



**A PERFECT COUPLE  
WITH A PERFECT MARRIAGE  
MADE IN HEAVEN  
AND EXPRESSED IN THE EARTH**

B e n H o w a r d

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December 4, 2011*

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We want to look at a subject this morning which will come on the heels of last week's message entitled *A Non-Virgin Becomes a Virgin and Then the Wife of Christ*. I want to take this message another step, as these messages link with one another like a chain. Although, they weren't planned that by myself; but God just sees that they go that way. If you miss even one of the messages it leaves a gap. Maybe that's the reason the Word says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together and even more so as you see that day approaching." It helps us keep up with the movement of the Word. When one is climbing up a ladder or going up a set of steps, if you miss several steps and then you try to step over several steps at once you run the risk of not being successful with that step, see. So my subject for you is, *A Perfect Couple with a Perfect Marriage Made in Heaven and Expressed in the Earth*. We hear much today about how Hollywood spends thousands of dollars on weddings. Many times people will say, "That is a marriage made in heaven," just because it's a big flowery thing. But that doesn't mean it is a marriage made in heaven, does it? I can confidently say most of the time it is not. So before we continue let us pray.

*Heavenly Father, I pray that you will bless the reading of the Word today. We know the Word is blessed, but I pray that you will bless us and help us to say the things about the Word that you would have us to say. We know the Word is eternal, and that it's not always written Word; but sometimes it is just spiritual inspiration that comes at the time we are speaking. But I pray, God, that you will help us to put ourselves into your hands in complete surrender that you may use us for this little while. We ask in Jesus Name. Amen.*

Now in last week's message we talked about a virgin. Adam and Eve both were virgins and they were the perfect couple; but they never did come into that perfect marriage because the fall took place. The serpent beguiled Eve and deceived her and she had an intimate relationship with this man beast before she and Adam ever consummated their marriage, thus stopping that perfect marriage from taking place. And since then no marriage has reached that perfect stature that a marriage is to reach. We know from reading in the Word that there is projected to be a perfect couple with a perfect marriage made in heaven and expressed in the earth that comes into being in this last day. And this perfect couple, the matured man and the matured woman are virgins. The word *virgin* can be applied to a man or woman, but usually when we hear the word *virgin* we think of it as applying only to the woman; it means she has never been intimate with a man. And if speaking of a man that has never been intimate with a woman, then he is a virgin, too, if he hasn't known woman.

Now in Eden there was a man that was a virgin; there was a woman that was a virgin, and God ordained a perfect marriage. That was the perfect couple and there was to be a perfect marriage to be expressed in the earth, but it didn't work out. The perfect marriage that almost wasn't, now is. It didn't happen with God's first son and daughter, but it happened with His second Son. So we've got a virgin man now, and this virgin man was born of a virgin named

Mary. Now this puts in the earth the only man since Adam that wasn't begotten by fallen man, and now He must have a virgin wife. This is where the many member body of Christ comes into view, and it is the Gentile bride here at the end time which is the final part of the wise virgins that receives the pure virgin Word. This pure virgin Word is the little book brought to us by Christ the Mighty Angel, and the predestinated bride is baptized into His body making her the flesh and bones of Christ, the wife of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now repeating for emphasis; we the wife have become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, thus making us the Christ part (wife) of our husband, Jesus Christ.

Now throughout the ages God has let certain marriages here in the earth express the perfect marriage. Take Abraham and Sarah, we could say, "That is a model marriage made in heaven." Also there was Noah and his wife, and others too numerous to mention here. There are different ones that we could say, "What a marriage!" or "That marriage was made in heaven!" or "That's a perfect marriage." Well, when we say the marriage was made in heaven, we mean heaven ordained marriage. But in a fallen world it hasn't been all that God meant for it to be up until now. My wife and I have a model marriage; we could say it was made in heaven, that's true, but there are also difficulties along the roads of life with us all.

