

Study 2

We no longer need ministries and preaching

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) **11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:10-16

It is with this verse that I wish to begin my study. If you read carefully, you will find that there is no way around it. This is the Holy Word and it must be believed. Point. Whether you see him or not, or know how to discern a true minister from a false one, it stands between you and God.

How can we take away these holy Words? We are talking about the Bible, we are talking about the solid foundation on which every Message is born, and to which no one must add or take away anything!

The strange and anti-Word doctrines that arise are of the type:

- Ministries are the stars, but now we have the sun and the stars no longer shed light
- We're perfect, so we don't have to be perfected anymore
- And last point this quote that many use, including me in the past, to say that there is no longer a need to preach or minister:

Nor is it even enough that we see the five fold ministry of Ephesians four (apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, pastors). For in each age the church goes astray, and it is not just the laity but the clergy group — shepherds are wrong as well as sheep. Then God brings Himself on the scene as the Chief Shepherd in the ministries of these seven men to lead His people back to the truth and the abundant power of that truth. God is in His people — all of His people, for if any man has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His. And He is the Word. That would be the Word recognized in the people. But He has placed a special leadership in these men of His own choosing and through the determined counsel of His own will. They appear once in each age. It is the same Spirit in them. What a far cry is this from the heresy of Rome.

*(7 - The Sardisean Church Age)
Reverend William Marrion Branham*

Let's try to answer these questions and then start with a series of quotes that will confirm Brother Branham's thought.

The sun or perfection is individual. There is no such thing as a group revelation. So said the prophet. And I believe it. Each member is personally forged by God's grace that includes all that the Word has promised. And in this the principle of the local church takes over. God raises up someone who can guide those believers to that place. Every minister, if he is truly such, will always point out the Word to his loved ones, submitting himself to the messenger of the Hour. Recognizing it as the revealed Word for the age of the Church.

In fact, the above quote does not say that it is not "necessary"! Brother Branham said, "It's not enough." There is a big difference between "necessary" and "enough". If he had said that it is no longer necessary, he would have contradicted himself with the words he will say over the years. But to say that it is not enough is wonderful. Because it's true that every minister is going to have to draw on and show the Word that Brother Branham has already preached.

Notice also how he says that everyone goes astray. Both sheep and shepherds. But this always happens BEFORE God sends the messenger. We are at the stage where the messenger has been sent! And he also says that they appear ONCE in each age. No other messenger or message will come.

The key message is called "Taking Sides With Jesus". 62-0601 I highly recommend listening to it and especially the first 100 paragraphs and seeing if the believers of the Message today apply these teachings. Here are some quotes:

I really think that, and believe and teach, that, men, God has made men leadership of His Church, of His people. See?

*62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham*

Here we establish the fact that it must be men and not machines who lead His Church. They are his words, not mine.

Where you got a group of men, you—you got different ideas. And so, therefore, you've got to have one person that you put confidence in, and elect that person. All work with that.

Just like in the army, you got to have one is a general, that's the headquarters. Captain says this, he's the captain of that group, but then the general can change his orders.

And the Chief Commanding General, of course, is Jesus Christ, in the Church. And His ministers are His captains of the companies, that—that's representing Him here on earth.

*62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverend William Marrion Branham*

Wow! Elect a trusted person? Operate everything with that? Brother Branham, but I thought it was enough to sit back on the couch and listen to you. Brother Branham, are ministers captains? Are you sure?

Yes, as in the army there is order. There is a spiritual hierarchy that God has established.

He goes on to say:

22 I have tried to find now. And I've been studying. I told it out before the congregation. I been studying the early Church. And I watched the way that those anointed men prepared the House of the Lord, and the order of the Lord's worship in the House, and it struck me real, real good. And I preached here some time ago, and upon the subject of Joel 2, "I will restore, saith the Lord, all the years that the palmerworm eaten, and the caterpillar, and cankerworm, and so forth." And I begin to study on that, about what these men did, and the way that they taken care of the Church that God had left them overseer.

