

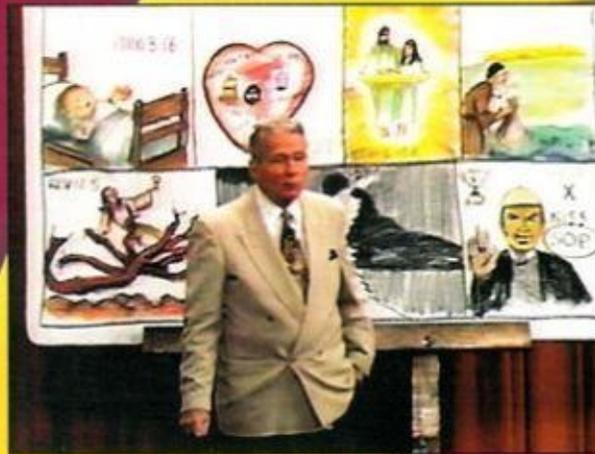
# SEVEN MYSTERIES



Sermon and Chart by

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# Seven Mysteries

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 4:1–2. In this passage Paul says, **“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** A steward is somebody that is given something valuable to take care of, and he is supposed to take care of it for his master. When Eliezer was the **“steward”** of Abraham's house (Gen. 15:2), everything Abraham had was under his hand. And it is required in a steward that a man be found **“faithful”** because he has goods delivered to him that don't belong to him. Now, we understand what we mean when we talk about stewardship of money. When we talk about stewardship of money, we mean God giving you money, and then you taking care of that money and putting it out as the Lord would have you to put it out. But in this passage in 1 Corinthians 4, we are not talking about the stewardship of money.

Now, you look at that verse, and notice that he is talking about the **“mysteries of God.”** He said, **“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”** He's talking about a fellow taking care of some **“mysteries.”** **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** In the passage you're reading right there, Paul is talking about stewardship over something that he has been given to teach and he said a steward must be faithful in taking care of the things that he is given to teach. Now, I'm going to make a broad statement (and I'm not going to repent of it one time, either now or later) when I say that if every minister in America had been faithful in taking care of those mysteries, America would not be in the mess it's in today. If every Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Presbyterian preacher in this country had simply done what God told them to do in this passage, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in right now; and I'll prove that.

That passage says, **“stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** Then there are some mysteries of God that a man is given to take care of, and he is to be faithful in preserving them. Do you know what they are? They're not the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven—that's a different set. *These mysteries are in a Pauline epistle*—he is talking about mysteries that apply to the Body of Christ. Now, how in the world could a man be faithful in preserving them if he doesn't even know what they are? And what's more, people in America don't even care what they are. The average American is a character. The average American is interested in his bank account and his Social Security, his pension or his insurance, and his kids and his house, and his car and inflation, and that's about where it ends. When you begin to talk about the truth to an American, you're talking to a barn full of owls. I mean they're not zealous for the truth. I read in my Bible one time, **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”** (Matt. 5:6). I thought to myself,

“Boy, you don’t meet many people these days starving and thirsting after righteousness.” Do you know anybody in the CIA or FBI or the National Education Association or the Illuminati or the Bilderbergers or the Catholic Church that’s “starving and thirsting after righteousness”? Why, they’re starving and thirsting for dialogue, peace, love, and votes! Righteousness? Are you crazy? If there are fifty Americans in Washington, D.C., that are starving and thirsting after righteousness, they certainly don’t have anything to do with what I’ve been reading in the newspaper in the last thirty years. Americans don’t starve and thirst after righteousness. *They try to find ways to get around it.*

A fellow said to a man one time, “Do you believe the main problems in America are ignorance and indifference?” The man said, “I don’t know, and I don’t care.” There’s a lot of truth in that.

### I. God Manifest in the Flesh

Let us turn to 1 Timothy 3. This is the first mystery, called the “**mystery of godliness.**” If you don’t have a *King James Bible* you won’t be able to find this verse because this is the greatest verse in the Bible on the Deity of Jesus Christ, *and there isn’t one Bible outside the King James that even has it.* Isn’t that strange? Why would every new Bible suddenly take a slap at the Deity of Jesus Christ? Imagine some soul-winning, premillennial, independent, missionary-minded, fundamental, doubly-separated, spirit-filled fool standing up and recommending a Bible that took a slap at the Deity of Jesus Christ! Imagine that! “The original Greek” must have gone to his head.

Now, you take 1 Timothy 3:16, “**And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...**” Do you see that? Now, if you don’t have a *King James Bible*, your Bible will say “*who*” was manifest in the flesh, “*he who*” was manifest in the flesh, “*it*” was manifest in the flesh, and everything else, but if you have a *King James Bible* it says, “**God was manifest in the flesh.**” That’s the greatest verse in the New Testament on the Deity of Jesus Christ. If a man would alter *that* verse or recommend a Bible which altered that verse, he couldn’t do it if he were intelligent or spiritual. He’d have to have something else in mind. There is no way you could recommend a Bible that attacks that verse and be a dedicated man of God—no way under God’s heaven. And if you were dedicated in every other way except *there*, that would be one place where you and the devil were in perfect agreement. A fellow said to me one time recently, “My professor doesn’t believe the *King James Bible* is the word of God,” and I said, “Well, that’s one place where your professor and the devil are in agreement, and I don’t know where they differ on other points.”

Now, you take I Timothy 3:16—you know what that thing says? That thing says, “**God was manifest in the flesh.**” What does that mean? That means that God showed up as a baby. Now, do you know why that is called a “mystery”? Because you couldn’t explain it if you stayed up all night. Now, tell me about it, will you? Mary changing Jesus’ clothes, or Mary saying, “Don’t put that in your mouth, Jesus, don’t put that in your mouth.” You say, “Did that really happen?” Of course it did. He was like any other baby. He “**increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man**” (Luke 2:52).

