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Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Several years ago, on a quarterly basis, I had written a teaching letter that was translated into Farsi and Urdu. We received many testimonies regarding these articles that were written. Since there are questions on so many subjects and topics as well as a great desire to learn and grow, I have felt the burden and the inspiration to start it up again. Our purpose and desire is to stay with the teachings of Brother Branham and show them forth clearly from the Bible. This is my burden and my calling.

The May issue will cover two important subjects:

1. Jesus Christ is God
2. Election and Predestination

Jesus Christ is God

One of the most important doctrines of the New Testament is the teaching about who Jesus Christ is. He was not merely a prophet, not merely a man, but He IS God. This is the first and most important doctrine, the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:5-8 "And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, **6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. **7** Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. **8** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Verse five gives us the identity of the speaker, and the titles are as follows:

- Faithful Witness
- First Begotten of the Dead
- Prince of the Kings of the Earth
- Alpha and Omega
- Beginning and the Ending
- The Lord Which Is, Which Was, and Which Is To Come
- The Almighty

The Almighty always refers to the Supreme Deity. These are all titles of one and the same person, the Lord Jesus Christ, making Him the only Person of the Godhead. There are not three persons who are all God, making three Gods. Notice verse six tells us that Jesus Christ made us to God and his Father. If you examine any other translation and the Greek itself you see that it says He made us priests and kings unto His God and Father. As the human Son of God, He had a God and Father just as you and I do. But He was more than a Man, He was God in the form of a Man. He is the

unchangeable God, the Almighty. God, the invisible Spirit Jehovah veiled in human flesh.

Think of it this way. I want to use an illustration. I exist completely independently of the virtual “computer” world. I am not a program, and I am not bytes and digits. In order to relate to the virtual world, I create an Avatar that represents me and what I do. For all intents and purpose, that Avatar is me. That Avatar is me entering a virtual world. At the same time, it isn’t me at all because I am outside of and completely independent of that virtual world. Yet it completely represents me in the virtual world.

So it is with Jesus Christ. God independently exists outside of space-time. In order to express Himself in space-time He created a Man that completely and perfectly represents Him. That man is the Son of God and is fully submitted to His Almighty and Self-Existent Father, AND that Man is the exact representation of God. He is God in space-time. Let us review several major statements made by Brother Branham regarding this subject.

"Oh, my, how I like to preach the Deity, the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ."
54-1006 - Law Or Grace

"And in this marvelous teaching here of Saint Paul, in the backgrounds, in the former chapters, he has specifically been dealing with the Supreme Deity of the Lord Jesus and who He was. Christ was God, made so that men could feel Him and touch Him, and—and fellowship with Him. Christ, the Lord Jesus, was the body that God dwelt in, "God was made flesh and dwelt among us." First Timothy 3:16, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, for God was manifested in flesh." 526 The Great Jehovah came down and was made tangible, by living in the body of His Own Son, declaring and reconciling the world to Himself. God was nothing... Christ was nothing short of God, and—and God was nothing short of Christ. The two together made the Godhead bodily, made a little lower than Angels, so that He could suffer. Angels cannot suffer. Jesus was the tabernacle that God dwelt in."

57-0915M - Hebrews, Chapter Six #3

"The greatest of all the revelations is the Deity, the Supreme Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. You can't get to first base until you believe that, and walk out... That's what Peter said, 'Repent, and then see the Deity. Be baptized in the Name of Jesus

Christ for the remission of your sins, and then you're ready to go in the Spirit.' The first thing you have to know is the Deity of Christ. "

60-1204E - The Patmos Vision

"The evening Light has come, God vindicating Himself. What is it? It is the facts that God and Christ are one. The 'white,' how many seen it, the white wig upon Him, as we talked in Revelation 1? See, the Supreme Deity, Supreme Authority; no other voice, no other god, no other nothing! 'In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.' "

65-0725E - What Is The Attraction On The Mountain?

As Brother Branham expressed on many occasions, the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New. So, in the message, we believe in and teach the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ. We teach that God Himself changed His mask and came in the form of Jesus Christ. It is also clear that Brother Branham told us that Jesus was not His own Father¹ and that Jesus and God are not one like your finger is one.² Brother Branham taught us that Jesus is both God and Man.

