

So think about this. Circumcision was part of the Mosaic Law. Under that law, Jews could not fellowship with uncircumcised Gentiles, yet Peter, James, and John were “pillars,” and accepted Paul’s message (without Law) to the

Gentiles! Did they ask him to remember to make the women dress a certain way? Did they ask him to make sure to separate himself from those who did not believe, or any of the other Laws that Moses gave? No! They asked him to remember the poor!

Now this gets very interesting. It is an example of what a True Christian should do, and is the very thing that we are doing at this moment. Paul stood for the freedom in the Gospel, refusing to be bound by the Law that had been made obsolete. Though Peter is regarded as a saint, and though his writings are in the Bible, Paul stood up against even him to preserve our freedom!

But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas (Peter) before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Think about this! For you and me, Paul stood firm against even Peter! He called the rest of them hypocrites! Like today, these Jews were picking and choosing which of the Old Covenant Laws that they wanted to deny, yet were imposing other laws upon the Gentiles! Paul called them hypocrites because they were not practicing what they preached!

Today, we have the exact opposite. False teachers, Gentiles, trying to enforce Old Covenant Law on us, also Gentiles, when they themselves are not Jews!

So you ask, if these Laws are not our “boundaries,” how then can we be saved? If you’ve “snipped out” verses in this chapter, it might be confusing! But if you just continue to read, Paul answers this question:

To the Jews, Paul says this: We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Let's repeat that last part: "By works of the Law, NO ONE will be justified!"

Preachers today tell us to "clean up our lives," and by this, they take legalistic doctrines from the Mosaic Law – and not even the entire Law – and impose them on the congregations! They impose what Paul called "dead works!" According to this statement by Paul, they are uselessly babbling in vain, because NO ONE will be justified by the things that they do!

So how do we justify ourselves? Keep reading!

But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

Let's pause here. What did Paul "tear down?"
The Law!

This is a very solemn statement. Paul says that if he rebuilds what he tore down, he would be a "transgressor!" This means that every pastor in every legalistic church that has denied the freedom of Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ is a transgressor of the Law!

Paul says that he had “died to the law,” he no longer follows it! Why? Paul says so that he can “Live to God!”

Here’s how:

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Let’s repeat the last verse of this chapter. It is the most important verse in the paragraphs of this chapter, because it is warning us of denying the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

So I ask you: Have we denied the Gospel of Jesus Christ by following men who tried to take away our freedom? Have we decided to believe that Christ died for no purpose, thinking we have a “better way” than simple Faith in Jesus Christ? Do we *really* think that we can live such a sinless

life that we can do better than what Christ did for us on the Cross? Do we even keep these rules? How many watch television even though the false teacher told us not to?

Have we accepted the freedom in Christ, or have legalistic false teachers placed us in shackles?

Works-Righteous Shackles of Asceticism

Hebrews 6 a chapter many of you may be familiar with, though it is a very strange read while you've been programmed with the teachings of William Branham. Many of the verses in this chapter are used "to take a context" as he called it, but are astounding if you read them in the actual context in which they were written.

Branham particularly liked the verse containing "its end is to be burned." Many times, when speaking about 'demons,' especially in his healing campaigns, Branham would use this scripture.

In 1953, a sermon entitled 'Demonology', Branham claimed that God Himself showed him that verse:

And the Lord come down in His mercy and showed me. Here's where it was. It has to be Scriptural first. He said, "Pick up your Bible." And I picked up my Bible. And I guess I held that Bible for ten minutes without anybody--any more Word coming. I waited just a few minutes. I heard Him say again, "Turn to Hebrews 6 and start reading." And I did. And when it come down there where it said, "The rain cometh oft upon the earth to water it and prepare it, dress it for which it's... but the thorns and thistles, which is nigh unto rejection,

whose end is to be burned..." And I caught it right there. I thought, "There it is. Thanks be to God. There it is." See?

Branham also liked the third verse, speaking about those who fell away never to return. In fact, he preached an entire sermon with the title, "Hebrews Chapter Six - Three."

You see, Branham taught that each "age" had just a little truth. Throughout the church ages and their dates that Branham copied from Clarence Larkin, Branham taught that they had a "little truth," but the "seventh age messenger" would "restore all things" to the foundation laid by the prophets.

He often lined up the ones he felt were the "trail of the Gospel, and spoke their names with almost a little jingle behind them. In 1964, he says this:

Down through the years, Luther, Wesley, Martin Luther, and all, Sankey, Finney, John Smith, Knox, all stumbled at It. But what's it to be done in the last days? What is "to reveal"? "Bring forth!" What's Malachi 4 to do? To turn back the people from that stumbling block, to break down the traditions, and to reveal the Bread with the Shekinah Glory. Watch It ripen and produce just exactly what It said It would do, oh, my, the

Shewbread for this age. To the denomination, a stumbling block, "a bunch of fanatics." But, we who believe! But now as Revelations 10 has promised, "All the mysteries of God, that's been hid in the pages down through them years, would be ripened, brought forth in the age of the seventh angel's Message." Is that right?

