



**MY GOSPEL BECOMES OUR GOSPEL**

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It is so good to look into the Word of God this morning, and we thank Him for keeping us this past week and for His many, many blessings too numerous to mention. In one day His blessings are too numerous to mention because He gives us air to breathe, food to eat, water to drink, and gives us the fellowship of God's saints. He just gives us so many things that we can't name them all. He has been doing this all my life and I'm sure you could say the same. Even when we didn't know what we were doing, He did, and that's the main thing. When we didn't know where we were going, He did, and when we didn't know what to do, He knew. That's why He wants us to be led by the Spirit; and at the times when we are not yielded to the Spirit just right to be led by the Spirit, He overshadows that lacking and works things out for us because He saw us before the foundation of the world. The Bible says, "He knew the end from the beginning." So with that being said, He wrote the book and put our names in the book and by His foreknowledge He predestinated us. Whom He predestinated, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified. We are waiting for the glorified body part of this to be fulfilled and as sure as He did the other part, so will this be.

We are reading from 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, and I want to take this thought, *My Gospel Becomes Our Gospel*. I don't have any notes written down and didn't even have a title until I got up here, so we'll just have to see how it works out as we go along in this message. We'll also see how the leadership of the ministry was projected and how God put it on the scene. In the final stage of it we will see how it becomes all inclusive, and then it is what God reveals to us and not just what God reveals to me. This is the body of Christ, and we all have the mind of Christ. In order to get us to this point, He used a ministry to get out there in front and then it becomes all inclusive as we get to the end time when all the members of the body becomes partakers and we are united together, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. I want to look at Paul as his ministry started out and as he spoke specifically of *my gospel*. Then later on we find him letting loose a bit as God included other men of God such as Timothy, Titus, Apollos, and others as this gospel began to go forth; then it was very appropriate to say *our gospel* as Christ anointed faithful men to preach Paul's gospel. When God struck Paul down on the way to Damascus with a great light, Christ spoke to him and said, "Paul, I want you to be a light to the Gentiles." But later on when people began to look beyond Paul, he said, "Some of you say, I'm of Paul, others of you say, I'm of Cephas (Peter), and others say, I am of Apollos." Some were saying, "Apollos is my preacher, not Paul." While others were saying, "I'm going to follow Peter, he's my preacher." Paul said, "You're only looking to the human flesh. You have to look beyond the flesh and see where the Word is coming from." I've often said, "If the only thing you see is Ben Howard, then you are not looking at the right one. You need to look into the spirit and see where the word is coming from, because my words have to be anointed to be profitable." God has to give a revelation of the Word. Paul said, "You're carnal when you only see a man speaking." That's

why he said, "I planted, Apollos came along and he watered; but it takes God to give the increase." You can plant a seed in the ground and you can water that seed, but unless God blesses that seed it's not going to produce much because that's the way God ordained it. So is it with the Word of God. So Paul starting out had the mind of Christ; but God giving him the mind of Christ didn't mean for him to keep that mind of Christ only within his head but go preach it to others. He gave Paul a gospel that Christ could use to bring us to the place where we would all have the mind of Christ, and that is what this message is all about as we are now the wife of Christ.

Before reading the scripture let us pray. *Heavenly Father, I pray you bless the Word this morning and come and make your Word live. Lord bless us as one to stand to speak the Word knowing that only by your anointing and your blessings can I speak something that would benefit your people. Lord, I just pray you will grant it in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

We are reading in 2 Timothy 2:1-2, "*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*" Now Paul is calling Timothy his son here. He wasn't his natural son, but he was someone that believed him and accepted the message. "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses,*" Watch the mind of Christ as it came through Paul and him preaching the Word. First, God put it in a vessel. He put it in Paul, but Paul wasn't to keep it; therefore, watch what he says – "*the same commit thou to faithful men, (it spread out) who shall be able to teach others also.*" This was the mind of Christ as it went forth and it came first through Paul. Paul said many things such as, "*I am the apostle to the Gentiles,*" "*That which is behind in the afflictions of Christ in my flesh.*" "*I've fought a good fight, I've kept the faith.*" He's saying, "God used me to bring something, and this something that I brought is the mind of Christ to get you espoused (engaged) to Christ." It started out with *my* gospel. Going on to Verse 3, "*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*" Now I want you to notice that verse. There's hardness, there's hard times, this is not always a flowery bed of ease and you have to endure hardness as a good soldier, otherwise, the first little trial that comes along could sidetrack you.