"I said, 'You just fail to see Who the Man was. He was both God and man. And as a man, weeping, when He was weeping for their sorrow. But when He stood and said, "Lazarus, come forth," and a man had been dead, four days, stood on his feet again, that was more than a man.' "

64-0719E - Going Beyond The Camp

I want to pull out various points in the above quotes to clarify the reality of this truth that He is the Supreme Deity.

1. Christ was God, made so that we could feel and fellowship with Him.
2. Jesus was the body that God dwelt in.

¹ In the day that the Pentecostal come out, they got the Jesus Only group. Now, that's wrong again. How can Jesus be His own Father?

63-0324M - Questions And Answers On The Seals

Rev. William Marrion Branham

² And you Oneness brethren, many of you get off the wrong track when you try to think that God is one like your finger is one. He can't be His Own Father.

59-0823 - Palmerworm, Locust, Cankerworm, Caterpillar

Rev. William Marrion Branham

3. The Great Jehovah God came down and lived in the body of His Own Son.
4. God was nothing short of Christ, and Christ was nothing short of God.
5. The two together made the Godhead bodily.
6. Jesus was both God and Man.

Next, we need to show forth that we teach exactly as the Oneness and Trinitarians do, in that Jesus is both God and man, but we teach that He is God and He is a man in a different sense than the Oneness and the Trinitarian.

Trinitarians teach that the Second Person of the Godhead was born in human flesh. He purposely limited Himself to become fully man so that His Deity was completely submitted to being fully human. Thus, He had to be anointed with the Holy Spirit to receive power for His ministry; He was totally reliant on the Father to be led.

For the Oneness teaching, the Father, who always covers all space and time as a Spirit, came down and was born as a man, fully submitting His divine nature to be the nature of a man. God did not cease to exist outside of this humanity but was rather limited in nature, and in fact was Himself, God. The Father simply changed titles to become the Son.

The teaching and viewpoint of the message is distinct from each of these doctrines. In fact, the understanding within the Oneness doctrine and the Trinity doctrine varies as to how the divine nature interacted with the human nature depending on what specific church tradition they come from.

Jesus Christ is the Supreme Deity. He is both God and Man. How is He God and how is He Man? Notice what Brother Branham states as He clarifies the details within the quote in the sermon on Hebrews, *“Jesus was the body that God dwelt in...the two together made the Godhead bodily.”* Which two? God and Jesus. The Father is the Spirit and Son is the body. So, the Godhead is the Spirit or the Father, and the body is Jesus or the Son. Brother Branham says, *“John 4 says that God is a Spirit. And He had to make a spirit man. And He brought it down now; there's deity cannot be seen. Deity is the supernatural.”*³ Therefore Jesus is not in the Godhead, but the Godhead is in Jesus. *“The Man (the body) was not Deity, but Deity was in the body.”*⁴ Deity is a similar word

³ 51-0729A - The Resurrection Of Lazarus, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

⁴ 63-1222 - God's Gifts Always Find Their Places, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

to Godhead. The Godhead, or Deity, revealed IN Jesus Christ. He is NOT the Godhead or the Deity,⁵ rather the Deity or the Godhead dwells IN Him.

The next question that we need to answer is: Was the body merely a body and that which animated it was Almighty God, or was the body in fact fully human with His own distinct will? Let's examine what Brother Branham says...

"It's the Holy Ghost, the Creator Himself, God the Father in the form of a Spirit, called 'Holy Ghost' because It was upon the body called Jesus, His Son; that He created Jesus, the body, that's the reason It had to die."⁶

"To bring His, to bring His Son to the earth in, He chose 'a virgin knowing not a man.' Neither did she have any sperm discharge or anything else when the Holy Ghost overshadowed her. Because, God, in His immaculate, infinite way, created in her: soul, body, and spirit, of Jesus Christ. That's right. He was the virgin-born Son of God."⁷

When we examine the entire reality of the manhood and Deity of Jesus Christ the picture becomes more and more clear. It is not just a simple and basic thing to say,

⁵ These two quotes from Brother Branham shows us when the Deity, the Godhead came to dwell in the Lord Jesus.

Now watch when Jesus come, watch what He did to prove Himself to be that Messiah, that Anointed One. One day, after He had received... The Father had come down and dwelt in Him, in the form of a dove coming down from Heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am pleased to dwell in." 180 That's the reason He said, "I and My Father are One. My Father dwelleth in Me. It's not Me that doeth the works; it's My Father that dwelleth in Me." 181 John bear record, seeing that Spirit of God, like a dove, descending. A Voice coming from It, saying, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell." See, and He dwelt in Him.