I'm no Liberal. I don't believe Jesus Christ was just a man. I believe he was **"God... manifest in the flesh."** But I'll tell you one thing—when He came down to this earth, He came down as a *baby*, and a woman had to take care of Him. Some of you probably don't even believe what I just said. Yeah, man, *a woman had to take care of Him*—feed Him, wash Him! A woman washing God! Let's see you figure that one out, brother! You know something? When the Lord wants to mess men up, He doesn't have to do anything big. First Corinthians 1:25 says, **"the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."** The foolishness of God—the Bible says that **"it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"** (1 Cor. 1:21). Paul said, **"We are fools for Christ's sake"** (1 Cor. 4:10). Paul said, **"if any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."** (1 Cor. 3:18). When God wanted to mess up the human race, He didn't have to put letters of fire across the sky saying "Repent or Perish." Nothing of the kind. When God wanted to mess up the human race and make fools out of men, He didn't have to go out of His way or exert Himself. God never has to exert Himself. When God wants to make fools out of men, do you know what He does? He just does some little old nonsensical nothing that doesn't amount to a hill of beans. *He just lets a woman have a baby without a man being involved.* They've been trying to imitate it ever since. These nuts fooling around with artificial insemination and cloning and trying to transplant this and transplant that. Why, you kiddies, who are you trying to fool? That God in that Bible makes man four different ways. A test tube baby isn't even a good start at it. God can make a person out of just ground, right? God can make a woman out of a *man without a woman*. And God can make a man out of a *woman*, and God can make a man out of men and women *together*. Now, I've got a God that can make them four different ways! I mean, if you do manage to counterfeit one of them, you've still got three to go! There is no danger in anybody catching up with the Bible. I hear folks say, "Back to the Bible, back to the Bible." I understand that sentiment, you know. I had a sign on my car one time that said, "Back to the Bible or back to the jungle," and I believe that. But technically, did you know that isn't right? Technically, it isn't *back* to the Bible. You can't get *back* to the Bible. That Bible is so far ahead of you, man, *you have to run to catch up with it.*

Now, you take that thing right there—God manifest in the flesh. Did you ever stop to think what a thing that is? I mean, "little baby Jesus" needing attention, needing care. You ladies who have children, you know what it means to take care of a baby. I've got seven children and four grandchildren. My next to last grandchild was named Stephen Augustine Ruckman. And just as sure as the world—just as sure as that baby was born they started calling him "Gus." They may call him "Steve" in school, and he's going to have to sign his name "Stephen." But they're going to call him "Gus." You take little Gus, he's like any other baby. Now, you ladies know what you have to do to take care of a baby. Can you imagine God in that position? Some of you don't believe it. That's why the Lord said it. *The Lord did it to make fools out of people!* You can't figure that thing out. God, crawling around on the floor? "Time to eat, honey." Isn't that wild, man? You can't figure that thing out. When God let that woman have that baby without a man being involved, He brought to nothing the wisdom of this world. Now, the Bible says, **"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that**

**believe**” (1 Cor. 1:20–21). You know what men did to get around God? They used *wisdom*. For the world by *wisdom*—did you get that? **“By wisdom knew not God.”** You know how men get around knowing God? Their education. **“By wisdom knew not God.”**

You take when little Jesus Christ was born. In Greece there were a bunch of philosophers, and they were called “lovers of wisdom”—that’s what “philosophy” means. You know what they did? They used *wisdom* to get away from God. And the Lord looked down there, and He said, “I’ll tell you what I’ll do. I’ll *confound* your wisdom. I’ll bring it to nothing.” And they said, “How are you going to do that?” He said, “I’m going to let a woman have a baby without a man being involved, and that baby is going to be the One that made the universe.”

Now, explain it to me.

*You couldn’t explain it if you stayed up all night.*

There is no way to explain that.

Now, a mystery is something that’s so whether you explain it or not. And a mystery is something you’re supposed to believe. That’s the first mystery. Do you realize that if every preacher in America had been faithful in keeping that mystery and preserving that mystery, you wouldn’t have one Liberal in one pulpit in the United States? What happened? Somebody was *unfaithful*. Somebody was entrusted with something and didn’t keep it. And Paul said, **“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”** (2 Tim. 2:2). There wouldn’t be one Liberal alive in the United States if every preacher had been faithful in the trust of the first mystery: the Virgin Birth—**“God... manifest in the flesh.”**

## II. Christ In You

Now, take your Bible and turn to Colossians 1:27; that’s the next mystery. Paul says, **“this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”** See that? Now, that verse right there says the **“mystery”** is that Jesus Christ is inside the saved man. Somebody said that is no mystery. Sure, it’s a mystery. You can’t explain that. **“Christ in you, the hope of glory”?**

Let me ask you something. How could a sinless, perfect Saviour stoop down to come in and dwell inside my old, wicked vessel, my unclean flesh that goes into the ground. Worms eat it. A sinless man is inside a sinner. How do you *explain* that kind of thing? Did you ever stop to think about all the wickedness He has to put up with inside you? I like what Hugh Pyle says, “The Resident should be President.” And he says, “The Boarder should be the Boss.” What does that mean? Well, that means if Jesus Christ is in you, He ought to be running things, and not *you*. If you’re a Christian, inside you you’ve got a throne, and there’s room for only one person. When you’re on that throne, Jesus Christ is at the foot of that throne, and when Jesus Christ is on that throne, you’re at the foot of the throne. Now, which is it, brethren? Are you running that thing, or is the Lord running it? *There isn’t any room on there for two of you.* You’re worshipping at His feet, or He’s worshipping at yours. Isn’t that a *disgusting* thought? *Him* worshipping at *your* feet? You

know, it revolted Simon Peter; and when Jesus came around and said, “I’m going to wash your feet,” Peter said, “You aren’t going to wash my feet.” Peter couldn’t stand the thought of the Lord kneeling down in front of him and washing his feet (John 13:4–8). There’s a throne in there, and the *Resident* should be President. The *Boarder* should be the Boss.

The Lord Jesus Christ is in there, and inside that old frame of yours there is sin and rebellion and stubbornness and lust and covetousness. Jesus said, **“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man”** (Mark 7:21–23). Now, inside that body there is the old “me,” and there is the Lord Jesus Christ. You say, “Would you explain that?” *You can’t explain that.* Is Christ in you, brother? He’s in you? That’s impossible. He’s in me. I mean, you can’t explain that. You’ve got a couple hundred Christians here. You all swear that Christ is in *you*. Well, what have we got? *Have we got five hundred different Jesuses in here?* There isn’t any way in the world you can explain that! He didn’t just say the Holy Spirit in you—he said, **“Christ in you.”** You are complete in Him, and *He’s in you*. Now, how do you explain Jesus Christ in *me* and Jesus Christ in *him* and Jesus Christ in *her* and Jesus Christ in *him* if Jesus Christ is not divided? How do you explain that? You couldn’t if you stayed up all night. That’s why it’s called a **“mystery.”** The mystery of the indwelling Christ: **“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**

You know, some people think that when they get saved their troubles are all over, but many times when you get saved your troubles are just beginning. Do you know that some of you people really, honestly didn’t realize what rascals you were until you got saved? Jonathan Edwards said, “When I look into my heart and perceive its infinite wickedness I think it’s a pit deeper than hell.” Bishop Berkley, the old-time saved Episcopalian bishop (not the Deist), a real saved man, said, “When I pray, I sin; when I preach, I sin; my very repentance needs to be repented of, and my tears need washing in the blood of Christ.” You know what that means? That means I’ve got *two men* in there, an old man and a new man.

