Religion Versus Relationship – Pt. 6: The Idolatry of Church
Sunday, May 23rd, 2021

JOHN 3:19-20
19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

63-0412E - GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY
65) In the beginning, when man sinned, it showed the nature of man. He's always trying to hide from God, and make himself a way that he can feel justified, a religion. That's been a religion, means "a covering." So he tried to make his own religion.

63-1129 - THE SUPER SIGN
66) Adam, he tried to make a super religion without an atonement. They're still trying to do it. A super religion, make a religion so he could live any way he wanted to, without an atonement, and still have a covering. He tried to do it in the beginning, and he is still trying to do it.
67) But God's provided way was an atonement, and it'll never work no other way. It has to come back to an atonement.

I JOHN 1:5-7
5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

65-0829 - SATAN'S EDEN
183) Dear God, laying on this plat-... or those, desk, tonight, where the Gospel has been laid. Lord, here lies handkerchiefs and little parcels that go unto the sick and afflicted. Let the prayer of faith, Lord, fall from our hearts now, in Your sight. Then, Lord, if there be any unclean thing in us, Lord, take our... take us to judgment now; and we plead for mercy. Reveal to us what we're doing wrong, Lord, so we can ask, to take the Blood and cleanse us.

63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED
548) Notice, in this last days, Lucifer is doing the same thing. Can you see it? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] The devil doing the same thing, building up a hybrid church, a hybrid by hybrid members, hybrid by knowledge instead of the Word, by intellectual men instead of born-again men, building an intellectual kingdom that will outshine Christ's little bitty flock. See? What is it that did that? Fallen angels.
549) The Bible said it was fallen angels who listened to Lucifer instead of Christ, Who they once belonged to. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.]
550) Now listen close, "fallen angels." What kind of angels? Luther, Wesley, Catholic, Pentecostals, who kept not their first estate like the Angels did, and has fell into organization, like Lucifer's main hold at Nicaea. And what have they done? Organized a great ecumenical association of ministers, to make "an image unto the beast," as the Bible said. And building a Christian economy that'll close the doors of this church and others like it. See Lucifer at his work? I'm trying to bring you the threefold revelation, or mystery of God.
552) What did they do? Sold out to reasonings of wisdom and education, like Eve did, fallen angels did. Wesley was a man of God; but what followed him? Fallen angels got into it. What was the angels, first?
Creative beings of God, but fell for Lucifer's wisdom, fell for Lucifer--Lucifer's wisdom. And you see what they become? Fallen angels. And organizations, from men of God who has went forth to establish Truths in the earth; before that Truth could go on and proclaimate and get on to the real revelation of Christ, fallen angels come in and took it over and made denominations out of it.

That's the reason the revelation of the Seven-Seal mystery had to be unfolded.

64-0719E - GOING BEYOND THE CAMP

30) More and more, I am made to believe that people are not getting to Christ.

Now, I am here to try to help in every way that I can, and make my statement as clear as I know how to make them. And you suffer with me if you will.

31) As I look and preach across the nation, and watch the people, I am fully persuaded that the people are not getting to Christ. And I believe that it's the enemy that's threwed this hindrance. Because, the reason I believe this, He is not the object that they have been pointed to. They have either been pointed to a dogma, or a doctrine, or a party, or experience, or a sensation, or something like that, instead of being pointed to Christ, the Word. That's why I think that people are resting their Eternal destination upon some dogma, or some sensation. Like, some say, "I danced in the Spirit. I spoke with tongues. I felt fire run over me." And do you know, all those things can be impersonated by the devil?

32) There is just one thing that he cannot impersonate, that's the Word. In the debate, between he and Jesus, each time Jesus defeated him. "It is written," the Word! And I believe, today, that the reason that people are not coming to Christ, is because they are pointed, many of them, to a denomination. "You come join our church." Or, "You read our catechism," or, "Believe our doctrine," or some system of some sort. They are pointed in the wrong way. And their action and the life that they live without Christ, proves in their own life, is vindicated by that very thing.

33) For instance. I don't want to hurt anyone's feeling. But, back and forth, across the nation, I have condemned women wearing short hair. That's the Bible. I've condemned women wearing shorts, using makeups. And every year it gets worse. It shows that there is another finger, somewhere, pointing them some other way. And they're not getting through to Christ. And they say, "We belong to a church. Our church don't..." Don't make any difference what your church believes.