Now we are a virgin bride that has become the wife of Jesus Christ, meaning that He has accomplished God's original plan of marrying a virgin. The plan that was delayed for many centuries now has been fulfilled in and through *we which are alive and remain* as spoken by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. Even though we were a non-virgin; now we become a virgin when we obey the Word of God, because it's in the spirit. When you're a non-virgin and become a virgin to the Word, God looks at your whole being as being a virgin. When Jesus got through talking to the woman at the well that had been married five times and living with someone she wasn't married to by revelation, we could say, "There goes a virgin." God had taken care of everything by His Spirit. Paul said the same when he was talking about some being fornicators and so on. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) He said in Verse 11, "*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the Spirit of our God.*" Now justification means it is as though you never did it at all. It's just like water under the bridge; it's gone and you are free. You become a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things have passed away and behold all things are new. Ephesians, Chapter 4 says, "We are created after the image of Christ." He created us new. Yes, He made us virgins. When we see this, everything becomes very clear. Old things are passed away and behold all things are new. By accepting the true Word for this hour it made us a virgin to the Word, and now the wife. We become the perfect virgin to marry Jesus Christ, thus making us the Christ part of Him, His wife that has taken His name. Yes, I'm telling you, a marriage has taken place! As this marriage took place we were baptized into the body of Christ. So our marriage here in the earth expresses the marriage of Jesus Christ to His wife. So let's try to express that even in a fallen world. That means we should pray and choose our mates well in a revelational manner. Although Paul said if you're married to an unbeliever that treats you right, treats you like a child of God and he or she is pleased to dwell with you then don't put him or her away, but live in peace with one another and honor God's instruction. I know people where one serves the Lord and the other doesn't, but for the most part they respect each other and the institution of marriage. In such cases, you've got one that is born again and serving God and the other that is a good person in

the outer realm who loves God and has the utmost respect for their mate, although they are not part of the body of Christ. God will never break up a marriage like that as long as there is mutual respect for one another.

Jesus spoke of such cases of the wife of the Lamb saying, the one will not stop the other from being in the catching away if they are a member of the body of Christ. As our Lord indicated, "There will be two in the bed, one taken and one left. And there will be two in the field working, one taken and the other left." A man or woman should realize that if either has a mate that is serving God and loving God, he or she is a child of God and part of the wife of the Lamb. So neither can say things and do things to be cruel or to hurt one another without having God frown on the one that causes the hurt. That's like being cruel to Jesus Christ Himself. "As much as you've done to the least of these, my brethren or sisters, you've done it unto me." That's a child of God, and even though it be husband or wife you had better respect your mate, otherwise you are displeasing God. When it gets to the place where there is no respect and there is unending cruelty by ones mate, then if God doesn't take care of the situation sometimes we have to make other arrangements. That's the time to move on. God doesn't want any of His people to be subject to brutality or cruelty or anything of that nature, whether it is on the side of the man or on the side of the woman. In such cases either the man or woman can be married to another in the Lord without being in adultery, and have a happy marriage in the Lord and be without condemnation.

Now back to the one and only perfect marriage, and this is the Lord Jesus Christ and His wife which has taken on the Christ part of His name, thus she is Christ the wife. That's those that are baptized into the body of Christ for this day. So we are Christ's body in the earth. Now since the days of the fall of Adam and Eve there has never been this original projected perfect marriage until now. There's never been an absolute perfect marriage, meaning we all have our flaws. Am I a good husband? I think I am. I try to be. But I've got flaws and from time to time Barbara has to bear with me. (Barbara is shaking her head that I don't have any flaws. Well, she loves me so she doesn't see them.) But the point is we bear with one another sometimes, since both of us are human beings and know that our only righteousness is in Christ and we stand in that alone. Praise God! We are baptized into the body of Christ. We know that the body is one, but has many members. Since Adam and Eve there has never been that perfect one until the Lord Jesus was born, and that changes everything as He has now given us His righteousness in marriage and we are as He is.

The Pharisees came to Jesus tempting Him, asking Him questions about marriage and divorce. They asked Him, "How about this, and how about that," and on and on their questions went. He began to tell them what the truth was about what Moses had said. In the days of Moses there was a high priest named Aaron. He was called of God to be a high priest. Much later there was a high priest called Melchisedec in that order, and now Jesus as a high priest in that order. The Bible says in Hebrews 3:1, "Consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Now what I'm about to say may go against the grain for some of those that preached before we came on the scene. Many spoke along these lines giving their best judgment and told what they felt was right. Many times God honored and blessed them for their labors as God had not revealed full truth in their time. God knew that there would come a time of perfection, a time when we would reach the fullness of the stature of the man Christ

