

360 degrees

Premise

After almost 30 years of Christian faith, after believing the Message of the hour, I have been confronted with various beliefs and doctrines drawn from the Words of the prophet William Marrion Branham. I carry many wounds: divisions, arguments, quarrels, etc., all the fruit of a seed of discrepancy that the devil wanted to sow over the years.

St. Paul teaches us that whoever errs in one point of the law is guilty of all points. How important is it then to observe all the commandments that have been handed down to us? Jesus said, "He who loves Me keeps My commandments."

This study is intended to be as for the edification for the Body of Jesus Christ. Any different opinion must and wants to be respected in the love of Jesus Christ.

We all believe that the Hour Message was sent to prepare the Bride, and many times we use phrases such as: "My absolute", "All the answers are in the Message", etc. But do we really do everything that the Message tells us to do?

A 360-degree message, that's what I want for my life.

May God bless you in your reading.

Study 1

We no longer need churches and Sunday gatherings.

After the descent of the Holy Spirit and the first sermon preached by Saint Peter, 3000 souls gave their lives to Christ. Before that, the feeling of coming together, praying, and worshipping was equally alive in the hearts of those who had walked with Christ. But that day the Scripture says:

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. ACTS 2:41-47

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching; what could they have taught? And if we want to find out, we must go back to that teaching, and know that the prophet of our day, Brother Branham, taught the same things to prepare the Bride for the rapture. For the first time in Acts 11:25-26:

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

What church did they gather in? And what was this church? What is the church today? I will refute here the first point for which some say: "Jesus never spoke of a church or church order." Let's read together what Jesus said before proceeding:

Matthew 18

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

"The Word corrects error," the prophet teaches us.

Tell it to the church? What church? The prophet tells us that the word church means "called out." It's clear, and we will now demonstrate it, that the church is not the walls, the pulpit, or the chairs, but the assembly of people who, locally, form the body of believers who gather. We will talk later about how in every church there were men of God who were recognized (Acts 13:1, for example, doctors and prophets).

But going to church, and going to church and gathering on Sunday morning with other believers, that's what we're talking about. Brother Branham says:

12 And now, tomorrow is Sunday, and there'll be Sunday school, the churches. The reason we have our services in the afternoon, on Sunday, is so we won't interrupt any service at all. We believe that every Christian ought to have a—a home church that they go to. Every Christian ought to meet somewhere with believers. And wherever you meet, that's the church.

*64-0321E - "The Voice Of The Sign"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham*

Here we establish several things:

- * Sunday services
- * Every Christian must have a local church
- * Wherever believers meet, that's the church.

Jesus Himself said in His famous, holy, and pure Word: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." And in what chapter and in relation to what does our beloved Lord speak of it, if not in that chapter 18 of Matthew just quoted above? Precisely where He speaks of the church. He will also say in this verse that if two agree when they ask the Heavenly Father anything, they will receive it. How important is it to stay united then?

Then I hear these thoughts that say the church age is over, and that these traditions are in the past. Traditions? Everything can become a tradition, it's true; going to church, quiet time, a precise schedule to respect, etc. Everything we don't do with our hearts in accordance with His Word is a tradition. But being obedient to His Word will never be. It's true, and I obviously share it, that the prophet said: "Jesus never said to build churches." Indeed, it doesn't speak of the walls, or the place, but of the people, the believers who gather there.

Church age over? Let's hear what the prophet says, and I note that this question arose in 1964 after the opening of the Seals.

391. Brother Branham, have you made statements recently concerning that church age has ended, Laodicea?

74 No, I never said it's ended. If I did, you misunderstood, or I said it wrong. It is...This is the last church age; it's the end of church ages, the Laodicea. It hasn't ended; when it ends, the Church is gone. So as long as the Church is here, it hasn't ended. See?

392. The church age ending and has blacked out, the Bride is called, we have already entered into the tribulation period?

75 No, no, no, you're...I wished that I could just have more time on that. See, see? The Bride, when She's taken from the church, then the church age will cease.

*64-0830E - "Questions And Answers #4"
Reverend William Marrion Branham*

Therefore, if someone wants to refute with other quotes, let them do so, but I remain with these Words. The fact that the prophet often says that Laodicea is finished, done for, dead, does not imply that the age has ceased. We new-born Christians still live in the world, but spiritually we are out of it. Spiritually, the Bride is out of the world of denominations and "should" be free from dogmas and canons of all kinds.

This does not mean, however, that the children of God can no longer gather or will no longer have the desire to gather, sing, pray, and listen to the Word of God together.

But let's go back to Sunday. Sunday is the first day of the week. Christians gathered on the first day of the week to honor the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Obviously, they didn't only gather on Sunday, but as we read above in the Acts of the Apostles, every occasion is good to be together in the Presence of God.