A man said one time to a Christian, “Do you still sin?” He said, “Yeah, I still have trouble with sin.” And he said, “I thought you were saved.” And the Christian said, “I am.” And he said, “How can you be saved and still sin?” And he said, “Well, I still sin, but being saved sure has complicated it.” Now, if you’re saved, you know what that is, you know what I mean. Before you got saved you could always find some way to justify what you were doing. And then after you got saved that thing came up; and you tried to justify it, and it just didn’t work. You got off; and the first night you were kind of nervous about it and kind of scared, but you said, “It’s all right, you know it doesn’t hurt any.” And then the next night you said, “Yeah, but it was wrong—I shouldn’t have done it.” And then about the next night you say, “Well, I don’t know why my conscience keeps bothering me—it’s all past anyway.” And about the fourth night you get miserable and get down on your face and begin to cry and tell God about it. *There’s a difference.* Before a man is saved, all he’s got is one nature. That old nature sits in there; and that old nature can taste it, and he can feel it, and he can smell it, and he can see it, and he can hear it, and that’s all he can do. *He’s got five senses.* Then, when you get saved and that new man comes in there, you’ve got a *sixth sense*; and you begin to love things you’ve never *seen*, you’ve

never *heard*, you've never *smelled*, you've never *tasted*, and you've never *touched*. That kind of stuff happens, and the old nature and the old man begins to put up a roar. He begins to fuss. He begins to fight. He doesn't like it. Before you got saved you said, "Boy, that's great; yeah, that's good, man. Boy, that's cool, man; that sends me—that's great." After you get saved you still start patting your foot and you say, "Yeah, that's great," but the Holy Spirit says, "Shut it off." You say, "What for? That's good music." The Holy Spirit says, "I don't like it." "Yeah, but I like it." The Holy Spirit says, "I don't." The old nature says, "Well, can't you have a little bit of fun?" The Holy Spirit says, "Shut it off." Then you come to church and start singing hymns in church. And the new nature says, "I like this." And the old nature says, "Ah, corny, man; corny, man." And the new man says, "Yeah, but it's good; it's a blessing." The old nature says, "Man, what a drag. Get out of here."

See? I mean, you get saved, and you've got two natures. Now, what is that? That's a *mystery*. That's "**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**" Listen, when Jesus Christ saved you and gave you a new birth, you know what He did? He took a civilized man and put him in a cage with a gorilla. And you're the gorilla. That gorilla goes on and scratches himself and picks fleas off himself and eats bananas and has a pretty good time, until a civilized man gets in there in the cage with him; then that gorilla starts getting irritable and begins to growl and begins to threaten and begins to try to start a fight, and he's no longer happy. He's no longer at rest. When the Lord saved you, brethren, He ruined you for life.

### III. Christ and the Church

Turn to Ephesians 5, and I'll show you another mystery. Paul says in Ephesians 5:32 about this mystery, "**This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**" Now, in this passage here he's talking about the Lord Jesus Christ and His bride. In verse 29 he says, "**For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.**" And in verse 25 he says, "**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.**" And in verses 30–32 he says, "**For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**" Now, he says that if a man is saved and born again he's in Christ's body. And since a man's body is his *wife*, then the saved people who make up the Body of Christ are spoken of as a wife and a bride—"**Of his flesh, and of his bones**" (v. 30). "**For two, saith he, shall be one flesh**" (1 Cor. 6:16). Now, how do explain that? I mean, some of you fellows are sitting here, and your wife is sitting *next* to you. How could you be "**one flesh**"? I mean, obviously, you can get up and go out the door and leave her sitting here. Where do you get "**one flesh**" from? Explain it. You couldn't if you stayed up all night. That's why when a man doesn't get right he usually becomes an atheist—if you don't get right you'll stumble over that stuff. The rational mind cannot *explain* what I'm talking about. That's why it's called a "**mystery.**" Now, look here. He is up there in the third heaven—I'm down here. I'm part of Him; He's part of me. Explain it. *You couldn't if you stayed up all night!*

I was talking one time with a Campbellite preacher, and he said, “Well, no one can know for sure where they’re going when they die.” I said, “I’m going to heaven.” He said, “You can’t know it till you’re dead.” I said, “What are you talking about, man, I’m in heaven *right now*.” And he said, “You’re not in heaven right now: I’m looking at you.” I said, “You fool, you’re looking at my *body*. I’m not here; I’m up in glory.” Now, he can’t understand that. *I can’t understand it myself, but I know it’s so!* You know what Ephesians 2:6 says? **“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”** I bow my head and say, “Lord bless this message in the Lord Jesus Christ’s name, Amen.” *I’m in*. I am in the throne room. **“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace”** (Heb. 4:16). We don’t need to go through a chauffeur and a doorkeeper and a secretary and a vice-secretary and all that kind of business to get in the front office: “Hail, Mary” and all that mess. Down here where I have my office a student has to knock on my door to get into the office. My son doesn’t have to knock on that door—he just comes on in. You know why? *I’m his father*. (You have to think about that a while. That will get next to you, man. I mean, if God is your Father, you just walk in the front door. You’re already there “in spirit.”)

How many of you men here tonight love the Lord, let me see your hands? Why, you’re crazy; I mean, how do you figure two hundred men all in love with the *same man*? How do you do that? Boy, that will blow your mind, man! Now, let me ask you this: how do you get all these and then *women*, too? How do all you men and women wind up married to Christ as one unit when you make up over four million units between Pentecost and the Rapture? How do you explain it? No way in the world, man. It’s a **“mystery.”** You can’t explain it.