Interestingly, when you read all of this in context, Paul seems to be preaching against those like William Branham who tried expanding on the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul's proclamation of the Gospel is summed up in this one statement, which is repeated in example all throughout his works:

*For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2:8*

Let's read Hebrews Chapter Six to see the real meaning of the many one-liners Branham pulls out of this chapter align with Paul's original intention:

Paul says this: Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Just like he said to the Ephesians, Paul spoke against trying to make yourself righteous by works, the things that you do to make yourself more “holy.” Paul called these “dead works,” and basically called those who do this “immature.”

Let’s continue:

And of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

It’s interesting that he speaks about washings. Most cult churches still practice “foot washing,” and there is no problem with it. But it has become a cold-formal ritual, and is absolutely nothing like the original intentions.

Christ, by example, was showing his disciples that they should humble themselves to become a servant for others. The servants were the ones who washed the sand of the desert from the feet! In our modern day, we have very little to wash off with the exception of odor from smelly socks!

Paul says that these things we can do if God permits, but they are “works,” and people seem to have stumbled in works and not grown into maturity of Grace.

Let's continue:

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Now this is quite honestly the most powerful statement in the entire chapter. That is likely the reason Branham quoted it so often.

But combined with the beginning of the chapter, we find that Paul is speaking of those who have turned away from Grace, salvation simply by faith in Jesus Christ, and have decided that there is a better way. Paul is speaking against those who add doctrines of "holiness" on top of the basic Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many cult followers have forgotten what the "Gospel" is, so it is important that we describe the Bible's description of the Gospel.

“Gospel” means “Good News.” The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the “Good News” that God sent his Only Son to Earth, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, conquered death, hell, and the grave, and rose again so that we might rise with him. Those who believe in the Gospel have eternal salvation by the Grace of God (Unmerited favor), through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul says, For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Those who do not accept this plan of salvation, and try to add doctrines of “works” on top of it are worthless! Very harsh! Paul realizes this:

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be

sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

The Jews were hung up on works. Paul knew it. And he knew that he was speaking harshly. But, he told them that God was not an unjust God. He would not overlook their devotion to these works and be unmerciful, but there was no need for them!

Paul reminded the people of the covenant that God made with Abraham:

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

So, should our anchor be in a "messenger" that paved the way before us with dead works? Or

should it be in Jesus Christ? Let's see what Paul says:

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

I chose Christ as my High Priest, not William Branham. Which do you choose?

Conclusion

There is one simple Truth: we are all sinners. Those of us who choose Christ are saved, but not by anything that we ourselves have the power to do. Otherwise, why did Christ die on the cross at Calvary?

There is a song I grew up with, "Jesus Paid It All." Many in the cult sang this song, memorized the lyrics and the tune, and made a joyful noise with the melody. Sadly, very few realized the depth of this song. Jesus TRULY paid it all!

There is not a single thing that I can do to "earn" my salvation. Jesus Christ came to die for me, so that I can live with Him! Had Christ not come, I would still be dead in my struggle to live righteously – failing miserably.

Satan is very devious and deceptive. He has slipped asceticism into the churches around the world – in the name of Christ – placing God's children under bondage. He knows that there is no way that they can be Holy by their works, and so he takes the focus away from the Cross. Many have even forgotten what the Gospel of Jesus Christ means, thinking they have to save themselves.

Don't be fooled. Study the Word. God's Word is Truth!

About The Author

John Collins is the author and webmaster of www.seekyethetruth.com.

Almost 36 years in “the Message”, the name of the group of people (cult) following the teachings of William Marrion Branham, John has dedicated his life towards helping those who are still in this cult, and to those who are no longer bound but serving Jesus Christ with many questions. His goal is to remind both groups that we serve a living God who does not look to any organization, doctrine, mystery, or gift of the Spirit; we serve a God who looks at the heart.

His main purpose is to point others back to the Bible, which is the Absolute. All words of men may fail, but the Word of God will never fail. We should put our hearts and minds back on Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that ALL could be saved by grace through faith.

Seek Ye The Truth started as a central place for all cult followers to ask the questions openly and anonymously, many of which they had in their hearts and minds for several years and were afraid to ask. The original goal was to go "hand in hand" with the local pastors, spreading the answers and vindicating the teachings of William Marrion Branham.

As research started to progress, more false teachings were found than truths. More prophecies had failed than had succeeded. None could be proven. Bible teachings came from Gnostic texts and other strange beliefs, and did not line up with the Word of God. Cult pastors had no answer.

While some live normal lives walking "middle ground," many are starting to become very hurt and abused. Many suffer depression. Physical and sexual abuse, and self-condemnation stories started surfacing.

Over time, Seek Ye The Truth slowly transformed from a site of questions into a site dedicated to help those in need. There are almost two million cult followers of William Branham around the world, making it larger than some of the other cult followings, and there are almost no support groups for those desperately seeking help. Please join us as we help others.

God Bless You!