23 Now we're going to start off with the early Church, and just bring it for about five minutes now, down to what they did, and then I can show you the vision that I have for the future.

*62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverend William Marrion Branham*

Brother Branham goes back to what was the early church and says it needs to be restored. And that's what we want too, I hope. A prophet here tells us that he is about to show us his VISION for the future. Shouldn't we be careful?

Now he explains to us what St. Paul did:

The—the converts, they had no place to go, so Paul established churches in different parts of the country.

27 Each one of these churches, he left someone who was in order, a man that was trustworthy, a man that was known as a pastor, shepherd. Or, then, after this church then become...Other little churches come out of it. Young men and old men raised up, and become churches out of that. The man that was over the first church was called the bishop. And then his that went out from him, his children, was called shepherds, or pastors. And then...and each group of little churches all would come back to this bishop.

*62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham*

So, the converts had nowhere to go. Do you have a place to go? We are talking about bishops and ministers. This message has produced many ministers. That they then continued on the path of the message is another story. But these children who came out of it were called ministers or pastors.

From paragraph 28 the prophet tells us that the Catholic church broke this. But that needs to be restored again. He says that God has promised to restore him again.

In paragraph 34 he tells us how "we must make imprints on the sand of time", so that others after us can see. That if Paul and John and the others had not given these examples we would not be here today.

When I was a boy I heard believers say that everything is over, that there are no more churches, fraternal communion, the Lord's Supper, ministers. When I gave my heart to the Lord many years ago, He Himself healed the wounds that these reprobates had inflicted on me. Now I don't want to give them to the boys who will come after me. I want to leave a legacy of spiritual richness.

In paragraph 38, the prophet poses a problem that still exists today:

When I went to Bombay, I count that my greatest meeting because of the effects it had on the people. And I...If in Africa, they say thirty thousand came to Christ at one time, then there was a hundred and fifty, or two hundred thousand came to Christ at one time, out of that half a million there. See? What could I do? There wasn't a thing. Perhaps, maybe, say there was, just say, there was a hundred thousand of them. There was no church, nothing I could do. There was nobody to give to them. The Message that I believe, I...There wasn't even a Pentecostal denomination would cooperate with me. And all those souls probably drifted right back into Sikhs, Jains, Buddhism, whatever more they come from. No place to put them. Now, that's a shame. That's a disgrace. See? Because, I had no cooperation, because of the stand that I take. See?

62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham

No church to put converts. A shame, a disgrace, he tells us. And some say, "Well, the Lord is coming, let's just wait for him, or send them records of Brother Branham." Let's find out if that's what he says in this message.

41 Though you know Jesus was coming, thought He was coming tomorrow, yet you'd want to do something today for those people who, fellow citizens of the Kingdom of God, to come together. You want fellowship with them. That's right. So if it's this way...

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And what will happen to young people and our families? Will the Lord come in 1, 2 or 5 years? Listen to what he says:

48 Paul said, "I know it. I know it. But don't break my heart now. Let me finish my course." He was tired. He was finished. And he was going on and leaving his bishopric with Timothy.

49 Now we got to think of young people. We got children. Most of us people here, married men, has children. Well, what about them that's coming on? See?

62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham

52 So we've got to think of the others that's coming on behind us, these young people, and so forth, and a place for our children. Our daughters, we don't want them out in the world, in these things like that. We want them girls raised like their mothers. And we've got to make arrangements for that. And if there is no tomorrow, we don't know that. If there is no tomorrow, we haven't done nothing but been at the Master's business and been found at our post of duty when He does come. See?

62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
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They planted churches to keep watch.

And in paragraphs 83 to 86 it tells us what to do. I will quote, you do what you want with it.