You know what Paul says about the Bride of Christ in this age? He said the Bride of Christ in this age is **“a chaste virgin”** (2 Cor. 11:2). **“I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”** *Then she’s not married*. She’s chaste; flesh hasn’t joined flesh; no marriage has taken place; she’s engaged; she’s a virgin. And he turned right around in Ephesians and said you’re **“of his flesh, and of his bones”** (Eph. 5:30), and you’re his *wife*. How do you explain that? I’ve got all the commentaries at home. *They can’t tell you anything*. You take twenty-two commentaries and lay them out there, and they can’t tell you *anything*.

Now, as far as spirits are concerned, I’m joined to Him right now. How do I get that? **“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit”** (1 Cor. 6:17). So, the marriage has already taken place as far as the *spirit* goes; but the marriage hasn’t taken place so far as the *body* goes, because my physical body is down here and His is up there. In 2 Corinthians 5:6–8, Paul said **“knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”** So, you have a double thing. You have a bride that’s a virgin in one sense and a married woman in another sense. You say, “Explain that.” *You can’t explain it*. You are supposed to *believe* it. Paul said, **“This is a great mystery”** (Eph. 5:32). It is a great mystery. **“But I speak concerning Christ and the church.”** Now, I don’t fully understand everything about what I’m going to say, and naturally I wouldn’t because it’s a **“great mystery,”** you see; but if I understand everything the Bible says like I think I understand it (and I might be wrong), the best things down here are counterfeits for the *real things* up there. When

God invites men to Him, do you know what instincts He appeals to? *Self-preservation and self-propagation*, because these are the strongest instincts in man. When you get to fooling around with sex and start putting lewd and naked pictures of women around and start slapping around the marriage bed on television and start digging into people's private sex lives and throwing it all over the screen and all over the radio, you're playing with fire. Self-propagation is the strongest *physical animal urge* in the human body outside of *self-preservation*. If you take *animal instincts* and turn them loose, you're going to get a jungle.

Now, do you know what God does when He appeals to men? He says, "Come to a wedding" (Matt. 22:3). There's the feast. It's a marriage feast. What's a feast for? *To feed your belly*. When God wants to give men the gospel, He appeals to their *physical instincts*. **"Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"** (Rev. 22:17). **"I am that bread of life"** (John 6:48). See that business? The Lord knows men. And the Lord knows men want to *preserve themselves* and *propagate themselves*. And when God Almighty speaks about a place for men to come and get what they desire and what they want and what they profess to be after, He calls it two things—*love and food*. Did you ever think about that prodigal son (Luke 15:12)? That old prodigal son left home. I know what the young man wanted. He wanted love and money and good clothes and good food. There is nothing funnier to me than to see a young man these days running away from home, trying to find that stuff. You see them out there on the highway with their hair all over, like a sheep dog that fell off the back of a garbage truck, and they've got this sack on their back, and they're standing there in the rain. You know, the guy would get off with less work if he joined the Army than standing out there, and the guy's got to sleep somewhere that night; then a bunch goes by and mugs him and steals what he's got, and he sleeps out there at night on the ground. Listen, man, the prodigal got the money *when he got home*: **"put a ring on his hand"** (Luke 15:22). He got the clothes when he got home: **"Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him"** (Luke 15:22). He got the food when he got home: **"bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it"** (Luke 15:23). And he got the love when he got home. It's at home. It isn't out there. *It's at home*. It's with the Lord.

Now, if I don't miss my guess (and I could miss my guess), what heaven is going to be is the best that you ever enjoyed down here pushed up beyond where your physical flesh could stand it. You know what heaven is going to be like? It's going to be like getting plugged into 220 volts and just staying. Now, you stop and think about that for a while. I don't understand all these things, but I'm certain that everything that man really enjoys down here is *a depraved, fallen counterpart of something that's real*. And, bless God, someday I'm going to know the real thing. And it sure isn't Coke! You know what I've always wanted? I've always wanted to get in a place where I could do anything I wanted to do and say anything I wanted to say and think anything I wanted to think and not have anybody interfere with me. And I'm going to tell you something (I'm going to prophesy!). Someday I'm going to be in a place where I can *do anything I want to do and think anything I want to think and say anything I want to say, forever, and never even have to check to see if it's right, because it's going to be right!* Now, you know what that is, brethren? That's *heaven!* And if you miss that, you miss the whole thing. I mean, if you miss *that*, what else is there? What's better than doing just what you want to do twenty-four hours a day and thinking and saying whatever you want to think and say all day long?

Perfect liberty, perfect freedom, and *never having to worry about whether it's right or not!* Now, if you've got something better than that, tell me about it, okay? I'm broadminded; I've been around all over the place. I've never heard of anything better in any place I've ever been.

#### IV. The Restoration of Israel

Now, these are “**mysteries.**” These are not things that you can explain. If you could explain them, they wouldn't be *mysteries*. A mystery is something that you're to *believe* that you can't explain. “**Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful**” (1 Cor. 4:2). As I said before, if every minister in America had been faithful in preserving these things I'm talking about, America wouldn't be in the mess it's in today. For example, if a man had been faithful in teaching the “**mystery of godliness,**” there isn't anybody in America that would ever doubt the Virgin Birth. They weren't faithful. Now, remember the second mystery: “**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” If they'd been faithful in teaching that, then there are thousands of Christians who wouldn't be upset and disturbed all the time about committing the “unpardonable sin.” When this ungodly stuff in their lives comes up, they would realize they have *two natures* and would learn how to deal with them. Three is the doctrine of eternal security. Two is the doctrine of the two natures. One is the doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ.

All right, turn to Romans 11:25. This next mystery is dealing with the restoration of Israel. If President Carter had believed that, he wouldn't have given Sadat the edge. But the Pious Peanut from Georgia didn't believe that. You know why? Because he wasn't faithful. You start this stuff and people say, “Well now, Brother Ruckman, you know what they do about oil, you know, and....” Yeah, I've heard all that stuff. “**The just shall live by faith**” (Rom. 1:17). The idea of a country putting on a coin “In God We Trust” and then when a row starts between the chosen people, that God gave the land to, and Ishmael, whom He told to go out of the land (Gen. 21), they try to sit in the middle and get along because they're worried about the oil and gasoline! Well, then take the cotton pickin' inscription off your coin. Don't go around saying “In God We Trust.” Say, “In Rockefeller We Trust.”