MARK 16:15-20

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

64-0719E - GOING BEYOND THE CAMP

39) I know there is some reason that people are not getting through to Christ. If they would, they wouldn't act like that. Jesus suffered without the gates, that He might sanctify His people with His Own Blood.

Sanctification, comes from a Greek word, compound, which means, "cleaned, and set aside for service." And when God cleans His people with the Blood of Jesus, He cleans them from the filth of the world and sets them aside for service. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Even to the Full Gospel people, has come right back into the rut that they come out of. What was the Pentecostal church, forty or fifty years ago? They cursed, and damned, and ridiculed the churches that they come out of, them denominations. What did they do? "Just like a dog to its vomit, and a
sow to its wallow." They turned right back in the same place that they were hewed from, and now their churches is just as filthy as the rest of them.

41) It was something, as I said this morning. Like, the people are like Peter said, in Saint Matthew 17:4 to 8, where he said, "It's good to be here. Let's build three tabernacles."

42) But the Spirit bade them not to do it. Said, "This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him," and He is the Word. That's Who we're to look to, the Word, not our enthusiasm or something else. "He is My Word; hear ye Him!"

And what did they see after this Voice spoke to them? Even Moses and Elijah wasn't present; neither was there a creed; neither was there anything left but Jesus only, and He is the Word. That's all they seen. Now, "Going without the camp."

65-0829 SATAN'S EDEN

14) Now, let us look now to this great... for a few minutes, this great, sinful day that we're now living in. I don't believe there ever was a day that I've ever read in history... There's been greater days of persecution, when the children of God was put to death on every hand. But to see the deceitfulness of the enemy, we've never had a day like this we're now living. It's the most cunning, deceitful day. And when I see that, it brings this, that, the Christian has to be more on his toe today than he ever was in any age.

15) Now, back in the days of the persecution, of Rome, to the Church; a Christian make a mistake, he went into the arena and was fed to the lions, or something like that, when they found him of being a Christian for his testimony. But his soul was saved, because he was a purely, unadulterated believer in God, and gladly sealed his testimony with his blood. As the veins let loose, or holes in his body, and the blood bleed out, he would scream up, with real loyal faith, and say, "Receive my spirit, Lord Jesus!"

16) But, now, the cunningness of the devil now, makes the people believe that they are a Christian when they're not. There is the thing. You don't have to seal... It's a more cunning day than it would be, than when you had to seal your life away with your testimony. The devil has set every cunning trap that he can, to... He's a deceiver. And Jesus told us, in Matthew 24, how this day would be that we're living in, the most deceitful day that ever lived, "so close that it would deceive the very Elected of God if it were possible for him to deceive."

65-0829 - SATAN'S EDEN

22) The god of this world today, the worshiped person of this world today, is Satan. And the people are ignorant of worshiping Satan, but it's Satan impersonating himself as the church, see, as the church. They worship Satan, thinking that they are worshiping God through the church, but it's the way Satan has done it. "Oh," you say, "but wait a minute; we preach the Word." Look back here at my text, tonight. Satan was the one that preached the Word to Eve, first, "God hath said," see.

24) It's that misconstruing that part of the Scripture that applies to the day. He'll let you know all Jesus did was perfectly well. He'll let you know all that Moses did was perfectly well. But when you take the promises that They gave for this day, then That was applied to another age.

Brass Serpent

NUMBERS 21:6-9

6And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

**65-0119 - THE GOD WHO IS RICH IN MERCY**

91) Now that's just the same thing, I think, that's happened to our church ages. God sent us the message of Martin Luther with his message, John Wesley, the Pentecostal message, but what did we do with it? **The very same thing that they did with that brass serpent, we idolized it, "I belong to this, and I belong to that." You see, you belong to something without the sincerity that's connected with genuine godly worship of the Word.**

92) What happened? The Bible, we are told in the Bible, that, "The prophet took that idol and destroyed it." Hallelujah!

93) What we need on the scene today is a prophet that will destroy the idol of denominations, **that thinks they're going into Heaven upon belonging to some creed or a denomination; needs to be destroyed and burnt up, threwed away.** God is full of mercy. He is rich in mercy. In the day that when we would have all been in that chaos of darkness out there, but God, rich in mercy, has sent us the real genuine Holy Ghost, with His Own interpretation to It, right here in the building every night. God, rich in His mercy, how wonderful we find Him to be! Yes, sir.