Now I want to look at some of the things that the Lord has done here among us. Ever since I have been ministering, I have lived within twenty miles of where I'm standing right now, of course I've traveled some in preaching; but the point is God has been establishing something here. He's not establishing just for me, but He has put something here telling us as Paul told Timothy to endure hardness as a good soldier. Don't give up and don't be this way one year and then next year preach another way, regardless of what people do or say, stay right with it. Endure hardness and stay right with the Word, because this is the mind of Christ. It's left in our hands, given into our hands to preach this Word so that the mind of Christ can be spread to all the body of Christ. So if we preach something one year, and then the next year we preach it different, preach it another way, then it shakes the foundation. But God has given us a good foundation to build on, something we can look at and see; and we can see the trials this message has come through over the many years and has never wavered.

I began to preach many, many years ago, more than fifty years, and there's been much loneliness at times, even sometimes feeling forsaken, but one thing has been constant – whatever happened, whatever the trial might have been, its never deviated; but its stayed right with it. Look at this message as the Lord has ordained it to be put on tape, in book form, now on the internet with the website; and you can look at it and see the growth pattern in it as it

grew in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. We see that it hasn't been something where we got a revelation way back there and stopped. No; we've grown in grace and we've moved up as God would move us. That is what is important about this gospel, and now the whole world can see the consistency of it.

Years ago in the early 1960s, I began associating with a group and God revealed to us about the prophet Brother William Branham. It was so good and so great. Then as I got with that group they all began rejoicing about it saying, "Brother Ben believes the message," and we all were being blessed by the preaching of the Word. But they got to a certain place and stopped, they refused to move on with God. It was during this time I was preaching a five fold ministry and that God would use a five fold ministry as He said per Ephesians 4:11-12, *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."* Well, the pastor at the church where I was attending and preaching quite a bit at the time couldn't move on with God's Word. I would preach the five fold ministry is given for the perfecting of the saints and he would call me aside and say, "Brother Howard, I know the scripture says that about a five fold ministry and I believe it, but I believe it happened somewhere back in time. If you'll read in the Word you will see that God sent a prophet and that prophet was to finish all the mysteries of the Bible, and I believe you are putting a little too much emphasis on a five fold ministry. We've got the prophet and there is not going to be anymore prophets and the Word doesn't come to anybody but a prophet." Well, I said, "Okay, I'll take a second look at it." I was trying to find my way. I just couldn't put what they were saying in the Word and make it line up and dove tail together with New Testament scripture. So at the time in the early 1960s and then on up to the mid 1960s after the death of Brother William Branham and coming on down through time, I couldn't put it together. I couldn't make it work. I said, "Someway or the other this has to work because the Word has to be right, and if I build on something I have to see it in the Word. I know that God did a great thing, He sent a prophet and he was the messenger to the seventh church age, but someone is not getting it right because the Word says, "First apostles, **second prophets.**" I prayed and said, "Lord, you know that I want to follow you through the Word, but this is not fitting right with the scriptures." At this time, I was teaching at a church on most Sunday mornings with a group and I told them about my concerns about the teaching that the Word of the Lord comes only to the prophet, and that it did not fit scripture concerning the New Testament ministry of Ephesians 4:11. The pastor disapproved of what I was teaching because he was preaching that the prophet finished all the mysteries of the Bible. He told me that the two of us couldn't be preaching two different things in the same church. So I said, "I understand your position and you are the pastor." After this I decided to resign from teaching on Sunday mornings and came over here to the church in Dawsonville, continuing to minister and this was getting into the mid 1960s. I had begun to pray more, seek God more, and fast more. Then near the end of 1969, I stopped the job I was doing which was raising broiler chickens. Most of you already know the story where the Lord met with me there in the chicken house and told me this would be my last bunch of chickens, and it's very clear as you know all about it. You don't have to say, "How do I know that's right? How do I know that took place?" See, you were here. You were eye witnesses of a message that started out. Brother

Clifford here is among the eyewitness from my birth and on as to what God has done for us in getting this gospel to where it is today.