I've seen all this business about, “Well, if you do this, ooohhh,” you know. Back there in 1933 they tried to get rid of prohibition; they said, “Look at all the damage it's causing.” Why, I've got statistics at home that show that in the last ten years prohibition was in effect, there were only 1,385 deaths due to trying to enforce the laws of prohibition. Do you know how many deaths you have now in a year because of drinking liquor and driving? You have more in *one year* than you had in those *ten years* gunning them down with machine guns. The government takes away your guns and leaves you your liquor. The Surgeon General says, “Smoking is dangerous for your health.” Hey, stupid, what about that *liquor*? I wonder how come the Surgeon General has said nothing about the liquor? In our nation there are five million alcoholic women, and the insane asylums are packed full. It isn't “dangerous to your health”? It isn't dangerous for high blood pressure? How come you go to the doctor, and he says to cut down on your drinking? Oh, come on man, if it's not dangerous, why cut down on it?

Now, He says over there in Romans 11:25, **“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery.”** See it: mystery. **“Lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”** And he says, **“As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”** (Rom. 11:25–26, 28–29). Now, see what you just read there? You read that an unbelieving Jew is an enemy of the gospel. **“As concerning the gospel, they are enemies...but as touching the election”**—the fact that God chose them, **“they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”** The mystery is that *God is not through with Israel*. And even though God may look like He’s through with Israel, He’s not through with Israel. Someday God is going to take that wandering Jew and bring him back to Palestine (He’s done that, 1948), and after the Jews have been reduced down to about four or five hundred people, God is going to get them saved in the Tribulation and convert them to Jesus Christ. That’s the mystery of the *believing remnant of Israel* which is going to turn to God.

The passage before it says that **“as concerning the gospel, they are enemies...but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”** Now, do you know what that says in plain English? That says, in plain English, you have to love that Jew. You know, Gentiles don’t get along with Jews. Do you know why a Gentile doesn’t like a Jew? *Because a Jew can make money and a Gentile loves money*, that’s why. One time on a bus in one of those towns over in Poland, a Gentile and a Jew were talking, and the Gentile said to the Jew, “You know, they don’t have any Jews in our village.” And the Jew said, “That’s v’y it’s still a *villich*.” There’s a lot of truth in that.

They had one of these stories they used to tell about where Pat Boone got up and sang *Peace in the Valley* and ten thousand Catholics joined the Protestant church, and Bing Crosby sang *Ave Maria* and ten thousand Protestants joined the Catholic church, and Eddie Fisher got up and sang *There’s a Gold Mine in the Sky* and ten thousand Jews joined the Air Force.

You know, you tell jokes like that and some folks just sit around and stare at you. You sorry stuffed shirt! Let me tell you something. If I had a file taken of you since the time you got up this morning, all day long, would you look as dignified as you look right now? Don’t kid me, boy! Listen: when you get a bunch of people that are so dignified, so starched, and so stiff that they can’t laugh at jokes about their race or their religion or their denomination or themselves, there’s something wrong with them. Have you ever noticed that no dictators have a sense of humor? That’s something worth knowing. Charlemagne and Napoleon didn’t tell jokes. Neither did Mussolini or Adolph. Dictators don’t have a sense of humor.

A fellow said that this country has reached the place where people are so sensitive and so touchy that a fellow has to qualify everything he says before he says it, for fear of offending somebody. I didn’t get you into that shape, brother; the television got you into that shape. They got you into the shape where it’s a terrible thing to laugh at somebody’s

color, but it's all right to laugh at a dirty joke. We are raising a nation of hypocrites, that's what they are. That's what Christ called them, **"Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites"** (Matt. 23:13). You know, I appreciate all the sense of humor that's left in this country; boy, we'll need all we have before we get through!

Now, you take that Jew. You've got to love that Jew, and I'll grant you, that Jew is hard to get along with. And I'll grant you that Jews out there in the world are unlovable characters. We talk about stubborn Irishmen and bull-headed Irishmen and stubborn Dutchmen and stubborn Germans, and maybe there's some truth in that; but do you know that when God Almighty wanted to pick out a race of people for stubborn people, do you know what he picked out? *He picked out that Jew.* He said **"stubborn," "stiff-necked," "uncircumcised in heart and ears"** (Ps. 78:8; Acts 7:51). Do you know why God picked those people? Because first of all they're probably the most unlovable, unlovely people on the face of this earth. Of course, I've known Christian Jews who were fine men and loved the Lord and believed the Book. But like I said, you've got to love those people. I don't care what kind of junk you read, you've got to love those people and take care of them. If you don't, the Lord will fix you. And He's been very consistent in history.

Every nation that turned its back on that Jew and messed that Jew up, the Lord messed them up. Do you realize that at one time Spain—not England—was the foremost nation on the face of this earth? Do you realize that at one time those people (Balboa, Cortez, Ponce de Leon, Columbus, Vasco DaGama, Magellan) ruled the whole world. What happened to Spain? Spain hasn't been a fifth-rate power in three hundred years. Did you ever think about that? Something to think about, isn't it? It wasn't the British; it was the Spaniards. When Coronado came over here, he got off there at the Gulf and walked clear up to Kansas. Some of you would have a hard time doing that today on the Interstate. That guy walked through Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma clad in armor and fighting yellow fever. What ever happened to Spain? Well, I'll tell you what happened. About 1492, after Columbus sailed the ocean blue, they put in the Inquisition. They'd take Jews and force them to be baptized, or they would confiscate their property or run them out of town or exile them: they would steal their property and kill them and torture them—murder them. Then, one day, the Spanish fleet went up in the English Channel and met Sir Francis Drake, and Sir Francis Drake sank that fleet, and Spain has never been anything since. Every nation that ever persecuted that Jew got it in the neck.