65-0427 - Does God Change His Mind?

Rev. William Marrion Branham

<http://table.branham.org>

The Spirit of God, like a dove, descended and a voice from heaven (which was above Him) saying, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am pleased to dwell." (Really, the right translation... They got the verb before the adverb, like all the foreigner is... "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am pleased to dwell in." Or, "Whom I am pleased to dwell." "In Whom I am pleased to dwell.") That was God coming into Jesus, and in Him was the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

61-0120 - The Water Baptism

Rev. William Marrion Branham

<http://table.branham.org>

⁶ 60-1206 - The Smyranean Church Age, Rev. William Marrion Branham,

<http://table.branham.org>

⁷ 62-0121M - And Thy Seed Shall Possess The Gate Of His Enemy, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

“The Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ” and then allow our hearts and minds to shut down to anything else brother Branham says. As believers, our hearts of understanding should say Amen to every Word and not just the ones that we like or pick and choose. It is very, very clear that Brother Branham taught us that Jesus Christ is God, not a second person or a third person, but the only person.

In the first quote, we read that God created the body called Jesus, His Son. This could lead us to the idea that Jesus was merely a body housing the Spirit of God, but the prophet continues on as he speaks and tells us that God created within the virgin the body, soul, and spirit of Jesus Christ, and He was the virgin born Son of God.

"Christ just completely surrendered His Life to God. He gave Hisself as a public Servant to the people."⁸

Luke 22:42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

"Now, the Messiah is here; we just have to yield ourself to Him; and He will work the works of the Father through us. Now, when He was here, He didn't claim to heal people. He said, 'I don't do not—no healing. I only... The Father that dwells in Me does the works, and I don't do anything until He shows Me. First, the Father shows Me what to do, then I go do it.' How many knows He said that? Saint John 5:19, He did. 'I see a vision first, then the Father does it.' "⁹

Christ had a will as a distinct human being, but He made the choice to submit and surrender His will to the will of the Father. As a man, he was made up of a human spirit, a human body, and a human soul.

⁸ 60-0925 - That Day On Calvary, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

⁹ 56-0407 - Blind Bartimaeus, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

"The Spirit left Him, in the garden of Gethsemane. He had to die, a man. Remember, friends, He didn't have to do that. That was God. God anointed that flesh, which was human flesh. And He didn't... If He'd have went up there, as God, He'd have never died that kind of death; can't kill God."¹⁰

1 Timothy 2:5 "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

We see based on these Scriptures and quotes that the Lord Jesus was clearly a man, fully human and virgin born, that had to surrender His will to the Father. As Brother Branham states, "*He had to die a man...can't kill God.*" And yet we also know the following...

"Now, but Jesus was not the blood of a Jew nor a Gentile, He was a creative Blood by Jehovah Himself. He was the Blood of God. The Bible said, 'We're saved by the Blood of God.' Not the blood of a Jew or blood of a Gentile, it would all be sex, but this was the Blood of God."¹¹

This is a wonderful truth! We are saved by the Blood of God. Now, you can't kill God and Jesus died as a man. So how can we reconcile these thoughts? Where did the life of Jesus come from? It didn't come from Mary, it came directly from God. God was His Father. I am the blood of Jim DeMars because he is my father, and so Jesus Christ could be none other than the Blood of God; He holds within Himself the very DNA of God. The life of God came forth and was born through a virgin. We call that man that was born the Son of God.

The Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ shows us that He is the DNA of God and that God in-dwelt Him in fullness. This points us to the fact that He is the "*image of the invisible God*"¹² and that, "*no man hath seen God at any time, but the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.*"¹³ I mentioned before that

¹⁰ 65-0418M - It Is The Rising Of The Sun, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

¹¹ 64-1212 - The Harvest Time, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

¹² Colossians 1:15

¹³ John 1:18

Jesus Christ is not a second or third person, but was the person or the only person of God. Let's review what Brother Branham says about it.

"The mystery of Who Jesus Christ was; not a third Person, not the second Person, not the third Person, but the Person of God. All these other mysteries of God will be revealed because it's wrote here in this Book, and be revealed to the end-time generation. "

61-0730e - "The Sixfold Purpose Of Gabriel's Visit To Daniel"

472 "Now, if Jesus knew Who He was...He was a predestinated Creature of time. You believe that? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Jesus, the body, He knew that He was the predestinated Word, the Person of God that was to stand in that day, to be the Sacrifice for sin. And He knew His adversary."