94) Now all they thought they could do was to just go to this snake, or this little thing that God had made out there, had Moses to make and hang on a pole, and they could be healed without any sincerity. They just stood and looked at it. And they got to idolizing it, and God sent a prophet along and destroyed it.

95) Now, all that refused to look at that serpent in the wilderness, they perished. Now God makes a way, but if you refuse to look at it, if you will sit across the street, if you will hold onto some creed and refuse to look straight into the Word and see whether It's right or not; all that refused to look, they perished. And God is a never-changing God. And all who refused to look, perished. So is it today, the same thing.

96) Then the people sinned later, and as they've always did, and made the idol out of--out of it, making it a... get, trying to get healing without sincerity, and they "belonged to something," and the way we do today. And now we see then, the difference of it, was, that God...

97) It was a good atonement and a good sign for that time. That time, it was all right. But it was just to be for that time, for that journey. That's all it will work for, that journey.

98) And the message that Martin Luther brought, of justification, was all right for Luther's age. That's as far as it went. Sanctification was fine in Wesley's age. That's as far as it went.

100) Then we come into the Pentecostal age. And the restoration of the gifts is a very fine thing, it was fine in the age, but we are going beyond that now. We are beyond that, just as sure as there is a world. **We've got to become beyond this thing, because we have done the same thing with it that they did before, make an idol out of it. "I belong to this order of it, I belong to that order of it."**

101) God will send somebody that will smash the thing and tear it to pieces, and confirm His Word, the full Word. Notice. Praise be to God! Now we see that that's true. God, rich in His mercy!

**65-0829 - SATAN'S EDEN**

33) And that's why Satan has done this. And he has worked through the ministry to do it, as God promised he would do. Now, **he began by a religious deceit in Eden, and has continued ever since.**

34) Not by setting up a bunch of communists. Communists has nothing to do with this. **It's the church, that's where you have to watch, see. It's not the communists that would deceive the very Elected. It's the church that'll deceive the very Elected, see. It isn't communists; we know they deny God, and they're antichrist, sure they are, in principle, but they are not the antichrist. The antichrist is religious, very religious, and can quote the Scripture, and make It look so plain.**
II CORINTHIANS 4:3-7
3But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

65-0829 - SATAN'S EDEN
100) Now, by unbelief, in no taking all the Word of God, has brought a seed of unbelief, unholy, sinful, hatred, and Eternal death is in this sinful, intellectual church age. Now you got it? In this day, that when the whole world is religious! Did you know that? The whole world is religious. And in this religious age, big churches on every corner; everything, the whole thing winds up in Satan being worshiped.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST - CHURCH AGE BOOK
15-3) Now remember this. Christ in the True Church is a continuation of the Book of Acts. But the Book of Revelation shows how that the antichrist spirit would come into the church and defile it, making it lukewarm, formal and powerless. It exposes Satan, revealing his works (attempted destruction of God's people and the discrediting of God's word) right down to the time he is cast into the lake of fire. He fights that. He cannot stand it. He knows that if the people get the TRUE REVELATION of the TRUE CHURCH and what she is, what she stands for and that SHE CAN DO THE GREATER WORKS, she will be an invincible army. If they get a true revelation of the two spirits within the framework of the Christian church, and by God's Spirit discern and withstand the antichrist spirit, Satan will be powerless before her. He will be as definitely thwarted today as when Christ withstood his every effort to gain power over Him in the desert. Yes, Satan hates revelation. But we love it. With true revelation in our lives, the gates of hell cannot prevail against us, but we will prevail over them.