Now, you listen to what I'm telling you. In 1918 there was a fellow named Weitzmann who discovered a certain kind of gunpowder that was a great help for the allies in World War I. He did such a service for the British and the English speaking people that they said something ought to be done for his people, the Jews, to show gratitude for what he'd done for them. So, Lord Balfour and a bunch of fellows got together and set up what they called "The Balfour Declaration." The Balfour Declaration was a declaration to give Palestine back to the Jews as a homeland, but when Lord Balfour and the others started to get the thing going through about the time that war ended, around to Parliament came the Grand Mufti of Arabia. He walked in there and said, "If you let them over there, Rocky and me will shut down the oil." Then Parliament got together to try to decide what to do about that thing, and they decided to vote on whether they would make it a *British mandate* or really open it up and really give it to those Jews. When they got together for that vote, the leading speaker in Parliament got up and said, "I'm against it." Who was that? That was

old Winston “Winnie the Pooh” Churchill. “Great man,” was he? He said, “Don’t give it back to them.” Sir John Halsam, the old Puritan in the House of Commons, got up with tears running down his face and took his *King James 1611 AV* and opened to Amos 9 and read down through the last three verses, and he said: “Gentlemen, you know that God gave that land to his chosen people, and you’re not doing right.” So, a bunch of Jews got on ships and went over there to Palestine, and when they got off the ships they found barbed wire on the beaches, concentration camps—they weren’t German, they were English.

You’ve got to love that Jew. You had better not put that Jew in a furnace. Old Winnie Churchill got up and said that he didn’t think they should give the land to the Jews, and the Lord said, “Okay, boy!” And when Germany got through with England, it was blood, sweat, and tears in Coventry. You know what England is today? It’s a *fifth-rate world power*, and some of you folks ate better this week than a middle-class Englishman has eaten in the last year. You don’t believe it? *Go over there and see*. Don’t take my word for anything. I mean, you go over there and see if I’m telling you the truth.

You know what happened to Germany one day? Germany said, “All right, we’ll whip England.” So they decided to whip England. About that time the Jewish question came up, and about the time the Jewish question came up, the Lord said to that Jew, “Go back to Palestine. It’s a British mandate; but go back there, and I’ll make it your own country someday. Don’t worry about it being a mandate. Go back.” But the Jews in Germany said, “But mama, business is good.”

There were people in Germany in 1923 and 1924 putting wallpaper in their homes of million mark stamps, because it was cheaper to make the wallpaper out of stamps than it was to go down and buy the wallpaper. German women and German men were out in the streets digging in the garbage and gleaning in the fields for potatoes, and the Jews came over there with gold dollars and bought up the houses and everything in them. Listen! Hitler may have been crazy, but he wasn’t *stupid*. You have to think about that. *That’s profound, brother*. When Hitler wanted to take advantage of that thing, he said, “The trouble is that Jew. Get rid of that Jew.” And the Lord said to that Jew, “Go back, go back.” Listen, every Orthodox Jew in Miami, New York, and Detroit has an Old Testament; and every time every Orthodox Jew in America picks up his Old Testament, the last book in his Old Testament in 2 Chronicles, and the last verse in 2 Chronicles says, **“Let him go up”** (2 Chron. 36:23). There isn’t any Jew in the U.S.A. who doesn’t know what he’s supposed to do. Not one of them. If he’s an Old Testament Orthodox Jew under the Law, he is to get back to Palestine. Now, the Lord said, “Get back.” And that Jew said, “I’m not going back.” And the Lord said, “Heinrich Himmler, I have a job for you.” And listen, when he got through with the Jews, *they went back*. And they’re back there now. And they’re going to be back there until the Lord comes. The persecution that Adolph Hitler gave to that Jew is nothing compared to the persecution that Jew is going to have during the Tribulation. Hitler killed six million of them. In the Tribulation the Antichrist will get rid of fourteen million before you can turn around. Under what kind of a set up? We’ll talk about that later.

You’ve got to love that Jew. You’ve got to take care of that Jew. **“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”** (Gen. 12:3). Let me tell you a little secret (and I’m no Nazi). From

what I understand about history, if old Hitler had taken care of that Jew, he would have conquered Europe. Those Europeans weren't that good; they turned their backs on God years ago. He didn't do it, but you know what I wish Hitler had done? I wish he had put all those Jews in concentration camps and taken care of them and fed them three big meals a day and preached the Gospel to them. That would've been a novel turn of events, wouldn't it? The Lord said, **"I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee."** That fellow made one mistake. He messed up with that Jew. When he messed up that Jew, do you know what the Lord did? He took his mind. Kurt Zeidler would come in and say, "We need to retreat." "Don't retreat." And Paulus would come in and say, "We need to retreat." "Don't retreat." And Rommel and Model would come in and say, "We've got to retreat." "Don't retreat." *He wouldn't listen to his generals.* And if he had listened to his generals, he would have whipped Russia and England. But he couldn't *think*. The Lord took his mind. Do you know why the Lord took his mind? Because he messed with that Jew. Now, you don't want to go crazy. You'd better keep your hands off that Jew. You'd better love them. I'll just tell you what you should do. You should go home and get down on your knees and say, "Lord, help me love them," and you should win as many of them as you can to Christ. I just want to tell you Gentiles that in Christ **"There is neither Jew nor Greek"** (Gal. 3:28). When a Jew gets converted, he's no longer a "Jew." He's a Christian.

## V. MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT

Now, take your Bibles and turn to Revelation 17:5. Here's a woman. She's out in the wilderness. She's seated on a beast, and the beast has seven heads and ten horns. And then Revelation 17:5 says that the woman has an inscription on her forehead: **"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."** Now, you know what this is? This is a "mystery." This is something you're supposed to believe, but you can't explain.

All right, she's called a **"woman"** (Rev. 17:3). Now look at Revelation 17:18. You never have to worry about private interpretation: *the Bible will interpret itself*. You don't have to depend upon me to tell you *what* the woman is or *who* the woman is. As a matter of fact, I'm not going to tell you whether you ask or not. What you need to do is open your Bible and see what the Bible says. Revelation 17:18 says, **"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."** See that thing right there? He told you what that woman was. *That woman was a city.* And that woman was a city that *reigns over the kings of the earth*. Do you know of a city that *reigns over the kings of the earth*? (Now, don't mess up the program. I mean, no helps and no kibitzing, please!) Verse 4: she has a **"golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication,"** and she is **"arrayed in purple and scarlet colour."** Do you know of a city whose colors are purple and scarlet, that's built on seven mountains (v. 9), that reigns over the kings of the earth, whose symbol is a golden cup? Surely, you people have never seen a *golden cup* anywhere with *purple* and *scarlet* around it. I mean, what bigot would see a thing like that? (Keep talking like this and folks say, "Bigot, bigot, bigot, bigot." Listen, you're so narrow-minded that if a fly sat on your nose he could kick you in both eyes at the same time.) There's nothing in this world that prevents me as a free

American male, full grown, from looking at a sign and looking at the colors on it. I have got my constitutional rights, and I've got a Bible; and that Bible tells me I'm to look out for a *city on seven mountains* whose colors are *purple and scarlet* and whose symbol is a *golden cup*. You say, "Who is it?" I wouldn't even bother to tell you. You'd think I was prejudiced. I'm not prejudiced. The Lord is prejudiced. *The Lord wrote the Book*. I didn't write that thing in there that you're reading. That isn't one of Ruckman's books. *That's the Lord's Book*. And He said that it's purple and scarlet and that she has a golden cup.