Jesus at this end time. So many different teachers and preachers expressed their thoughts and God permitted it. Some of the messengers of days gone by preached that a minister was not qualified to preach unless he had married a virgin. They believed this because in the Old Testament the high priest and he only, had to marry a virgin. And this was because in that time period he was a type of Jesus Christ who will only marry a virgin to the Word. You will find this scripture in the Book of Leviticus 21:10,13. That's why God makes us a virgin to the Word, so that His Son will have a virgin to become His wife, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. She has to be the same Word as He is. Now the regular priest could marry someone that didn't necessarily have to be a virgin. He could marry a widow that had been a priest's wife before. (Ezekiel 44:22) So when Brother William Branham preached a message on marriage and divorce he used the scripture that said the high priest had to marry a virgin. Well, when he preached the message he said, "A minister has to marry a virgin." He only quoted that scripture without reading further and he left it there without taking all the scripture on the subject. Soon God took him home before it was corrected. And his followers stopped there without searching further and did like all the other denominations and made it their doctrine, although it is not scripturally correct. Well, this same scenario existed in the days of Jesus' earthly journey. Those Pharisees took what Moses said and made their denominations. So when Jesus came preaching the Word of God, one of the first things they came at Him with was this question, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus said, "At the beginning it wasn't so. Moses *permitted* you to do this because of the hardness of your heart, but what Moses said wasn't so as far as restoring God's original plan for man and woman." (Matthew, Chapter 19 and Mark, Chapter 10) Jesus pointed to the beginning, but since the beginning we all have been under a survival law and so has it been in each of the dispensations of time. For an example, there was the Prophet Hosea and God said to him, "Go marry a wife of the whoredom," in which he did. (Hosea 1:2) This was God's way of showing what Israel was doing in their backslidden condition. Israel had gone after other gods instead of staying with the Word for their day.

Now getting back to the original, we see that God started off with a virgin man and a virgin woman, and He is not going to finish up with anything less. Hallelujah! So between Eden and where we're at now, there were different men of God that He gave permission to make an assertion because of certain conditions. Jesus said, "Moses said it, but at the beginning it wasn't so." In Matthew, Chapter 19, Jesus said, "From the beginning;" then He talked on and said, "At the beginning." In other words, since the beginning the things that God ordained for Adam and Eve won't work because the fall has taken place. There hasn't been a marriage that we could say was absolutely perfect, but there will be. So let me sound a trumpet, He sent someone to claim back all that Adam and Eve lost there in the garden. So whatever Moses said, Jesus did not make any attempt to go into what Moses said. Moses gave so many regulations, just read the first five books of the Bible and you can see this clearly. All that happened was typing out these things. The Bible says Jesus didn't come to destroy the law, He didn't come to destroy these things; He fulfilled them. So Jesus said, "Whatever Moses said." I want you to notice, He didn't go back and try to unravel or explain what Moses said. Jesus just said, "It wasn't like what Moses said at the beginning. Moses permitted that because of the hardness of your hearts." In other words, if a man and woman couldn't get along he didn't want them to fight

and argue all their lives. So because of the hardness of your hearts it was permitted. I have read this from the different translations so that nobody can come back and hit me broadside with another scripture they found somewhere, so I did a thorough study of it. The Catholics say unless the marriage was done unlawful it has to stand, and divorce will not be granted. They also have the idea they can grant absolution to a marriage. If a man and woman came and they had money like the Kennedys and wanted to get divorced, the priests could grant absolution and dissolve it. But don't you go unless you have big money. If you have the right kind of money you can go and say to the priest, "I've got a woman here and she doesn't do like I want." This was going on back in the medieval time as some of the kings wanted to get rid of their wives. If they were in good standing with the priest he would grant it. So whatever the situation, Jesus said, "It wasn't so at the beginning." Now Jesus could have said something like this when they said, "Moses said, Moses said." Jesus could have said, "I don't give a pig's ear what Moses said, but I say unto you." He said, "It wasn't so at the beginning," or "from the beginning it wasn't so."

Now coming over to Paul, we find that he spoke about each situation as he had to deal with them; many times giving instructions that he felt was the right thing to do, saying, "I suppose this is good for the present situation." (1 Corinthians 7:26) But later he modified some of his earlier instructions as time and his understanding became clearer. Just as Jesus didn't try to unravel anything Moses said. Jesus just said, "Go back to the beginning. Have you not read when God made them, He made them male and female. For what God has joined together, let no man put asunder." (Matthew 19:4-6) So I thank God that He has given us a way where we can marry our wives and love them and enjoy God's blessing with the love that He has given to be shared between man and wife. It is the blessing of God for man and woman to enjoy each other as God has ordained. But in this message I am talking about the perfect couple with a perfect marriage made in heaven. Now there is no couple that can stand up and say we are that couple, no. If you are part of the wife, meaning a member of the body of Christ, then you are the perfect wife. 1 Corinthians 6:17, "*But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.*" It is what God joined together that no man put asunder.

