

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth

is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

WASHED FROM HER FILTH

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

A Real Burden

This Scripture text portrays a people truly getting back to Mount Zion and measuring to Mount Zion's [the church's] standard. Whenever you see the church get in the position she needs to be in, there will always be a deep burden to reap the lost. This is one of the earmarks of whether the church is spiritual or not.

I am momentarily jumping ahead to give you the essence of the burden on my heart. This cloud with Christ sitting on it, with a sickle in His hand, is nothing more than a picture of the fact that Christ is ready and willing. He taught us, way back when He was here on the earth, to pray the Father to send laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:38), for the harvest was white. When this spiritual atmosphere was reached on Mount Zion, the church, we have the picture of a ministry crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, "Thrust in thy sickle, and reap . . . for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Then verse 16 is just very simple and complete: Christ put in the sickle and the earth was reaped. This is a complete picture. We need to get the right burden and lay hold of Christ. My friend, if Christ does not put in the sickle, the earth will not be reached. You or I cannot put it in. We can drum up all the get-togethers we want to, get the most eloquent speaker on the face of the globe, but Christ is the One who has the sickle in His hand. Unless

He puts it in, the earth will not be reaped, but when He does put it in, the earth will be reaped.

Now it is just that plain and just that simple. I am afraid too much effort and time are wasted because the real burden is not there and because Christ is not really handling the sickle. There is no question about Christ's ability to reach every honest-hearted individual on the face of the globe. He can do it. What will work on one person will not work on another, but He knows how to put the sickle in.

There needs to be a deep concern, first of all, that we be in the spiritual atmosphere that verse 14 talks about. Secondly, we need to be deeply burdened to the place of crying unto Christ with a loud voice: "Please put the sickle in. Save. Please reap the earth. Please move." Let us consider what kind of an atmosphere we must have. Verse 14 tells us, "And I looked, and behold a white cloud . . ." A cloud is used in different ways throughout the Word of God. Dark clouds are symbols of darkness, or of people being in darkness, not having understanding. In Hebrews the 12th chapter, a cloud symbolizes the great number of witnesses who died in the faith; they are called a cloud of witnesses.

Here we have the word clouds used in a little different way. You will notice it says a "white cloud." John said, "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, [He is already King; He is

already crowned; He is already reigning.] and in his hand a sharp sickle."

Someone may say, "I can't understand the Lord sitting on a cloud." This is referred to in many different places in the Scripture. Psalm 104:3 tells us, ". . . [the Lord] maketh the clouds his chariot. . . ." Isaiah 19:1, speaking of the Lord bringing swift judgment upon Egypt, says, ". . . the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud. . . ." This cloud is such a necessity if we are going to see the harvest of the earth brought forth.

The False and the True

Isaiah has some things to say that will help our understanding. Isaiah 4:1 tells us, "And in that day [the Gospel day] seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." Isaiah here began to talk about a false church in every period of time. In every age, where there is a true church, there is a false one.

Isaiah began to depict how you can tell the false from the true: she refuses, first of all, the bread that God feeds the church. In John's Gospel, Jesus lets us know that He is the bread, or His truth was the bread that came down from Heaven, and you and I must eat it if we are going to have any spiritual life in us (John 6:48-51). Here, however, we find that this false church refuses that bread: "We'll eat our own bread—we

have our own creeds." Instead of feeding the church the sayings of God, they are feeding them the sayings of man.

Not only does the false church say that she will eat her own bread, but she wants to wear her own apparel. In Revelation 19:8, you will read that God has ordained for the bride, the true church, to be dressed in fine linen, clean and white. That fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. So God has ordained that the true church be dressed in righteousness. The false church, needless to say, wears her own apparel. They believe in sinning, more-or-less; they do not believe in righteousness; they believe in spotted garments, spotted with the flesh and with the sins of this world. The false church only wants to be called a Christian. They only want to be called by His name to take away their reproach.

Verse 2 says, "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel." At the same time there are people rejecting truth, there are going to be other people who will love it. Brother, when we get grafted into the true-and-living Vine, or lay hold to the Branch of the Lord, Isaiah said that the fruit of the earth will be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Thank God, there is going to be a people who escapes all this ungodliness, and the way you escape it is by hearing and heeding the Word of God and by letting God direct your life. Brother, the devil has come forth with many deceptions, but he has not quit yet. There is a way, though, that we can escape all these things and stand before the Son of Man, clear and clean in the judgment.

God's Presence Honors Holiness

Let us continue with verses 3-5: "And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be

called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud [there is the cloud]. . . ."

We can know where Zion is. There are lots of places called the Church of God; but brother, let me tell you, the prophet prophesied that right in this day the Lord was going to do some purging and washing, and those who endure it will be called holy. Over them, or over their assemblies, God will put a cloud and a pillar of fire and be a tabernacle to them.