Now, let's look at verse 5. She's said to be "**the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.**" Well, if she's a city, how would you feel if you were living in that city? See, that's the question. It isn't a matter of what the Greek says or what the Hebrew says. That's got nothing to do with it. The question is *how would you feel if you were in that city?* The Lord said that that city was a "**whore**" (v. 1). She's a *prostitute*. A prostitute is a woman that sells herself for money. Whoever that city is, that city goes along with the world to get the world's favor. It runs the kings of this earth. If somebody is fighting the *Moslems* when that sister is around, then all of her leaders become *Crusaders*. See? And if *Soviet Russia* is going to run things, then all her leaders suddenly become *Communists*. That old Papa Johnny Paul over there has got himself a time right now. You know what he's got to do right now? He's got to convince these Catholics that he's a Christian while at the same time having fellowship with atheists. That's quite a trick, if you can do it. Do you know what his job is? His job is to deliver Spain, France, West Germany, and Italy over to Soviet Russia. That's his job. Now, you mark what I'm telling you. The proof's in the pudding. Wait awhile. I don't know how you go on professing to be a Christian and at the same time profess you ought to be getting along with atheists. Saved people who believe that Bible don't get along with atheists: *but John Paul II does!*

All right, you take that city that's built on seven hills. Look at verse 6. That city is filled with "**the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.**" Do you know of any city built on *seven mountains*, whose colors are *purple and scarlet*, that reigns over the kings of the earth, whose symbol is a *golden cup*, who is guilty of killing Christians? Oh, I wonder what city that could be? Now, I don't have to tell you who that woman is if you've got breathing sense. And if you haven't figured out by now who that woman is, according to the word of God, you need to have your eyes checked. That woman in your Bible, from start to finish, is *Rome*. And Christ didn't say to "beware of false prophets that will come in the name of Lenin and Karl Marx." He said "**many shall come in my name**" (Matt. 24:5). Let me ask you something: who put the spear in His side—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (John 19:34) Let me ask you this: who pounded the nails in—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (Matt. 27:35) Let me ask you this: who whipped Him—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (John 19:1) Let me ask you this: who put Paul in jail—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (Acts 25:12) Let me ask you this: who cut off James's head—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (Acts 12:2) Let me ask you this: who put Peter in jail and wanted to kill him—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (Acts 12:4) Let me ask you this: who put John on the island of Patmos when he was up in years and made him work in a salt mine—a *Roman* or a *Russian*? (Rev. 1:9) You know what's wrong with folks in America? They're bigots. That's the problem. There's nothing that I have told you that a fourth grade kid can't understand. You understand it perfectly. The thing is that some of your kinfolk are messed up. You say, "Well, I've got a dear old mother and a dear old grandmother, and they are fine Christians." I didn't say

some of them weren't Christians. I believe you've got saved Catholics all over America *in spite of their church*. I really do. I believe we've got some saved Catholics that have been watching television programs or reading gospel tracts. I believe we've got some saved Catholics all over that are just afraid to get out of the church. But that isn't going to change that Book any. *That Book says that that church is a prostitute*. And she will sell out what she believes and what she professes in order to get along with the world. She'll let her own priests get killed in Africa if she can get control of Africa. *She might even get in a black pope*.

## VI. The Mystery of Iniquity

Take your Bibles and turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:7. This is called the “**mystery of iniquity**.” In 2 Thessalonians 2:2–8, Paul says, “**That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed....**” In verse 7 he says, “**For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.**” The mystery of iniquity—that’s the mystery of the Antichrist. Now, I don’t have time to go into that too deeply, because that’s another sermon in itself (see the book *Mark of the Beast*, 1969). Suffice it to say that his number is 666. He has a sign: it’s a kiss. He has a salute: it’s two fingers. He has a letter: it’s an X. And he has a name, a religion, a race, and a mark. There’s more information in the Bible on him than there is on any other man in the Bible outside of Jesus Christ Himself. He’s the Antichrist. That’s another message in itself.

## VII. The Rapture

Now, take your Bibles and turn to 1 Corinthians 15:51–55, “**Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**” The final mystery is *the Rapture*. The final mystery is the disappearance of the Body of Christ—“**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.**” Now, he says there are two kinds of people. Those who are alive when the Lord comes are to be caught up without dying. Those that are dead will be pulled up out of the ground. So, he says that if you’re mortal, subject to the mortality rate, you’ll be caught up without dying and put on *immortality*. If you’re dead and buried when

the Lord comes back, then you're down in the ground rotting and you're corruptible, and you come out of the grave and put on *incorruption*. He says in verses 54–55, **“Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”** The kind that are alive when the Lord comes, death doesn't get them. **“O death, where is thy sting?”** The ones that are buried can't stay in the ground—**“O grave, where is thy victory?”** The live man goes up without dying; and the dead man goes up, and the grave can't keep him down.

One time Mary and Martha had some trouble when their brother Lazarus died. Martha went to see Jesus, and she said, **“Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died”** (John 11:21); and he said, **“Thy brother shall rise again.”** And Martha said, “I know he'll come up again in the last day, the last resurrection, the general judgment of the unsaved dead.” And Jesus said, “Martha, you've been reading the training union and the BTU literature and the RA and the Sunbeam for so long and fooling around with the Lottie Moon, that you don't know what's going on.” And He said, “If you had been studying your Bible, you'd know that **‘I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:’** (first class) **‘And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die’** (second class).” Both resurrections are right there in that passage in John 11:25–26. So you've got two kinds. It's a great comfort for me to know that if I die before the Lord comes, the worms can't keep me. They can eat me, but they can't keep me *digested*. I mean, I'm going down, but “You can't keep a good man down.” I'm coming back up, brother! You know, I have stood by the grave of many a Christian at a funeral and looked down into that hole after everybody had left. And I say to the ground, “You can't keep him down, you can't keep him down. You have him for a while, but he's going to come up.” And that's what's going to happen. **“O grave, where is thy victory.”** The grave can't keep him. They're coming up.