62-0401 - "Wisdom Versus Faith"

7 "Jesus. 'No man has seen God at any time, but the only begotten of the Father has declared Him.' See? In other words, God was identified. The—the Person of God was identified in the Body, the Lord Jesus Christ, so He was the expressed image of God. Or, God expressing Himself through an image, see, through an image, Man. God expressed Himself to us, and He was God. Not a third person or second person; He was the Person, God. He was God Himself, identifying Himself, so we could feel Him."

8 "First Timothy 3:16, 'Without controversy, that's argument, great is the mystery of godliness, for God was manifested, or made known, in the flesh.' Isn't that wonderful? God! And we could never understand God as He moved through a Pillar of Fire, and so forth, as He did. But we understood Him when He become one of us, see, when He become Man. "

64-0112 - "Shalom"

219 "Yes, they misunderstood Him, they didn't know Who He was. That's what's the matter today, people trying to make Him something that He isn't. He's not just a man, He's God in a Man! No third person, He's the only Person. Yes, sir. Well, sure, they misunderstood Him."

61-0723e - "God Being Misunderstood"

15 "Well, if you'll turn the picture like this and look, you can probably see it from the audience, it's Christ. See His eyes looking here, just as perfect as it could be; wearing the white wig of Supreme Deity and Judge of all heavens and earth. Can you see His eyes, nose, His mouth? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Just turn the picture from this, the way they had it; this a way, the way it's supposed to be. And you...Can you see it? ["Amen."] He is Supreme Judge. There is none other but Him. And that is a perfect identification again, a vindication that this Message is the Truth. This is the Truth. It is true. And making Him not a third Person, but the only Person!"

65-0418m - "It Is The Rising Of The Sun"

"But when you can make it to him that this Jesus IS God, Jehovah God, not a second person or a third person, it's the same Person all the time making Himself manifest."

53-0729 - "Questions And Answers On Genesis"

95 "He said, 'Before Abraham was, I AM.' I AM was the One that met Moses in the Pillar of Fire in a burning bush. Yes, sir. He was God made flesh. Not a third person; the same Person in a different office. Not three gods; three offices of one God. Correctly."

62-1014e - "A Guide"

"God, all the fullness, all the Godhead bodily was in this Person, Jesus Christ. He was God, and God alone. Not a third person or a second person, or a first person; but the Person, God veiled in human flesh."

64-0614m - "The Unveiling Of God"

Along with telling us that Jesus is the person of God or the only person in the Godhead, let's notice the descriptions that are provided with these statements.

1. The Person of God.
2. A Predestinated Creature of time, the Predestinated Word to stand as the Person of God.
3. The Person of God identified in the visible expressed image of God our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Person.
4. God became man.
5. Jesus is God in a Man, not a third person or second person.
6. The White Wig Cloud Picture showing He is the Supreme Deity, the Supreme Judge; not a second person, but the Only Person.
7. Jesus is Jehovah God, the same Person all the time.
8. The same Person in a different office, from Pillar of Fire to flesh, the I AM.
9. All the Godhead bodily was in this Person, The Person, God veiled in human flesh.

When we look and see and take everything into consideration, we see that Jesus Christ had a will¹⁴ that He submitted to His Father. We also see that the very Father that was in Him was so identified in the visible body of His Son that it was God Himself made flesh. The only Person of God shows us that Jesus Christ is the visible

¹⁴ Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

expression. Each time we read these statements: "fullness of the Godhead **bodily**," "God was manifest in the **flesh**," "God veiled in **human flesh**," "God became **man**," etc., we have God, the invisible Spirit, that covers all space and time taking upon Himself a form. The "**bodily**" or "body" is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The **flesh, the body, the man** is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Brother Branham taught the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ. However, he did not teach it the same as the Oneness or the Trinitarians. He had a distinct way of teaching it according to the Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Name above all names; the NAME of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Father gave His Name to the Son and the Father sends His Spirit in the Son's name; its all in the name of Jesus Christ! He is the only visible manifestation of the invisible God. That is, he is the only Person of the Godhead.

Election and Predestination

This is a subject that is often misunderstood in the denominational world. Sadly there are many message believers that miss out on the full reality of this truth. They hear Brother Branham state that election is based upon God's foreknowledge, and they come to an Arminian conclusion that God merely foreknows our personal choices. This distorts both the sovereignty of God and the depths of our fallen nature.