60-1211M - THE TEN VIRGINS AND THE HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR THOUSAND JEWS
220) All right, now, during this church age. Oh, here's something so beautiful. I like this so well. During these church ages, there is two spirits working almost alike right down through here; one is the denomination, the other one is the Holy Ghost. And Jesus said, "They were so close that they would deceive the very Elected if it was possible." These two spirits are marking their people for future judgment. Satan promised that his... that he would have more than Christ, and he has. Now, watch this real, real close now as we get to this: more than it would be, marking the people.
221) Many are like Eve. Eve just stopped long enough to be deceived. If she hadn't have stopped, there'd have never been no deceiving. But Eve stopped, and when she stopped, there's where she got her deceiving. Instead of pressing on and... Do you follow me close now? Listen! The reason that Eve was deceived... Let's say it together, so I'll be sure you got it. [Brother Branham and congregation speak in unison—Ed.]: "The reason Eve was deceived, she never kept the full Word of God." Satan quoted It to her, but he never told her all the Truth. Neither does his denomination. See? But she stayed long enough to get part of the Word, and didn't take all the Word. And that's what's the matter today, the sleeping virgin stayed long enough to get part of the Word but not all the Word. The deceived church stays long enough to get part of the Word but not all the Word, and they were sincere and honest about it. Eve was deceived! The Bible said, "She was deceived."

MATTHEW 24:24
24For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
65-0218 - THE SEED IS NOT HEIR WITH THE SHUCK
89) Notice, see how close it looks. Matthew said, Saint Matthew 24:24, said, that, "The two spirits in the last
days," the church spirit of the church people, and the Bride Spirit of the Bride people, "would be so close
together till it would deceive the very Elected if it was possible." That's how close.

I JOHN 4:1-3
1Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are
gone out into the world. 2Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is
come in the flesh is of God: 3And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of
God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it
in the world.

65-0725M - THE ANOINTED ONES AT THE END TIME
52) These trees, the true vine and false vine! You've heard me preach on that since, from years ago, how
they've growed up together. Brought them in individuals and showed that, from Cain and Abel, the two vines
that met at an altar; both of them religious, both of them anointed, both of them desiring life, and worshiping
the same God. And one was rejected and the other received. And the only way that the one that was received
could have done anything different from his brother, it was revealed to him. For the Bible said, "By faith..."
Hebrews, 11th chapter, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than that of Cain, which
God testified that he was righteous." Jesus, said, the spiritual revelation of Who He was! "Who does man say I
the Son of man am?" He said, Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
"Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonas; flesh and blood never revealed this to you. My Father which is in
Heaven has revealed it. Upon this rock I'll build My Church," (what?) the true revelation of the Word. There is
the true Vine again. "Abel, by faith!"

65-0725M - THE ANOINTED ONES AT THE END TIME
57) The true vine and the false vine, both had the same anointing. The water fell on both of them. No
wonder He warned us, "It would deceive the very Elected if it was possible."
58) Notice, they look the same. They're anointed the same. But notice, "By their fruit..." How do you
knowed it? How you know that isn't an orange? Because it's bearing a grapefruit. That vine is all right, it's
living in the tree, but it's bearing a grapefruit. It isn't like the first one.
And if a church says they "believe Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever," and deny His
Power, deny His works, deny His Word; if... The Church that believes in Jesus Christ, will do the works of Jesus
Christ, it'll have the Life of Jesus Christ. And if it isn't, no matter if the Life is pouring into it; if it isn't
predestinated, from the roots, it'll bear grapefruit every time, or something different. But if it's the
predestinated Life, in the roots, it'll bear Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever, if it's the Word
coming up through the Root. Which, He is the Root, the beginning of time.
59) Notice, but it's what they produce that tells you the difference. "By their fruit," Jesus said, "you shall
know them." "Man does not gather grapes off of a thistle," even though the thistle be right in the grapevine.
That could be possible, but the fruit will tell it.
What is the fruit? The Word, for the fruit for the season. That's what it is, their teaching. The teaching of
what? The teaching of the season, what time it is. Man's doctrine, denominational doctrine, but, or God's
Word for the season?

MATTHEW 16:13-18
13When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I
the Son of man am? 14And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others,
Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED
490) Not say, "My church..." Now, "my church" has nothing to do with it.
491) It's an individual, one person! All hell is against this Teaching. All hell is against this Truth, but it is the Truth.
492) Jesus never said, "Now, Peter, you and John, and all the rest the people, you've got the revelation, now the whole church is saved." No.
493) It was to him, personally. "I say unto thee, thee," not to them, "to thee, thou art Peter; upon this rock I'll build My Church." And the word Peter, means "a stone." Stone means "the confessed one," or, "the separated one."
494) Upon a certain stone, upon a certain thing; see, a called-out, the Church called out; upon this stone, upon this "revelation." "Flesh and blood never revealed it to you. But upon this revelation, called-out group, I'll build My Church in them. And all the gates of hell will never be able to withstand it."