

THE CHURCH 5

MATTHEW 16:13

13 ¶ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

MATTHEW 16:14

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

MATTHEW 16:15

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

MATTHEW 16:16

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

MATTHEW 16:17

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

MATTHEW 16:18

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

[STOP]

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127.....**The fourth thing**, How Do We Become A Member Of It? "How do we join it? We see what it is; now what--how do we join this church?" You don't join it. You can't join it. **There's no way of joining it. You're borned into it.** I've been with the Branham family fifty-one years and never did join the family. I

was borned a Branham. And you're borned a son of God or a daughter of God.

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130 **How do you get into it? Born into it.** Let's read the question further.

Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he's old?... (See that carnal? a teacher, a great man, a priest, aged, read the Bible all of his life.)... can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **(Now, isn't that like some of these intellectual teachers you hear today?)**

Jesus answered and said unto him,... verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water... (How do we get into it?)... of water and of... Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

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131 "Less he be joined into it? You can't be joined into it. **You got to be borned into it. Not "come and join," come and born.**

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I say unto you, You must be born again.

The wind blow where it listeth,... thou cannot tell the sound thereof, but can not tell whence it come, nor whither it goeth: so is every one that's born of the Spirit.

See you don't join it. It's a mysterious thing. You're born into the mystical Body of Christ. That's how you get into it.

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134 One Body... How do we come into that Body, how do we get into it? By one Spirit we're baptized into one Body. **And when in that Body, free, guarantee of the resurrection.....**

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142 Just a little farther. All right. Now, I Corinthians 12 and 13, "By one Spirit we're all baptized into one Body."

Acts, here's the way we entered. Here's the inauguration of the church: Acts the 2nd chapter. When the first message was preached to the church after the day of Pentecost, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. **Mary, all the apostles, were all filled with the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, and just carrying-on like a bunch of drunk people.** And when they were just having an awful time, just shouting and praising God, and staggering under the impact of the Holy Ghost, they didn't care whether it was Sunday, Monday, what day it was. **They was having them a big time, just shouting and going on.** Why, the--the great intellectual people said, "These people are drunk on new wine."

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164 Now, did you know... You say, "Well, Brother Branham, I believe," well, listen, "and I've never received the Holy Ghost."

No, you don't believe yet. You are just believing unto belief. You have hope. For in I Corinthians the 12th chapter and the 3rd verse, let's just grab that right quick while we're close to it, if you want to. I Corinthians 12, the 12th chapter and the 3rd verse, and we'll get that just right quick, and--and read this here and see what the Lord has in this for us.

I Corinthians 12, all right, and the 3rd verse.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaketh by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and... no man can say...

Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

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165 **You don't know nothing about it until you've received the Holy Ghost.** You say, "I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour." Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? **If you don't, you can't even call Him the Lord, because He's not Lord, He's a historical Being that you by faith have accepted.** But when He's come into you by the Holy

Ghost, He is your Lord. No man can call Jesus Lord, only by the Holy Ghost; until you are borned of the Spirit of God, and the Holy Ghost is in you... **Then if you are, you are borned into this Kingdom, and you're part of the church. You're the called-out ones then.** You see it? All right, now.

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166.....A man that's a good man, can be just as good church member as a Christian. A man that's a good man, can be just as good a citizen as a Christian, a good man, moral man. **But when he dies, that's it, unless he's borned again of the Spirit of God. Because, everything that had a beginning has an end.**

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168 God is the only thing that's Eternal. Therefore, we are part of God by receiving His Life. Jesus said, "I give unto them Eternal Life." The Greek word there is "Zoe," means, "God's Own Life." **And the only way that you can ever live again, is to have Eternal Life, which is God's Life.** Because your life will perish. But His Life will be raised up again, because God is Eternal. And you've got Eternal Life, and can no more die than God can die. Aw, "He that believeth on Me has Eternal Life, and I'll raise him up at the last day, raise him up again." The Eternal Life that's in him will raise him up.

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169 Now, can we get into heaven without be in the church? **You can't be in the church until you're borned again.** You can't go to heaven until you're borned again. If you're borned again, you're in the church. **So you can't go to heaven until you're a member of this church. And you can't be a member until you're borned into it.**

And now, let me smother you a little. And you can't be a member unless God has called you to be a member. Now, how happy you ought to be for that, **for you were predestinated before the**

foundation of the world. And your name--your names was written in the Lamb's Book of Life, the church Book, before the foundation of the world. That's the Bible.....