Adam, the first son didn't get his blessing, he didn't get that perfect wife. But to him she was perfect. She was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. She filled the bill perfectly for Adam, although she had already fallen and defiled herself. But Adam wasn't like some of these devil possessed men in our day that don't have an ounce of forgiveness in them. They don't know that Jesus came so that you could become a virgin again. He came so that all your sins could be taken away and you could be washed as white as driven snow, thus making a new creature out of you. Praise God! Do you believe that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus? He makes you a virgin to the Word when you hear the Word of God and believe the Word of God and respond to the Word of God, then you are a virgin to the Word. And if you become a virgin in your spirit it also applies to the body, too, as you believe and accept revelational Word that's quickened to you by the Holy Spirit.

Now also do you see this truth about the priest? It was only the high priest that had to marry a virgin. Who is our high Priest? It's Christ. He has to marry a virgin. That's why God made us virgins. He made a way that we could become a virgin. So there is in the earth today a

perfect marriage made in heaven and expressed in the earth. And in order to be part of this, by one Spirit you're baptized into one Message, one Word, one Body, and here it is. Amen.

I want to say one more thing concerning Paul along with many others that gave their thoughts. Paul was known to say, "I don't have any commandment from the Lord." Then he would give his thoughts concerning a situation such as the matter of an unbeliever and the believer in marriage. He said, "But if the unbeliever departs, let them go, a brother or sister is not in bondage in such cases." This meaning that they could be remarried and not be in adultery, but they were to marry in the Lord only. (1 Corinthians, Chapter 7) Paul gave his thoughts; he at one time even said, "I don't have a word from the Lord. I suppose this is good for the present distress." That was the only thing a man of wisdom could have said because the perfect couple is Jesus and His wife Christ in the earth, and this marriage was not manifested yet. Because in those days and even up to this age we were in a survival type time period, but now all that has changed since the marriage of the Lamb has taken place. Our day is Revelation, Chapter 19:7-8, and this is our perfect marriage.

We have gone through this subject showing what Jesus said, "I know what Moses said, but it was because of the hardness of your heart that he permitted you. But it wasn't so at the beginning." He said, "Moses said unto you, but I say unto you that it wasn't so what Moses said. But he only gave you something so you could survive in the human realm." In other words, God didn't want a man and woman living together and putting knots on each other's heads every day, cursing each other and making each other miserable, so Moses permitted it (he suffered them or permitted them). "Moses suffered you, but it wasn't right to begin with. It was right what Moses did because Moses could not bring you back to the original yet, it wasn't time," that's what Jesus was saying. And when Paul gave his thoughts, he said, "I don't have a commandment from the Lord, but I am going to give you my thoughts on it." What Paul said would not bring you back to the original. But at the end time there is going to be a perfect man and a perfect woman with a perfect marriage made in heaven and expressed here in the earth reflecting Jesus Christ.

All right, I want to read in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 and this is Paul talking, "*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: (he didn't want them fooling around with denominational nonsense) for I have espoused (engaged) you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*" Notice that, "I may." This signifies that he had a fear that this might not happen in his day by making reference of the serpent and Eve in the garden that stopped the first marriage. Paul couldn't present her to Jesus Christ in marriage because it wasn't time, but he saw it. Well, they had people there that were pagans in Corinth. Actually the Corinthians at one time had temples there with prostitution going on to raise money for the temple. When the sailors came in from the coast, the Corinthians prostituted themselves with the sailors in order to get money for the temple. And that is what some so-called churches are doing today. They say, "Send me this amount of money. Give me this, and I will pray for you." As far as I'm concerned they can keep their prayers. They are prostituting the gospel. But we are not going to be doing that because we are the wife of the Lord Jesus Christ. If God sends you, He will go with you, and if He wants you to do something, He will meet the need.

So here Paul is saying, "I have espoused you." Notice, here is an engagement and a virgin, that's all. That's as far as it went in Paul's day. That's like Paul saying, "I have laid the

foundation." When you talk about a virgin, then you are talking about the foundation that Paul laid. But when you are talking about marriage, then you're talking about the complete building which is finished and that is perfection.