Now, they used to sing back in the old days, “There's going to be a meeting in the air, in the sweet, sweet by and by, I'm going to meet you, greet you there in your home beyond the sky.” I'm waiting for them to come. I've preached on the Second Coming of Christ more than seven hundred and fifty times, and He hasn't come yet. Some of these folks out in the country say, “Ah, He isn't going to come. My granddad used to always talk about His coming. My granddad's been dead for fifty years.” *Yeah, but He's going to come.* Old Noah kept saying that it was going to rain. One fellow said, “Well, you senile old fool. It hasn't rained around here in a hundred and twenty years, and you've been preaching that.” He said, “Yeah, but it's going to rain; it's going to rain; it's going to rain.” And one day it did. And I'm here to tell you that one day I'm leaving. I mean, if the Lord comes, I'd go up right now. If the Lord comes, I'm leaving. Bye-bye. I don't have to wait for that plane back Monday morning. I'd just as soon meet my family three thousand feet in the air, going straight up. It's all right with me.

If the Lord came right now, every pane in this building would burst out, and you'd hear a roar out there like a cobalt bomb going off. And you talk about a crisis! Policemen running all over, and sirens going off. People will go crazy, man! Do you realize what it would be like if it happened in this church? I mean, suppose the Lord comes right now. Bam! We all take off. Along about 10:30 at night Smokey and Dick Tracey come in here. There are a hundred cars parked out here with nobody in them. The lights are on in this building. The Fuzz comes in this building, and here's one person sitting over here, and one

over here and one over here. If Jesus came right now, right this minute, do you realize that if you're sitting here unsaved what would happen to you? You would lose your mind; you'd go stark, raving mad because you couldn't believe what you would see. You would be sitting here, and all of a sudden, Blam! Your ear drums would just about come out with a blast, and there would be glass flying all over the room. When you got up off that floor and shook your head and looked around that room, you'd see a couple hundred quarts of *blood* running down that floor and *bloody clothes all over those benches*. You'd go crazy.

Now, a few days later the world will fix it up. They'll say, "Where did all the people go?" And out there in the world, they'll say, "Well, a certain planet came by that attracted a certain kind of negative..."—oh, they'll fix you up. They'll have a fellow step out of a UFO and say that we had to take those people out because they were disturbing the peace, and there couldn't be any peace on earth—oh, they'll fix up you chumps that believe in education. They'll wrap you up as neat as a peddler's pack, boy, and mail you out.

If the Lord would come right now we'd leave. Wham! How do you do that? The Lord just disintegrates all my atoms here and puts them together outside there. I don't have to worry about bumping my head on the ceiling—I'll go right slap through that ceiling. Christ had a resurrection body that walked right through a closed door (John 20:19). You think I'm going to have trouble with that ceiling? Why, Jesus Christ went up to glory in John 20:17 and came back. He told Mary not to touch Him because He hadn't gone up yet. Two hours later they held Him by His feet (Matt. 28:9). He went up and came back in two hours. That's moving.

I wish it were tonight. As God is my witness, I can't understand a Christian not wanting Jesus Christ to come back *tonight*. Did you ever stop to think about this? If you're saved, every problem you've got would be solved tonight. You have cancer? Well, you wouldn't have to worry about it anymore. It would be all over. You worry about getting diabetes? You wouldn't have to worry about it. You worry about your kids not getting married? You worry about them getting married? There isn't one problem you have that the Second Coming of Christ wouldn't take care of. We had a bunch of people down South a couple of years ago singing, "Wait a little longer, please, Jesus." I told them I was going to write a song called "*Hurry up a little quicker, please, Jesus.*" The last prayer in the Bible is "**Even so, come Lord Jesus.**"

I read a story one time about a colored man who left his little boy outside a store. He had to go upstairs and see a doctor, and he said, "Now son, you stand right here at the corner till I get back. Don't you go off no matter what happens. You be right here at the corner." That boy stayed there for about thirty minutes, and it began to rain. A shopkeeper came out and said, "Young man, would you like to step in here and get dry?" He said, "No, sir." And he stood there awhile, and the storekeeper came out again and said, "You're going to catch pneumonia standing out in the rain. Won't you come in?" The boy said, "My daddy told me to stand right here. I's gonna wait right here for him." And he stood there through the storm for thirty minutes, and after a while the father came out and was sorry to see his son wet, but was glad that he had obeyed him. And they went off together. That boy did what his daddy told him to do.

Jesus Christ said to "**occupy**" till He comes (Luke 19:13). Do you know what it means to "**occupy**"? It means to have an occupation—it means to stay busy. Are you

busy? **“Occupy till I come.”**

I heard Tom Malone say one time that a little boy got saved up there in his church, and about four weeks later his daddy got saved and got baptized. He said the night the daddy got baptized that little boy wandered up on the platform right there (everybody laughed in the congregation), and when his daddy came up out of the water the little boy turned around to the congregation and said, “Now, if the Lord comes, daddy won’t be left behind.” And the way that thing worked was that that little boy had gotten saved a month before that and had witnessed to his daddy, and his daddy had told him to shut up. That little boy began to cry, and his daddy wanted to know what was the matter; and the little boy said, “Well, if Jesus comes you’re going to be left behind.” And the daddy said to his wife, “Who’s been giving that kid that garbage, anyway?” And she said, “Down at the church.” He said, “Well, you tell them to shut up with that stuff, or you can’t go back there anymore.” After about two weeks, he heard them praying at night, and the little boy began to cry in his prayer and say, “Please save daddy, Lord, please save daddy, so if the Lord comes we’ll all go up together.” And the old man came in and forbade him to go back to that church. That little boy and his mother went on praying for the daddy.

That fellow went away on a traveling trip somewhere and right in the middle of a big sales conference at some hotel he got up from the table and said, “Boys, I don’t know what’s wrong with me. I think I’m losing my mind.” And he went back home and got saved and went down to that church and got baptized. When he got baptized, he came out, and the little boy was standing there on the platform and said, “Now if Jesus comes we won’t have to leave daddy behind.”

Now, if the Lord would come tonight, would you be left behind? The Bible says, **“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”** (Matt. 24:44)

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