The Bible clearly shows us that we are of a depraved nature that loves and rejoices in sin. This is a long section, but I want you to read it all and then we will bring out some major points that apply to this study.

Romans 3:9-20 "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

We see that the apostle Paul teaches us that, "*There is no one righteous...there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.*" To be righteous means to be in a condition before God that He declares you to be without fault. Clearly, the Bible teaches us that all are guilty before God because of sin, both imputed from Adam as well as personal guilt.

Next, we read that there is no one that seeks after God. This is important because this demonstrates our lack of ability when in our natural state from birth, to seek after God. We are "sold under sin" and incapable of seeking after God. This specifically deals with our will and clearly demonstrates that our free will does not cause us to seek after or in fact, choose God. Notice what the apostle Paul states in Romans 9:16, "*So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*" Our salvation is not of our choice or our own personal will, but it is from God that shows mercy. It is not based on our works or our will. In verse 11 of the same chapter, the apostle writes regarding Jacob and Esau, "*For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.*" Paul is showing the highest purpose is not freedom of the human will, but rather the "purpose of God according to election." Let's go even further and say that the human will is repulsed by God. Due to our fallen nature, we neither seek after good or after God. We do not fear God, but

rather we loathe and despise Him. We run from God by nature. Jesus Christ states, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...”

Our Lord Jesus starts His premise with this statement, “No man can come to me.” Or as Paul said, “It is not of him that willeth.” Then the Lord gives us the exception to this rule and that is if the Father draws him. That is, the Father draws him and reveals to him who Jesus Christ is. I want to emphasize the meaning of the word “draw” from the Greek. It is the word *helkuo* and it means “to drag.” This is our human condition, we are born in sin and shaped in iniquity. Our fallen flesh causes us to hide our faces from Christ as in Isaiah 53:3. That shows that we regarded Christ Jesus as so loathsome a creature that when we looked at him we turned our faces away in disgust. But those who are chosen of God are literally dragged to Christ by His grace.

One of the several objections to this truth is from John 3:16.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

So, God loves the world and therefore gave His only begotten Son for salvation, and whoever believes will receive eternal life. Thus the freewill advocate will say that salvation is offered to all the world. But the question is, who believes? Does the whole world believe? We know the answer to this questions is no. So notice what we read in the book of Acts.

Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

So the “whosoever believes” are those who are “ordained to eternal life.” Does this mean that we disregard and state that there is no such thing as freewill? No, but we can clearly see that our freewill doesn’t save us, but rather the grace of God working faith within us to accept the blood of Jesus Christ. Brother Branham tells us this:

"You're on free moral agency. You can act the way you wish to."¹⁵

We clearly have freedom of the will, but it is not the basis of our salvation. Revelation 22:17 tells us that “*whosoever will let him come...*” and John 5:40 tells us that “*...you will not come to me that you might have life.*” Both of them show that we make a choice and a decision to either accept or reject Christ. We have already established the foundation to that. In our will we would reject Christ, but based upon the grace of God, we are dragged to Christ. I also want to emphasize this point in order to reconcile free will and the sovereignty of God.

There is not with God as there is with man a past He is bound by. Everything is NOW with God. The past is never past and the future is ever-present. The unchangeableness of God’s sovereign plan is not in conflict with our freewill and God’s ability to answer our prayers. Looking at it from another direction, our personal choices are not forced upon us; we choose what we desire. However, God can ordain our

¹⁵ 65-1205 [THINGS.THAT.ARE.TO.BE](#) [RIALTO.CA](#) V-4 N-6 SUNDAY

choices without forcing them upon us by dealing with the nature within us that we receive based on our genetics, our life experiences, and the family we are born into. They impact our personal choices. All of these things are ordained by God to direct our circumstances. Let's look more closely at election according to the Scriptures.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

In this verse, it seems as though God is saying that things work together for good for us, but I want to show that it isn't saying that things just happen to work together for good in the way we think about. We think that "good" things are having a peaceful life, enjoying cabin life, not facing bad circumstances, etc. This is not at all what Paul is telling us. Notice in verse 35 of Romans chapter 8 that we are promised that tribulation, distress, nakedness, danger, sword, peril, death nor life will separate us from the love of God. Clearly, these are not "good" things. God is not promising to spare us from difficult tribulations and persecution. Rather He is promising to cause "all things", things like persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, death, etc., to work for our good. So then what is this good that God is working all these things into? God is promising to work this for our spiritual and eternal good. In 2 Corinthians 4:17 Paul writes, "*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*" I believe this is the clear promise of God that in "all things" He works for us both a spiritual good in this life and an eternal good in the life to come.