Now in the next verse, Paul felt something was wrong and saw that things were beginning to go another way. He said, *"I have espoused you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds (he's talking about your mind, not physical intimacy, not physical adultery) should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* Well, we pick up history here and we look down through the church ages. It wasn't long after this that Paul was put to death and the Gentile church fell away instead of getting married. There was a falling away because as soon as you go to Revelation, Chapter 2 at the very first church age, it says, "Thou art fallen from thy first love." It went down, down, down, and went through seven church ages. But God said, "I will restore." He has brought us back. That's the Spiritual coming of the Lord, and we see both legs of His coming in Revelation, Chapter 10. He put one foot on sea and one foot on earth, bringing both parts of the coming of Lord: the engagement and the marriage. So God had to restore that first leg of the coming like they had in the early church. He restored back the Word and all the blessings that were in the church at Pentecost. Now we have a restored apostolic ministry in the church with leadership just as Paul's ministry was, and being restored it gets the engagement back intact. Then we come to Ephesians, Chapter 4; Paul said, "He has given us this ministry for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry." Verse 13 of this same Chapter says, "Till we reach the stature of the fullness of the man Christ Jesus." And this is where the virgin becomes the wife of the Lamb. God has brought His Word to pass, meaning there is in the earth today the perfect couple with a perfect marriage made in heaven, and we are expressing it out in the earth. That is the reason we say, "We are the wife of the Lamb." (Perfect) And we were made virgins before He married us. Now I'm telling you there is some first time Word that has come down from heaven, the little book that marries us the wise virgins to the virgin Son of God by this trumpet part of this wonderful message, which is delivered unto us in three phases. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 shows this virgin Word. That is what you are hearing now, and it shows us the virgin has now become the wife of the Lamb.

Now please notice that everything that was said about a marriage, Jesus said, "It wasn't so from the beginning. Moses suffered it. He permitted it." Paul permitted it. Paul said this to you, but I say unto you. Yes, Paul said, "I've engaged you, I've espoused you." But I say unto you, "By this message God made you a virgin Word and you are now married to Jesus Christ. You have become Christ the wife, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. And by receiving of His Spirit, we have become Spirit of His Spirit."

Paul's message, and please don't miss this because if you do there will be a missing link there and you won't be able to put it all together. Paul's message only engaged a virgin to Christ, and there was no marriage. Even though his revelation was that one day Jesus would take His wife unto Himself. He didn't see the fullness of the marriage; we know that because Paul had been dead for thirty years before the Book of Revelation was ever written. But John wrote in there, "His wife has made herself ready." Not a virgin, but the wife. And there's no wife that has consummated her marriage that is a virgin. They can be espoused, because there is two parts to a wedding. There is the ceremonial part where everyone in attendance is rejoicing. But when

the marriage is consummated only the husband and wife is there to celebrate that part of the marriage.

I can't help but tell about something that happened on one of our visits to Africa while coming out of the Congo in the rain forest. There were some people coming down the road laughing, rejoicing, and having a good time. I didn't know what was going on so I asked our driver, "What is going on here?" He said "Oh, there's been a wedding; they've been drinking banana whiskey and they are just as high as they can be." Well, I had never heard of banana whiskey before, but as it is often said, we never get to old to learn something new. Well, I'll tell you we haven't been drinking banana whiskey; we are drinking wine, which is that new wine made from an unconventional source. This wine is good that we have, and we don't have to get over a hangover with this spiritual wine. So they had been to the ceremonial part of the wedding and all the guests were going on their way rejoicing. No doubt the next day when the effect of the banana whiskey was gone and they had what is called a hangover, they didn't feel like dancing. Likewise, there are some people that will have a spiritual hangover after realizing they fell into the group of foolish virgins and missed the marriage that is now taking place. They were drinking banana whiskey and didn't get the new wine that was made from an unconventional source. So there is a perfect couple in the earth, and that perfect couple has a perfect marriage that was made in heaven, and we are expressing it now in the earth. Amen.

Now in this message I wanted to show you what Moses said and what Jesus said about it, that it wasn't so from the beginning. It wasn't right, Moses only suffered that. Paul expressed his opinion on this. I'm talking about when he said, "If you are a virgin, you should stay a virgin. And if you are married be as though you are not married," meaning live a life of celibacy. See, some of the Jews thought that way. When they were talking to Jesus they said, "It is better not to get married, isn't it?" Jesus said in effect, "You will get into trouble if you go that way. There are some that have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of God, but this is not for everybody to do because God made woman for a man and vice versa." And there is not any preacher or priest that has the authority to change that, even though there might be conditions that would change it temporarily for a certain time. (I know I am being repetitious, but I want to push this point home.) They were saying, "Moses said this, and Moses said that." And Jesus said, "I know what Moses said, but it wasn't like that to begin with." Jesus knew why God made man and woman. God knew there would come a time that there would be a perfect marriage again when the thing had run its course. So let me sound the trumpet to you, the trump is sounding for you that have ears to hear, saying, it's now back to what God ordained at the beginning. And I'm praying for those that are listening and those that hear. There is a lot of difference in listening and hearing. There were a lot of people listening to Jesus, but a very few heard. So I say this, "There are a lot of people listening. But are you hearing this trumpet sound? If you are hearing, then it was quickened to you by the Holy Ghost."