Another question is posed to the prophet, to which he responds very clearly:

*Also do you teach that we must—we must...need not keep Sunday, or any holy day, or—
or working, or like working, or fishing on Sunday?*

124 I believe it's a sin to fish, and hunt, and work on Sunday when you can go to church. Now, I believe you're transgressing the laws of God. "Is there a commandment to such?"

Yes, sir! Now, in the Old Testament we had a type of the Sabbath day. It was all...And Jesus did not come for you to keep Sabbath days. The old Sabbath day was Saturday, which was the end of the week. Sunday is the eighth day, or the first day of the week, which Jesus rose on.

*64-0830M - "Questions And Answers #3"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham*

The prophet even tells us it's "sin," a word he usually only uses in reference to "unbelief." How important was it to him? There are still testimonies that he didn't even shop on Sunday and filled up his car on Saturday so as not to transgress this law. And again:

Do you teach that the Bride must not attend any other church unless you are preaching—preaching or else, otherwise, the tabernacle?

123 No! I don't teach that. I don't believe that; I do not believe it. We've got ministers setting here that's scattered all around through the country, and I believe they are part of that Bride. I believe that a man or woman can go to church anywhere they want to go that teaches the Word. And I believe, if they don't teach the whole Word, and you can't go to church any other place where they teach the whole Word, go where they teach half the Word until you can get to where they teach the whole Word. Go to church whatever you do. Do that.

*64-0830M - "Questions And Answers #3"
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In the book of the seven ages, a type of early church service is described:

Let me make one more note about the Saturdarians who claim that we meet on the wrong day of the week when we meet on Sunday, the first day. Here is what Justin said in the second century. "On Sunday a meeting is held of all who live in cities and villages, and a section is read of the memoirs of the apostles and the writings as long as time permits. When the reading is finished, the president in a discourse gives the admonition and exhortation to imitate those noble things. After this we all arise to offer common prayer. At the close of the prayer, as we have described, bread and wine are placed before us, and thanksgiving made and the congregation answers, "Amen." Then the elements are distributed to each one and are partaken of and carried by the deacons to the house of the absent. The wealthy and willing then give contributions according to their free will and this collection is deposited with the president who therewith supplies orphans, widows, prisoners, strangers in want." Thus we see that those who claim the early church carried on the Judaic tradition of assembling on the last day of the week are grossly ignorant of what history actually sets forth, and are therefore not worthy of confidence.

Some choose to meet on Saturdays, aiming to steer clear of the Sunday tradition of the church. Yet, even this is disproved by this verse. We honour His resurrection on Sunday.

In this quote, a very important thing can be noted. It says that they "read the writings of the apostles, as long as time permitted," and that afterwards there was an exhortation intended to encourage following these noble things. Therefore, listening to portions of tape in church is not wrong. Provided that the preaching of the Word is not neglected according to how the Holy Spirit gives freedom to every servant of God.

These three quotes should make those who disobediently still insist that one can stay home alone, or that there is no longer a need to come together, or even that churches are the place where Christ knocks, tremble.

Dear friend, Christ can still knock on your heart, and if you don't open it, you are no better than Laodicea. A true child of God will desire to gather with others like them. And as we said above, wherever those like them gather, that is the church.

We could talk about church order, we could talk about many things, but I believe in any case that God is not a God of confusion, but of order. I believe that in a community of a certain number there is an absolute need for order, and for this, God made Brother Branham preach "Church Order."

Let's also talk about Hebrews 10:24-25:

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

And many have taken this habit, without reason and without love. What do they truly have in their hearts?

Even those who now only listen to Brother Branham in audio form must obey every Word they hear. Listening alone is not enough. We must be not only hearers, but doers of the Word of God, as Saint James tells us. Otherwise, when the prophet speaks of pastors, deacons, church, etc., we will have to stop our ears and possibly filter these words, because we probably believe that those days are past.

Another thought is: "Soon churches will close, and only those who listen to the message will know what to do, only the true Bride." I tell you one thing, when someone forces me to close our church, then, as the prophet says, "we will go back into caves and basements," but the believers in the country where I live will still be together praising the wonderful Lord Jesus Christ.

They can take away our walls, our chairs, our piano, but they will never take away our brotherly love, which is the characteristic of the bride of this age. Dear friend, do not anticipate the times. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

You may tell me, It takes revelation to understand certain things. I believe that what is written has been revealed, and those who have the Holy Spirit see it and obey. God will not use another channel to speak to you other than His REVEALED Word. Already revelead.

In all of this, another study takes shape that we all must undertake: ministries and gifts in the church. But that's another story.

Now, I have shown you where it has been put in the Word that we must go to church to gather with our dear brothers and sisters. You show me where God has ever taken it away.