

THE RADICAL GOSPEL

BY BEN MORGAN

PREFACE

Editor's Note: Bro. Ben Morgan preached this message at the 2014 Carbondale, Kansas Fellowship Meeting. It has been transcribed from an audio CD and edited for print.

REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest:** Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

Note: *Definitions of references pulled from WikipediA, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

DISCLAIMER

This document has been formatted, proofed, and its verbiage modernized so as to save it into an easily read and/or printed electronic format.

1 Thessalonians, written by Paul, is a wonderful book which mentions the personal pre-millennial 2nd Coming of Christ in every chapter.

1 THESSALONIANS 1: The 1st chapter presents a view of **SECOND-COMING CONVERTS**. Some get saved and they trust in Jesus as their Savior. Then, if they are fortunate enough to be instructed that the Lord is coming back, that truth will make a difference in their life. Every part of the truth makes a difference in our lives. For instance, if we have never been taught about the 2nd chapter of Acts, chances are we will never know very much about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. So this first chapter, shows that **SECOND-COMING CONVERTS** "*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven*" [1Th.3:9-10].

1 THESSALONIANS 2: Then in the 2nd chapter, we have **SECOND-COMING PREACHERS** and every verse features come characteristic of Paul's ministry.

- Verse 1 declares: "*For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain,*" so he was an effectual preacher.
- Verse 3 informs us that he was an honest and sincere preacher. "*For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile.*"
- Every verse tells us something about his ministry that is wonderful.

1 THESSALONIANS 3: Chapter 3 of this book refers to Jesus' 2nd Coming, with instruction to **SECOND-COMING WARRIORS**, because they were faced with afflictions [Verse 3], they endured tribulation [Verse 4] and temptation [Verse 5]. Such a test was in regard to their faith as the apostle "*sent to know your faith*"; he is talking to them about their faith [Verse 2], "*concerning your faith.*" Verse 6 asserts that "*Timothy brought good tidings of your faith,*" and Paul declares that "*We were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith*" [Verse 7]. Verse 8 concludes that it is all about standing "*fast in the Lord.*"

1 THESSALONIANS 4: Chapter 4 announces **SECOND-COMING WALKERS**. Do you know what Enoch was doing when he got translated? He was walking with God, then he was gone. We too are going to be walking, if we're alive, and hopefully we'll all be walking in the light as He is in the light. Or, like those 7 walks in Ephesians: Walk circumspectly, walk as children of God, walk not as other Gentiles walk, to name a few.

1 THESSALONIANS 5: The 5th chapter proclaims **SECOND-COMING WATCHERS**. "*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober*" [Verse 6] What does a second-coming watcher look like? In Mark 13, Jesus said,

"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

He repeatedly emphasized the word **watch**. What does it mean to be watching? How does that look in our everyday life? This 5th chapter of

1 Thessalonians explains that, for it portrays a **SECOND-COMING CONVERT, PREACHER**, and especially, the **WATCHER**.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 exhorts, "**Rejoice evermore.**" This is the first thing he mentions here, and it could surely be called "normal" behavior in the eyes of The Lord. However, if we behave "normally," in His Eyes, we will probably seem abnormal to a lot of people. In fact I think we will see a little more than that. Dwight L. Moody said that if you're a normal Christian, most people will consider you to be radical, so I'll use that word "**RADICAL.**"

- So "**rejoice evermore,**" would be **RADICAL EXPRESSION**. How many of us express our joy? We may have it, but the Lord wants us to express it, doesn't He? I was reading back in Job where the Lord was asking Job, "**Where were you when all of the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**" Creation apparently was just finished, and what did the angels all do? They said "Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" We too are to "**rejoice evermore.**" The Lord surely has a lot to say about our joy. Many people think that, to be a Christian, you must be long-faced, but John 14:21 declares, "**Hitherto you have asked nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you that My joy might remain in you and that your joy may be full.**" Peter says "**Whom having not seen ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**" [1Pe.1:8]. Is that our experience? I believe the Lord wants us to be like that.

Proverbs 8 presents a marvelous picture behind the screen, while Jesus was still in His pre-incarnate existence, and we read, "**Then I was by him, as one brought up with him; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him**" [Pro.8:30]. In God's presence the Father and the Son were rejoicing. Jesus was God's delight; God was His delight. The Psalmist says, "**In Thy presence is fullness of joy**" [Psa.16:11]. So when the Lord comes, am I going to be having a long face, feeling sorry for myself, or, am I going to be in joy, rejoicing all the time, praising God?

- Next we are to "**pray without ceasing.**" This is **RADICAL COMMUNION OR CONVERSATION**. The Lord wants us to pray, and Jesus had a lot to say about prayer. In fact, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane 3 times. He prayed all night before He chose His disciples. He was praying on the Mount of Transfiguration and as He prayed the face of His countenance was altered. His first words, on the cross, was a prayer: "**Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.**" His last words, on the cross, were "**Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.**" It seems that He was always, constantly in prayer. He said in, Luke 18:1, "**And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray.**" How do I measure up on that? I'll tell you one thing, if I'm praying when the Lord comes I will not be out scolding somebody or telling somebody off, will I? I had rather be praying.
- Paul next exhorts: "**In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you**" [Verse 18]. This would be **RADICAL APPRECIATION**; giving thanks. I know I'm not thankful enough; I have lots to learn about thanksgiving. I read an interesting story about Matthew Henry:

He came home one day and told his wife, "Oh thank God I got robbed." She said, "What's wrong with you?" He said, "Well, I thank God that it was me that got robbed and not you or some of the rest of the family." And then he said, "I thank God that although he got all of the money I had, I didn't have very much money." He said, "I thank God that although he got all of my money he didn't hurt me," and then, among other things, he said, "Last of all I thank God that he was doing the stealing and not me."