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171 Let's settle that a minute; let's turn to Ephesians the 1st chapter, right quick. Listen to this; this is Paul. Now, he had to go on to perfection with this church. Paul's addressing this to Christians. How many Christians is in here, let's see your hand. All right. This is not for babies now; this is--this is those who can eat meat. Now, the 1st chapter, watch who he addresses it to. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,... (not by the ordination of the bishop, not by the organization)... an apostle,... (one that's sent by the will of God)... to the saints... (That's the sanctified ones, or sainted ones.)... which are at Ephesus, and... the faithful in Christ Jesus:
Who is it he's addressing it to? To those that's already in the church. When you're in Christ, you're in His body. Is that right? Then you're members of the church.

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173 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and... the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
How did He do it? What did He do it? **They had reached Jordan, they had crossed into the promised land, and they were setting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.** Here it is: Blessed us together with heavenly blessings, the teaching of the Word, as the church, the called-out Ones that's in Christ Jesus, as we're setting together in heavenly places, like the church, when we're borned in Christ Jesus. **The sainted, called-out ones, oh, my, somebody you can teach something to...** Had so much trouble with the Corinthians, but not this church, he could teach them great things. All right.

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174 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all... (You remember my last two messages?)... all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According... (Listen, let this shock you now.)... According as he hath... (past tense)... chosen us in him... (At the last revival? Did I read that right?)... According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, before the world,... (Looky here.)... before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having... (p-r-e-d-e-s-t-i-n-a-t-e-d)...

What did we do? Nothing. What He done is what I'm looking at. When did He do? Chose us, put our names on His Book, on His church Book to be a member of this mystical Body before the world ever began.

And has predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to His own good pleasure of his will,

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175 **Whew. You got to be in that church, brother, if you make it,** for He's coming for a church. Well, what kind of a church? A church that's without spot or without wrinkle. How can we be that? By being dead in Christ, baptized by the Holy Ghost into His mystical Body, and the Blood atonement of the Son of God laying there for us every hour of the day: **found blameless, that's the church, without spot, or without wrinkle.** He chose us in Him, and put our names on His Book. The Bible said that "Jesus Christ was the Lamb slain... Nineteen hundred years ago? How far? The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

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180 What is the identification of the church? What is she to be? What was she? What is it? The called out group. Who set it up? Jesus Christ; not a bishop, not the Catholic church, not

Methodist, not Luther, not Wesley. No, sir. Who set it up? Jesus Christ. What is its message? Repentance, water baptism, baptism of the Holy Ghost, Divine healing, salvation. How do we become a member of it? By being borned into it. Can we get to heaven without it? No, sir. For those that are dead in Christ will God bring with Him, and not--not anyone else but those who are dead in Christ. Jesus is coming for those that are dead in Christ.....

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181 **Now therefore, she is a called-out group, a mystical Body.** Christ set it in order. Before He died, He spoke of it coming, He said, "I will come and be King over this domain. A little while and the world won't see Me no more, yet you shall see Me. You won't have nothing to do with the kingdom of the world.".....

.....Somebody said, "I sought God, I sought God." That's contrary to the Bible. **It's God seeking you, not you seeking God.** God went up-and-down the garden of Eden, crying, "Adam, where art thou?" Not Adam crying, "God, where art Thou?" It was God crying, "Adam, where art thou?"

MATTHEW 18:15

15 ¶ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

MATTHEW 18:16

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

MATTHEW 18:17

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

MATTHEW 18:18

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

JOHN 20:23

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

I CORINTHIANS 5:1

1 ¶ It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

I CORINTHIANS 5:2

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I CORINTHIANS 5:3

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

I CORINTHIANS 5:4

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I CORINTHIANS 5:5

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

I CORINTHIANS 6:1

1 ¶ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

I CORINTHIANS 6:2

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

DANIEL 7:22

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

I CORINTHIANS 6:3

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

I CORINTHIANS 6:4

4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I CORINTHIANS 6:5

5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

I CORINTHIANS 6:6

6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

I CORINTHIANS 6:7

7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?