Now let's go to Revelation, Chapter 19, to read about this marriage. We have already read where Paul had the message to bring on an engagement and that is as far as it went. There was no marriage of the Lord Jesus Christ to His bride in Paul's day, it didn't happen then. It has happened in our day, and only by this virgin Word has this marriage happened. That's the little book that comes down from heaven that we have never had in the fullness before. That is why

God saved the little book back for us. It is virgin Word for the wise virgins of this last trump message (Revelation, Chapter 10:8-11) that gets us married to the virgin Son of God.

Notice now, Paul had been dead some thirty years. He was put to death in about 66AD or 67AD somewhere in that time frame. About thirty years down the road the Gentile church had fallen because the Word says in Revelation, Chapter 2, "You have fallen from your first love," and it went into the dark ages from there. That is why when Martin Luther came, he said, "The just shall live by faith," and people thought he was crazy. Then John Wesley came and said, "We have got to live a sanctified life," and people thought he was even crazier. Then in California about 1906, people met together and they began to pray and began to talk in tongues. They didn't have some preacher telling them to. They would just come together and pray and all of a sudden they would begin to talk in tongues, and God would speak and give out messages because He was restoring. Then here came the Word as it began to be restored back, and now here it is in its fullness. It's Christ in the earth with a wife in the earth expressing a perfect marriage. He comes in Revelation, Chapter 10, and what does He come for? He comes to marry His wife. The little book that He brought down from heaven is for the wife because it is virgin Word for the wise virgins, so that the virgin Son of God can marry a virgin woman. Then He takes her home. Now let everyone rejoice, for the marriage of the Lamb has come.

Revelation, Chapter 19:7-8, *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: (watch – not an engagement) for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife (not espoused woman) hath made herself ready..."* Now here is what He does for her; this is a gift. *"...And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."* That's why you've got to believe this message of righteousness that is going forth saying, "It's not what we've done, can do, or will do; but it is what He's done." And because He has done something for us it is seen working itself out into the outer-man. We express it in the earth. Paul said, "I would that you present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." It's not saying, "Oh, I'm righteous." Well, if you are it will come out, it will express itself. Jesus said one time, "Clean the inside of the plate and the outside will be clean also." That means you can't say, "Hallelujah, it doesn't matter to me if I do this. It doesn't matter what I do." No. If that inside is clean, then the outside will be clean also.

Now do you see that the perfect marriage didn't happen in Adam's day? Jesus told the Pharisees, "Because of the hardness of your hearts, because you couldn't forgive and forget, because this woman might have made a mistake in her earlier times, you want to fuss and bring it up every time you get upset. Moses allowed you to put her away, but from the beginning it wasn't so." It's not because Moses didn't know what he was talking about, but God just made a way because it wasn't time for the perfect marriage to take place. So can you see why Jesus said, "It wasn't so at (or from) the beginning." What Moses said wasn't right when he spoke it, in the sense of it being the perfect marriage here at the end time when the perfect marriage would take place.

So the marriage of the Lamb has come, and by one Spirit we are baptized into the body of Christ. And only those that are part of the wife will be baptized into that body. So if God has given you a good companion, husband or wife, to travel with down here and they love the Lord and share everything both natural and spiritual, you should be so happy and praise the Lord continuously. That is my message today. There is a perfect couple with a perfect marriage

made in heaven and expressed in the earth. It is Christ and His wife. There is no other one that is perfect. I know my wife Barbara says that mine and her marriage is perfect. Well, it is as perfect as it can get in the human earthly realm and I thank God for it. But there is only one perfect marriage. It's the Lord Jesus Christ and He shares His name Christ with us, making us Christ the wife.

Let us pray. *Father, in the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Lord I just thank you that you have granted this time of coming together, honoring you, and speaking of your Word. Lord we thank you for accepting us as the wife of the Lamb. Oh God, I just pray that you help us to walk worthy and as Paul said, "Walk worthy of the calling of whereby you were called." Help us all to take a second look at that, walking worthy of the calling whereby we are called. Help us to be sure we are walking in a way that is honoring you in all things. We ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*