Now it was near the end of 1969 coming into 1970 when I decided, "Lord, I need an answer. If I am going to preach, if I'm going to be a servant for you and if I'm going to carry the Bible around, then I have to be able to put it together and answer the questions. If I'm going to be part of it I've got to see it right, and see what you are talking about." At the time, I lived in a little mobile home (trailer) and so I began to pray and fast for 40 days and nights taking only water, just praying, listening to a lot of Brother Branham's tapes, Brother Raymond Jackson's tapes, some of my own tapes, and reading the Bible. It was like I was against a blocked wall. I couldn't see the end game we would say. I couldn't see exactly what I needed to do, but I knew something didn't feel right when they would say, "The Word doesn't come to anybody but a prophet." In the first place, it wasn't in the Word, and to say that Brother Branham finished all the **mysteries** of the Bible, that wasn't in the Bible. But he did finish a **mystery** (a singular mystery), which was the mystery of the kingdom of heaven, meaning the church ages. We find within the church ages there were many mysteries that related to the church ages, but that's not all the mysteries of the Bible; that was clearing up the mystery of Revelation 10:7. So I began to fast and pray, "Lord, how can that be? Your Word says a five fold ministry; apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Lord, we see in your Word that you sent seven church age messengers and here's this last messenger, a prophet, and he's given us the Word for this last church age as you said He would. Lord, it's being said we don't need anything else and there's not anything else coming." That's what I was being taught, but it didn't feel right. I tell you, if you're the wife of the Lamb and you hear something wrong it's just not going to feel right, and when you hear the truth it will be like it was with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus when they said one to another, "*...Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*" (Luke 24:32) If you are His and it's Him doing the talking, your heart is going to burn within you. If it is just the preacher talking with his own ideas or opinions, then something is just not going to feel right about it. So I began to fast and pray seeking God, and then all of a sudden on the 38th day of the 40 days fast there came a Voice in the room. If you would have been there you might not have heard it; but to me it was just as audible as it could be, as these words were said, "He was an Old Testament type prophet." When that was said, I thought, "Who is he?" Then the thought came to me, "What are you praying about?" I had been praying, "How does this fit Lord? I can't put it all together; I can't put it in your Word, but I know that if it's right somewhere or another it has to fit in your Word." Then the understanding came to me, that in the Old Testament the Word did come to the prophet, the Word of God came to Ezekiel, the Word of God came to Elijah, and the Word of God came to Amos. See, God had promised in the Book of Malachi and the Book of Luke that He would send Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord and that He would turn the hearts of the children back to the faith of the fathers. He said if He didn't do it, He would have to smite the whole world with a curse, because we had to get out of this denominational mess we were in and get to Christ. So the Voice said, "He was an Old Testament type prophet." Okay, now, that began to give me something to go on. If he's an Old Testament type prophet, then his ministry is not going to be identified as a New Testament ministry; he wouldn't be identified as a New Testament prophet of the Ephesians 4:11 order in

the New Testament. So I came out of the fast with the answer that I needed as the Lord gave it to me and helped me get it all together. Then I wrote the little booklet with the first publication being in the spring of 1970 entitled *An Old Testament Prophet Comes to a New Testament Age*. So now it is a known fact that we have had an Old Testament type prophet here in this last day. But what happened was as Brother Branham would say often, "The Word doesn't come to anybody but a prophet," so by him making this statement it should have let us know that he was not a prophet of the Ephesians 4:11 order, but many people took what he said without seeing how it fit in the scriptures. So I began to preach that Brother William Branham came as an Old Testament type prophet and that there was still a New Testament ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers that was for the perfecting of the saints. Brother Branham's ministry was not a perfecting ministry, as his ministry was to call us out of denominations and turn us around. Well, most all of the followers of Brother Branham turned away from me and wouldn't have anything to do with me, and many of them still don't today because they think I am going against what the prophet said. But one of the things Brother Branham always said was, "Stay with the Word." That's why I always say you can't go against the Words of Christ. We are all in this together showing the one mind. What I preach, you add to, you encourage, and you give me revelational nuggets; because now it's not just my gospel but it is our gospel. We are all part of the same thing, the end time Word made flesh.