So we can find a lot of ways to thank God. Lord, help us to be thankful. Thankful; giving thanks always for all things. I have trouble with my knees; I'm going to get some new ones one of these days, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. ***"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."***

- And then, we read **"Quench not the Spirit" [Verse 19]**. This would be **RADICAL SUBMISSION**. It is good for us to learn to yield to the Spirit of God, isn't it? "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Ephesians 5 says "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of promise." In Acts 7 what did Stephen say to those people around him? He said, "Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost." We can resist the Holy Ghost, and we can grieve the Holy Ghost. Here Paul says "Quench not the Spirit." This is a whole subject in itself, but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."
 - The first 3: Love, joy, and peace are especially ministered unto God.
 - Who are the second 3 for? That is, who receives the benefit of longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness? People!
 - The last 3...faith, meekness, temperance...are for us. Faith so we do not trust ourselves; meekness so we will not have a big head, and temperance so we can control our tongue.

Thus, we need The Holy Spirit, all the time, in our lives. We need Him to understand the Scriptures.

I was filled on a Saturday night. I had never been in a Pentecostal meeting before in my life. And I just thought, I wish this could happen for everybody. I was so shy I was even afraid of my own shadow, but after I was filled, I was hugging strangers that night. It was a whole new concept when I got the Holy Spirit, and I am still not afraid to speak with tongues. Paul said, ***"I thank my God that I speak with tongues more than you all" [1Co 14:18]***. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

"Despise not prophesying" [Verse 20]. **Prophesying** means that the Word of God is going forth, whether by *"forth-telling"* or *"fore-telling"*; it could be both, or either. When Agabus bound Paul's garments around him, he plainly informed him what would shortly come to pass. Despise not

prophesying. Sister Gloria McDaniel happened to have 3 boys. They are all grown now, and she is with Jesus. Her youngest boy, Tim, had a terrible skin disease; blisters all the time. When she went down to Oklahoma, where she was from, a little Indian Sister came up to her and said, "Sister, I don't know you, but you can feed your son anything you want to from now on." She came back to Kansas City and attended Sister Foster's meeting. They prayed for him that Sunday night, and on the way home, she said to her husband Bill, "Look, look at Tim's skin, there are no blisters!" She went and told all the neighbors that were about to put her in jail because she did not go to a doctor. God moves in strange and mysterious ways, doesn't He?

- **"Prove all things" [Verse 21a].** I call that **RADICAL INVESTIGATION**. We need to study the Scripture. We had a sister in the meeting that asked a lot of questions and she said, "Well, I think there are many ways to God." I tried to tell her that if there is no purgatory in Scripture you leave it out. Prove all things.
- **"Hold fast to that which is good" [Verse 2b].** This would be **RADICAL APPROPRIATION**.
- **"Abstain from all appearance of evil" [Verse 22].** So that would be what? **RADICAL SEPARATION**. There are some things we should not meddle around with. We must be separate from it. ***"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and I'll be a Father unto you and you'll be My sons and daughters" [2Co.6:17-18].*** The Lord will separate us from everything that is wrong, if we are willing to be separated unto Him first.
- And then, ***"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly" [Verse 23a].*** This is **RADICAL TRANSFORMATION**. Do you want the Lord to transform you? Someone said once, "I'm not all I would like to be; I'm not all that God wants me to be, but thank God I ain't what I used to be." Let the Lord transform us. ***"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" [Rom.12:2].*** 2 Corinthians 3:18 likewise confirms, ***"But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord."*** How are we transformed? As we look at Jesus we are changed from glory to glory. The more we see Him, the more we are transformed into His likeness.

Charlie Riggs, was a preacher from Arkansas who went to hear Billy Graham. He came home after he got saved and a couple of weeks later Charlie's wife said to him, "Charlie, you're a brand new man. You have completely changed in 2 or 3 weeks." Is it not amazing that God can transform us? We do not have to have a nasty attitude; we do not have to be lazy. I came from Arkansas, and in Arkansas when you walk, you walk easy; when you work, you work easy. When you sleep, you sleep easy, and when you sit down, you go to sleep. I was born in Arkansas, but bless God I've been born again. I'm a new creation, and the best is yet to come!

- “*And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” [Verse 23b]. That is **RADICAL PRESERVATION**.
- Finally, “*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it*” [Verse 24]. This is **RADICAL PERSUASION**. Are you persuaded, or are you on the fence? Paul said, “*I am persuaded*” several times; but, one prominent example is found in Romans 8:38-39: “*For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

HE IS COMING

OH THE DAY IS SURELY BREAKING,
WHILE THE EARTH IS FAIRLY QUAKING,
AND THE SINNERS ARE ALL SHAKING;
FOR THE LORD IS SEEN A COMING IN THE CLOUDS.

AS THE LIGHTNING QUICKLY FLASHING,
SO HIS STEEDS ARE SEEN A DASHING,
AND OLD SATAN’S TEETH ARE GNASHING;
FOR THE LORD IS SEEN A COMING IN THE CLOUDS.

AND THE SAINTS ARE TRULY PRANCING,
WHILE THEIR HEARTS WITH JOY ARE DANCING
AS THEY AT THE KING ARE GLANCING;
FOR THE LORD IS SEEN A COMING IN THE CLOUDS.

-- ❖ --