Those that receive this promise are the ones that love God, and the fact that they love God shows that they were called according to His purpose. Those whom God has called according to His eternal plan will have every trial and tribulation turn to their spiritual and eternal good.

Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

This is not merely God's foreknowledge of events which are to come whereby He is able to predict and state precisely what will happen in future events. Rather this is the specific knowledge of those whom He has chosen to eternal life through Jesus Christ. God does not merely foreknow our choices. Ephesians 1:11 shows that we are "*predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*" In Romans 8:29 we are predestinated by the foreknowledge of God. This cannot merely be a foreseeing of our choices, but rather it is God ordaining us to eternal life and working according to His plan. As the Scripture tells us that he "*worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.*" This is not based upon our personal choice but upon God's personal choice. Jesus stated that "*you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.*" Predestinate means that God ordains our destiny beforehand. Our destiny is to be conformed to the image of His Son. Before the foundation of the world He chose us and ordained us to be in the likeness of His Son. This is not merely speaking of

possessing a glorified body, but that God's purpose for us in this life is that His elect will act and talk like Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:30 "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

I love that the word of God in these verses speaks in a past tense as though all of these things are completed and finished in the mind of God, notice "called", "justified", and "glorified." Our calling is how God draws us to Christ, justification speaks of God declaring us righteous through Christ, and "glorified" is us receiving our new immortal body at the rapture. In the eyes of God these are finished works. To finish this PTM Contender I will include a grouping of quotes from Brother Branham upon these subjects.

61-1231M YOU.MUST.BE.BORN.AGAIN_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-11 N-5
SUNDAY_

« 55 † First, we reckon ourselves sinners and worthy of condemnation. And we are all born in sin and shaped in iniquity; there's not a sound parcel of us. Our minds are bad; our soul is corruptible; our constant thinking is evil, every imaginary thought of a man's mind is evil, a sinner; and also that our body is weak; our spirit is no good; and we're just full of corruption. And how could one corruptible thing bring another good thing out of a corruptible? Let me say this, that in Job, 14th chapter he said, "Seeing that man is born of a woman, is full of sorrow and trouble, yet he cometh forth like a flower, he fadeth away." And on, as the prophet goes on speaking, he said, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." You stick your bucket down into the well and pull out a bucket of water, and it's stagnant, it stinks; you look in it, and it's muddy, and little worms is in that water; there's no way at all to put your bucket back and get a clean bucket. The whole well is contaminated. And the whole soul, mind, and body of man is contaminated with sin, and born in sin, physically, shaped in iniquity, and come to the world speaking lies, so that his own soul is contaminated: nothing good. One cannot redeem the other, because it's all wrong. And you can't take a bucketful of water here that's contaminated, and another bucketful that's contaminated and mix them together; you've got more contamination. There's no purification to it.

64-0402 JEHOVAH.JIREH.1_ LOUISVILLE.MS THURSDAY_

« 17 † They probably, he was a farmer, lived in the valley of the Shinar there, and lived an ordinary life. He--he probably went out in the daytime, and got his meat from the bush, and picked berries, and lived that sort of a life. Just an ordinary man, there was nothing special about him. But one day, God called him. That's what made the difference, when God made the call.

18 And that's the way it is to any life. It takes God. It isn't what you do; it's what God does. See? You say, "I sought God. I sought God." You're mistaken. No man seeks God. God seeks the man. See? It's not you seeking God; it's God seeking you.

19 Jesus said, "You haven't chose Me, but I chose you." See? So you're chose before the foundation of the world, or you wasn't chose at all. He just come to redeem that name. And all whose names are not on that Lamb's Book of Life... before the foundation of the world, is the only ones going to be there, anyhow. See? You were chose in Him before the foundation of the world. When the Lamb was chosen, then you were chosen with Him, before the foundation.

20 And you are, as I said last night, an attribute of God's thinking. See, that's the only way you can be Eternal, and only form of Eternal Life. There is only one form of Eternal Life, and that's God. So, that's all, He is the One that's Eternal.

That's what He come for, to clean out them kind that the Father had give Him before the foundation of the world. Amen. I feel religious, when I know that to be the Truth. "Not he that willeth, or he that runneth; it's God." Amen. Not how much you done, or how much you didn't do. No man sought God; God sought you.