After this 40 days fast and visitation from the Lord, many of the followers of Brother Branham turned away. Of course, I had already heard about Brother Raymond Jackson and the Word that he was preaching, which was taking us a step further, and I began to associate there somewhat. Then he came here to the church in Dawsonville a couple of times for meetings. That was in the 1970s and we moved on in revelation and we rejoiced in further truth. Soon after this, he began to say that seven thunders were seven (additional) men to come. Someone had asked him, "Brother Jackson, what are the seven thunders of Revelation, Chapter 10?" His first answer was this, "In my opinion, it's seven men that are going to rise up in different parts of the earth and they are going to come and put the finishing touches on everything." In other words, "they'll put the icing on the cake" it began to be said. Well, I couldn't go along with that because it didn't fit scripture. If He is going to perfect the church using the five fold ministry, where in the Bible do they get it that he is going to send seven men here at the end time and we'll follow those men and they'll say something that is going to get us out of here? Well, that was getting out into no-man's land; it wouldn't fit on Paul's foundation. The thunders were the seven Spiritual angels that were with the seven church age messengers (men) throughout the seven church ages, and gave them a message in each respective age as they came through time. The seventh messenger, Brother Branham, was on the scene at this time and all seven Spiritual angels met him in Arizona in 1963 and sounded their voices right through this seventh church age messenger's voice. (Note: you can read about this mysterious cloud in the 1963 edition of *Life Magazine*) That is where we get the picture of the face of the Lord in the cloud.

As this became clearer, I had to speak with our precious Brother Jackson about this strange idea. I told Brother Jackson face to face, a good Brother, about this inconsistency knowing that I had gotten much revelation from him. It was not to disrespect the man of God, but was intended to be faithful to the Word of God and my conscience. So I said to him at one of the church conventions they were having in Indiana, "Brother Jackson, I can't see it in the Word

what you're saying about seven more men coming." He said, "It doesn't make a bit of difference Brother Ben, let's go eat," because they were serving dinner. But after this, he wouldn't have much to do with me. The people that followed Brother Jackson said, "If Ben disagrees with Brother Jackson, I don't want anything to do with him." Well, I had to endure hardness. Yes, a lot of people turned away from me, but I had to stay with that Word. See, that is what Paul is telling Timothy here, "Endure hardness as a good soldier." You have to stand, you can't be wishy-washy. There's a Word, there's a message. God's aim here in this end time is to get a wife for His Son. Paul said, *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you (this was to be a future event) as a chaste virgin to Christ."* (1 Corinthians 11:2). This message that I am preaching is the presenting of the wife to Christ. That's why we read many times in Ephesians, Chapter 4, about the five fold ministry for the perfecting of the saints. That's why this ministry is going to get out there, blasting this Word forth and push back the frontier to get us to the place where we see the marriage of the ministry and all the other members of the body and that's what Ephesians 4:13 means. Until a certain time, then it will become all inclusive. You have this ministry for the perfecting of the saints till we reach the fullness of the stature of the perfect man Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 4:11-16) Then we completely blend together with the ministry. We began to speak the truth in love, edifying one another, and every joint is supplying the other. It's not just the ministry out there, it is all of us. That is when My Gospel Becomes Our Gospel. It's not just Brother Ben's gospel, but it's our gospel. "You are our epistles, written and read of all men; you are the Word."

Listen as Paul tells Timothy in Verse 4, *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* That is a good one there. The affairs of this life we don't want to entangle ourselves too much with them, because the Word says, "You are not your own, for you are bought with a price," and the price was paid at Calvary. You belong to Him, so don't entangle yourself with the things of the world to the extent that it takes you away from the things of God. Some people think like this when they have certain things to do, they automatically use this as an excuse, "I have this to do, and I have that to do." But if you are a real child of God; a soldier that is bought with a price and know you are one of His, then you can do those things you have to do, while putting Christ always first and foremost in every decision you make. You cannot make a decision and put Christ second, "Lord, I'm going to serve you, but I have to do this first." If you can't do it and serve God, then don't do it. That is the way we all have to do all our lives, to do what is right. When I quit raising chickens and moved into the mobile home to obey God, I then began the 40 days fast where the Lord gave me the revelation and message of *An Old Testament Prophet Comes to a New Testament Age*. I was in the chicken house, and I have told this many times and don't mean to be repetitious; but I want to show this is real and you can have complete confidence in it. It is not something some man formulated in his mind and planned it out, because man can't plan fifty years ahead. Then it comes right down the line all the way to this hour and everything has worked out just like it was said. Right now, you can't plan three days ahead because of the way things are happening in the Middle East and all the rest of the world. It is hard to plan anything with the way the economy is now. God wants us to see what He started more than fifty years ago, and it has not failed or wavered and only God can do that. If you will keep your hand in the nail scarred hands of the man that stills the water, then you're all right, being led by the