83 And—and then, in there, get training in your own groups, other ministers, men that you see that has a calling in their life, for the ministry. Train them young men. Bring them in here to the elder. All of you set together in a ministerial meeting, and there teach the deeper things of God. Don't go on the bad end. Keep someone who can have confidence in, to be kind of like a—a leader for you. And then, sometimes, if you don't see it just exactly the way he does, goes, that's all right. You're in the Faith, anyhow. Just move along. Maybe when we come together, then, all of us together, we'll pray; the discernment of God come down, and He will give it just exactly what it is, you see, and let us know just how to do it.

84 And in there, churches can go hear, and training up a group of men. And if I'm in evangelistic work somewhere, there is places I can place them, worldwide.

85 What if I was in India, go back to India? There I'd say to these people, maybe, would have thousands of them. Stay there for a week or two, and they see the ministry. They love it. They believe it's the Truth. They come out of heathenism. There I've got...and maybe in two or three weeks.

When I was over there, two nights, and maybe a hundred thousand converted to Christ; nowhere to go. The next day, take a plane and start back to Rome, then to the United States. Leave them just like sheep put out among wolves.

What if I had a group of men, young men trained in the Message, see, to say, "Now, wait a minute. Before I leave here, we're going to set in order these churches. I'll have a man. I've already telegraphed them. They got the money. They're on their road here, right now, to take over this; a good man. There is two or three young men with him, who will be his helpers and assistants"?

86 And a church of this Faith can be set there, which will be an outpost in India, outpost in Germany, outpost in Switzerland. Why, right now, we should have had them all around the nations where I been. And the Message then, from there, comes another, from another comes another. See what I mean?

*62-0601 - "Taking Sides With Jesus"
Reverendo William Marrion Branham*

Here he clearly tells us that we must have: Trained Men, Young Ministers Under the Guidance of the Prophetic Message An outpost in every place in the world.

That some say that they should be sent from Jeffersonville alone is not written anywhere. The headquarters for the message is Jeffersonville, and that's where everything starts. But the call is local and personal to each minister.

I also insert this quote:

349. Now. Brother Branham, is it true that no one should preach but you? We have seen your—we have seen you ordained men. We do—don't believe you would do that if there were not...if they were not to preach.

203 Mercy! Brother, sister, ever who told you that nobody's to preach but me, I'd sure be a poor subject to God with all that. No! Every man or...that feels a call of God upon his life, get into the ministry and start preaching; we need them.

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

I could here again show hundreds of quotations in which Brother Branham emphasizes the importance of preaching. It also tells us that preaching must be confirmed by the supernatural, otherwise it remains only a teaching.

Why are the wonderful words "preach", "pastor", "minister", no longer respected, indeed considered dirty to pronounce, as if they were anathema?

When James 5 says to "call the elders of the church to anoint with oil," I wonder, "Which elders? Which church?"

In our community, we have experienced these things through the Holy Spirit and have seen healings and miracles by His grace. We started at home, listening to the family message on Sunday morning, in obedience to His Word. Then one family is added, and then another, and then someone is converted to the Lord. And slowly He added. It's not fanaticism, it's not taking five believers and making a church. But waiting for the Lord.

But it is the truth, you have to obey.

Many young people come to ask questions about themes of the message. Families ask questions. Yet, they have been listening to the message for many years. I have had the experience that by pointing out to them the truth of the Gospel, and by preaching the Word, we have received clear answers.

It's hard to say, but if you don't accept the channel that God has sent to earth, sooner or later God will no longer speak to you.

Being afraid won't help you. Saying I only listen to the message so I'm safe is not the solution. Because it takes away everything we have read above in the quotes. I believe that every Christian of this day must feed on the Message of the hour individually, woe betide him not to do so, dear friend. But God has sent and will always send men, so it is up to you to recognize them.

First the message, then its ministers subjected to this message, and above all the Holy Spirit, the KING who governs all things. We need each other! Do not ignore His Word.

I have made you clear and I was able to show you where God has commanded to preach. Now, somebody show me where He took it away.