64-0312 - When Their Eyes Were Opened, They Knew Him

64-1212 THE.HARVEST.TIME_ PHOENIX.AZ V-18 N-6 SATURDAY_

« 46 † "The potter," as Romans 8 tells us, "who can tell the potter? Can the clay say, 'Make me thus, thus?'" See? No. God has to display all of His attributes. And so He has to make one vessel of dishonor, and the other one to honor, to show that one up, of course. Now, but He is sovereign, you see, nobody can tell Him what to do.

65-0221E WHO.IS.THIS.MELCHISEDEC_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-5 N-10 SUNDAY_

« 50 † And remember, you, your eyes, your stature, whatever you was, you were in His thinking at the beginning. And the only thing that you are is the expression, word. After He thought it, He spoke it, and here you are. If it isn't, if you wasn't in His thinking, there is no way at all for you ever be there, for He is the One that gives Eternal Life.

51 You remember how we read the Scriptures? "Not him that willeth, or him that runneth, but God!" And that His predestination might stand true, He could choose, before any time, who. God is sovereign in His choosing. Did you know that? God is sovereign.

Who was back there to tell Him a better way to make the world? Who would dare to tell Him He was running His business wrong?

Even the very--the very Word, Itself, very sovereign. Even the revelation is sovereign.

"He reveals to whom He will reveal." The very revelation, itself, is sovereign in God.

That's how people pound at things, and jump at things, and hit at things, not knowing what they're doing. God is sovereign in His works.

65-0418M IT.IS.THE.RISING.OF.THE.SUN_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-3 N-12 SUNDAY_

« 129 † Now, the Holy Spirit comes now. Of course, It wasn't sent... Why won't all the people receive It? It wasn't sent to them.

130 A guy told me, "I don't believe. I don't care what you'd say. If you could raise up the dead, or anything, and heal the sick; and prove It, any way; I still don't believe It."

131 I said, "Certainly not. You're a unbeliever. It don't mean a thing to you. It wasn't even sent to you. It's sent to those who will believe."

132 The Message is to the believer. To them that perish, It's foolishness; but to them that are in Christ, and part of that Seed, It's Life.

It's got to come according to the Word if it comes from God, because it's to vindicate or to prove God's Presence. And He foreknew all these things, being... By His foreknowledge He ordained, foreordained (it's called in the Bible, "predestinated") every age to its place, and every man to its place, and every messenger to its place. He is God, the devil ain't pulling nothing over on Him. And He's God, and He has ordained everything to take place, and falls just exactly in line with His Word.

65-1206 - Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy

It's into the Kingdom of God, with Eternal Life, with the predestinated that never did start. It never started on any day. You wasn't saved on any day. You was always saved. Amen. Jesus just come to redeem that; but you was saved, from the beginning, because you had Eternal Life, to begin with. 233 A trout fish can never be a gar or a tadpole. He might be in the same water with him, but he was, from the beginning, a trout. The net only caught him, see, but he was that from the beginning. There is that...

64-0802 - The Future Home Of The Heavenly Bridegroom And The Earthly Bride

Now, that's a big word, predestinate, but we all know that it's the truth. We absolutely know that the infinite God predestinated all things by foreknowledge before the foundation of the world, even the Lamb was slain; and every name that would ever be on the Book, was put on the Book before the Book was ever written. Now how many knows that's true? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] 362 And Jesus came to—to redeem those that were in the Book. In the Bible, the Lamb came from behind the curtain, and taken the Book and opened the Seals that It was sealed with, for He came to claim all He had redeemed. He's the Intercessor now, an Intercessor making intercessions for those who He has redeemed. All whose name was written on the Lamb's Book of Life, is redeemed.

65-0426 - Proving His Word

He wasn't willing that you should be perished, you would perish. But, Him being infinite, He had to know the end from the beginning, or He isn't God. So Jesus never come to earth just to say, "Well, I'll see if somebody be mercy... If I act and die, in a hard way, they'll probably think, 'Well, I... ' It'll—it'll persuade their hearts, and they'll..." God don't run His business like that. 85 Jesus came for one specific purpose, that's, to save those who God, before the foundation of the world, knew would be saved. He said so. That's right. So you're... "It's not him that willeth, or him that runneth; it's God that showeth mercy." Paul said that. Same man here.

57-0821 - Hebrews, Chapter One

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