Spirit. In the chicken house there stood someone that looked just like me and he said, "Do you know me?" And these words came from within me, I said, "Yes, I've looked for you all my life." He said, "This shall me your last bunch of chickens." See, you can't put anything before the Lord. Yes, I was making a good living raising chickens and it wasn't hard work, but it was tying me down to the point where I couldn't maneuver around as far as the freedom I needed to fully obey in preaching the gospel. Everything had to be second place in my life, and the Lord Jesus Christ first place. That is the way it is with all Christians at the end time. There cannot be anything, husband, wife, children, or whoever, or whatever, cars, houses, or lands, wealth or riches; but it is the Lord Jesus Christ first.

So we have to put Him first and as we do, we are baptized; this message causes a baptism into the body of Christ. Now there is water baptism. It's the first phase, and sinners can be baptized as well as Christians. There's the first baptism, and quoting what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:17, *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with the wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."* Then there's the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is given to lead and guide us to deeper truths of the Word, and on to the baptism into the body of Christ to the point where we become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. This is the wife's baptism and that is done by this message, by taking all our minds together and making the one mind which is the mind of Christ. It is not the mind of a man; it's the mind of Christ and we all get the mind of Christ as the Word is preached. So, now we see it's not My Gospel, but it is Our Gospel. It becomes ours instead of just mine. It has become our revelation. God gives us all revelation. I have been speaking about this especially for the last few years or more, "Let God lead you, let God quicken the Word to you and share it with us what God reveals to you, because it's not one man, it's not just my gospel, it's our gospel." When Timothy and Titus went out preaching what Paul preached, it wasn't so much Paul's gospel; but it was their (our) gospel. I remember when we were over in Africa riding in the car and talking as we were going from one meeting to another. Brother Enoch said, "This is not just your revelation Brother Ben, but it's mine. God has given it to me." In other words, he heard it, he believed it, he got it, and it's his. He said, "And I am going to run with it." Then we said, "Run with it Brother Enoch," and that is what he has been doing ever since. He doesn't have to ask me or anybody else because the Lord is controlling this. We all speak the same thing! In Paul's day, if someone came speaking something else, he said, "Mark them that cause divisions and avoid them." (Romans 16:17). Then in 2 John 1:10 it says, "If someone comes to your house and they don't bring this gospel, don't bid him Godspeed." Paul was trying to make it work by giving strict orders knowing it had to be in complete unity, but it wasn't marriage time and the mind of Christ had not taken effect for the wedding. Well, I'm saying this, "In our day, God will give you the mind of Christ." We know this that only those that God gives the mind of Christ will understand and see this. We don't argue with them. Why? Because they can't see it unless it is revealed to them, and they have to get that mind of Christ in order to understand. They can have a different mindset and you can talk to them all day, and when you get through talking to them they'll say, "That man is mad," they will think you're crazy. But God gives you the same mind and you know this isn't crazy. You know that you've not gone mad. You know this is the Lord speaking, leading, guiding, and working things out according to His Word."

*My Gospel has become Our Gospel.* When it was first established we could say, "My Gospel," because it had to be established first before we could say, "Our Gospel." It had to be brought through all the trials and hard times to show that this was for real. Years ago God gave me a dream, and in the dream I was trying to get a vehicle up a mountain and I was pushing hard. I would move it a little bit at a time, scotch it, and move a little more. The mountain was very high and different preachers would come by and they would say, "I will help you push this." Well, they pushed on it for awhile and we gained a little bit, but they left and no one would really get in and help to push this gospel to the top. So I had to labor more abundantly and was faithful and now it's at the fullness stage and the trumpet is sounding on top of the mountain. It's the same as it was with Paul when he said, "My gospel." He was the one that was ordained to push it, and he stayed right with it and didn't let anything stop him from it. Then after that other people began to get in it, and now at the top of the mountain, My Gospel has become Our Gospel, because Christ put His mind there. But we can look back and see how we have endured hardness! Even Paul said, "I've been shipwrecked, I've been defamed, and all kinds of things. When I was at a certain place no man stood with me, only Luke is with me."

Notice, you have to please Him who has called you to be a soldier. Verse 5 says, "*And if a man also strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*" That means there are certain principles you follow in God's Word and you have to do it lawfully according to God's Word, according to the mind of Christ. In other words, if you run in a race and break the rules you are disqualified. You've got to do it right. You can't go out here and preach this way one year, and another way next year. There are a lot of people that follow after trends. The thing is, God has a gospel here and you have to stay right with it, you can't go with the different trends. Over the years we've seen many people come and rejoice, shout, praise God, and say this is the greatest thing. Even in one place it was said, "Heaven has come down." I remember preaching over in Zimbabwe, and God was blessing and moving. (You can hear the audio or view the video of the message entitled, *Obtaining That Which Was Previously Unobtainable* in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe, on July 8, 2009). The power of God fell and when I got through preaching, a man got up and he was speaking in his language, but all of a sudden he said in English, "Heaven has come down." On our way to the meeting we were previously discussing how it looked as though hell had come up on the earth. My wife, Barbara, spoke up and said, "If hell has come up, then heaven has come down." She was referring to the Mighty Angel in Revelation, - Chapter 10 - heaven has come down. So we were in this meeting in Zimbabwe and after I got through preaching, this man was speaking and he said, "Heaven has come down." Barbara and Brother Enoch looked at one another because that's what we had been talking about in the vehicle on the way to the meeting, "If hell has come up, then heaven has come down." Well, these folks at the meeting didn't know anything about what had been said earlier, but God let the man say it to vindicate that this is right. Heaven has come down, and it has come down upon a people with one mind, one heart, one Spirit, one soul. A people that have come together, the ministry and the rest of the body members are united perfectly together as one and it makes up the fullness of the body of Christ, which is the wife of the Lamb. So My Gospel has become Our Gospel.

In the early church, Paul's *my gospel* became their gospel. In that time they were all preaching the Word. When Titus went out, he preached the same thing Paul preached knowing it was

right. The reason Paul had to give a warning at all was because they were dealing somewhat in the natural realm because perfection was to be at this end time; but Paul was establishing a way to go. But here in this last day, Christ Himself has come down and personally takes charge of it, and the job gets done. It is no more some preacher, or some church, but it is Christ in you the hope of glory! You are baptized into His body. In Revelation, Chapter 10, He comes down and He gives us the little book, nobody else, only the wife. In that day when Paul preached, only those that were engaged to Christ got Paul's message. The rest of them said Paul was mad and much more. That's why when Peter spoke in Galatians, Chapter 2, he heard what Paul was preaching and said, "Paul, you and Barabbas go on to those heathens." They perceived it was right, but they didn't want any part of it. A lot of people perceive this is right but don't want any part of it because they will get a little persecution, or the church world won't accept it. Just like a lot of people that followed Brother Raymond Jackson would get with me saying, "Yes, I see what you are saying about the seven thunders." One man said to me, "I think I'll talk to Brother Jackson about those seven men (thunders) because I can't see it in the Word either." But he never did, because he loved to sit on Brother Jackson's platform, he loved to be there and get the praise of men. They had a large crowd and he wanted to preach to them. Although he would say, "I believe what you're saying Brother Ben, but I'm not going to say anything about it." Well, you endure hardness as a good soldier. Here is a message going forth today; it's not only thriving but it is flourishing all over the world, and you can't win if you don't strive lawfully.

Continuing on to Verse 6, *"The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."* I want you to notice, there has to be a first; someone has to partake of it. Paul was the first to preach Christ the way he did. He preached Christ by revelation. Then the others were partakers – the husbandman, or the leader, or the one that is looking after the garden must first eat some of the fruit and see if it is any good or not. So let the husbandman be first partaker – eat some of it and see. In other words, you have to preach this gospel and then it spreads out. Verse 7, *"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."* Now if you are the wife of the Lamb, God will give you understanding. Now everybody may not understand the full details, because you don't do it in a school room, even though they are reading from the same book. There's 30 fold understanding, a 60 fold understanding, and there's 100 fold understanding. But if you are a 30 fold understanding, to God you are a 100 fold, because you are doing what He ordained you to do. Next verse, *"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel."* I want you to notice, My Gospel there. There's one other place I want to read where Paul spoke of *my gospel* and that's in the Book of Romans. But this can't just be my gospel now. It's our gospel, because we are all partakers together. In Romans 16:24-25 it says, *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began."* "My Gospel," He gave it to Paul. But when I preach the Word and you receive a revelation from it, it's not just my revelation but it's yours, because I can't give you a revelation only, God can. If you get a revelation you don't say, "Thank you Brother Ben for giving me a revelation." No, but you thank God for giving you a revelation. The only thing Brother Ben did was preach.

Let's go to Colossians 1:24 and we will read about Paul's troubles, trials, and being in a shipwreck. Then at another time he was beaten and many other things befell him. One time they beat him and left him for dead, but he got right back up and began to preach the gospel. Nothing could stop him. Here in Colossians 1:24-25 he says, *"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you..,"* now wait just a minute Paul, I thought Christ suffered for us, and here you are saying I suffered for you. Now what are you doing? What are you trying to pull on us here? *"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church."* Now I want you to notice that. That's a powerful scripture there. How did he suffer? It was because he stayed right there no matter what. Although he was shipwrecked, beaten, put in prison, and all these things, he had one job to do and that is what mattered to him. His job was to bring a gospel to get the bride espoused (engaged) to Christ and nothing, nothing could stop him, even though he was rejected and persecuted; but he suffered all the things that came his way so that this gospel could get to the church. It's the same thing now. This gospel I am preaching gets us married to Christ. "I suffered for you!" It's been a long hard road, but we finally got to the top of the mountain. Then it is no longer just my gospel; but it is us all, it's our gospel.

Watch this next verse, *"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the Word of God."* Now why was it given to Paul? It was given to Paul for you. That's why he suffered those things he endured. That's why he told Timothy, "Endure hardness as a good soldier." There have been people that have heard this preaching and gotten up and said, "I believe Brother Ben is this, and I believe Brother Ben is that. I believe Brother Ben's an apostle." Even some have said, "Never spake a man like this man spake." But a little hardness comes along, a little trial, where are they? Endure hardness as a good soldier. Stay right with it and have the mind of Christ, knowing nothing else will satisfy you. When you eat this little book, oh it's going to be bitter; but you get beyond the bitterness – "All to Jesus you surrender, all to Him you freely give" – that honey that made your belly bitter it gets to tasting so good. Moses cast that tree into the water and sweetened the water. The water is sweetened for you when you make up your mind and say, "Nothing, nothing, nothing is going to sidetrack me and nothing is going to stop me from putting my all in all in this marriage." **All that I am, all that I ever hope to be is Christ's, and this world holds absolutely nothing for me in its present stage.** I just want to do something for the wife to help her in her marriage to Christ at all cost. My gospel has become our gospel, and that's when the five fold ministry along with all the other members of the body of Christ is married to the Lamb. Not just the preacher being married to Christ, no, it's all the members; yet we still have the five fold ministry that Christ used to bring us to the fullness of Himself. Its purpose of getting the body married to Christ has been accomplished, meaning the ministry and all that are ordained to be the Lamb's wife is perfectly united in the mind of Christ. I would like to say here that there is not another type of ministry that replaces the five fold ministry of Ephesians 4:11. The ministry and all other members of the body are now married together spiritually, and together we are the wife of the Lamb as Christ came down to earth in His fullness in Revelation 10:1. The ministry involves the whole body of Christ now. This is similar to what we see in Acts 18:24-26, as Aquila and Priscilla, husband and wife together expounding God's present day working; and perfectly

together they showed Apollos God's plan. The marriage has taken place, and we are rejoicing and enjoying being married. (Revelation 19:7-8)

That's why it had to go forth like it has. That's why we had to push. That's why despite the fact that you see the problems and all the troubles; it's the will of God, because God wanted to show you an example to stay right with it no matter what. My first wife passed away and many things happened. I went through a lot of heartaches, but I didn't miss a sermon. I kept right on going. I stayed single for five and a half years; then God sent me Barbara, and we got married. Now Barbara, she's become one of the most dedicated Christians I know; she's very faithful in the work of the Lord. I have never met anyone quite as dedicated. She's been an example to me and helped me to be dedicated. We are all helpers together. We are the body of Christ. We love Him and one another, and together we love and appreciate Him. Do you love Him with all your heart?

In closing let us pray.

*Father, we pray that you will take this Word, that you'll bless it and help the people to understand Lord the things you have ordained. Lord I just pray everyone can say, "Did not our heart burn as he spake to us along the way," and they will realize it's not a preacher talking to them, but Christ. Bless us all together in Jesus Name. Amen.*