Verse 5 tells us that God will create this cloud. There is no way we can build or fix one. The word create means that it is brought about by God alone. Everyone knows that a cloud was God's presence. In the Revelation, John saw a people who had come clean, and the first thing he saw was that cloud; not only did he see the cloud, but he also saw Jesus sitting on top of it with the sickle in His hand, ready to go to work.

In the very widest sense of the church, we know that everyone who is truly born again is a member, of Zion. But as long as they are divided in some of these organizations, they cannot truly be the working body of the church. I know this is a strange teaching in a world where "the faith" is just anybody's faith. They talk about people belonging to the Catholic faith, the Protestant faith, and the Jewish faith. They talk of them in terms as all being on one level. They say that it does not make any difference which faith it is; it is all "the faith," however they believe. Man, that is a million miles from truth.

He said that He would put a cloud on all her (the church's) assemblies (Isaiah 4:5). That Scripture

definitely proves that he is not talking about old Mount Zion because she only had one assembly, Jerusalem. Here he talks about many assemblies, all her assemblies. New Testament Mount Zion, the New Testament church, has many different localities.

The Spirit of Judgment and Burning

Let us read again verses 3-4: "And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion [every one that remains after the filth is washed away will be called holy], and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

When he talks about the Spirit of judgment, it is just plain Bible talk. The New Testament is in the Spirit, not in the letter. The Spirit of judgment, first of all, enlightens the mind. When the Spirit of judgment begins working on people, it will start enlightening their minds. They will begin to see things that they didn't see before.

The Spirit of judgment is more than just you and I reasoning with our human minds, or what we can comprehend with the human mind. When the Spirit of judgment, or the Spirit of truth, goes to work on people, he gets down to their spirit, and their very understanding begins to be enlightened. The conscience begins to become convinced of some things. We can rattle off truth, but if the Spirit of judgment is not working, we are wasting our time. It is not enough to have the truth; we must have the Spirit of truth, and the Spirit of truth must be directly anointing the judgment that is being poured out.

The Spirit of judgment is a guiding, distinguishing Spirit. It separates

the precious from the vile. The Spirit of judgment makes you able to see falsity where you never saw it before. It makes you able to see truth where you have never seen it before. People can be bound up in human organizations and feel they are just as much the true church as we are, but as they get under the influence of the Spirit of judgment, and their heart is honest, they will begin to take enlightenment. Then they begin to see the thing they are in is wrong, and that there is something more right than what they are in.

Isaiah said that He is not only going to use the Spirit of judgment, but also the Spirit of burning. The Spirit of judgment begins to work to quicken the mind, stir the conscience, and make you able to see the difference between falsity and truth. The Bible calls it the difference between the precious and the vile. Then about the time the Spirit of judgment gets your mind stirred and gets you to thinking right, the Spirit of burning will start in on you.

Brother, when the Spirit of judgment gets through with you, you will never be the same. If there is honesty in your heart, when the Spirit of judgment begins to enlighten the conscience and the mind, then God through the Spirit comes right along behind it to invigorate our affections and stir a zeal within us to walk and measure to the truth. The Spirit of judgment will stir you and show you what is wrong; then the Spirit of burning will stir you and give you zeal to do what is right.

Someone may say, "It is just the Holy Spirit." I know it is the Holy Spirit, but the prophet is breaking it down, showing you how the Holy Spirit works. When people leave falsity and come to truth, there is more working on them than just the fact that they saw something and decided to do something different. When the Holy Ghost gets hold of you, He can give you zeal such as you never had before.

Isaiah said that God would put a cloud on all her assemblies after the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning were able to do their work. When, he talked about the Spirit of judgment, he did not say that he was going to clean them up by the blood. No, they are already daughters of Zion, but they have some filth on them. If we could only get people to see by the Bible what a hateful thing it is to join these human organizations.

Spiritual Filthiness

Verse 4 talks of the Lord washing away the filth of the daughters of Zion. What kind of filth have the daughters of Zion, men and women who have been born of God? They are daughters of Zion; the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed them from all sin. What kind of filth do they have on them?

We are supposed to reach our hand in fellowship to every blood-washed one, but there is a vast difference between reaching your hand in fellowship with every blood-washed one and joining them in the pigpen. What kind of filth is this? Nominal thinking today is that there is no filth on a man who has been born again; no matter where he goes to church, what he lines up with or what he believes, there is no filth on him. Most people, however, who come out of falsity to the church come weeping to an altar of prayer. Why? When the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning go to work on them, they see that they have done something displeasing to God.

What filth would a daughter of Zion need to be cleansed from? Proverbs 30:12 says, "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." We read in 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." What promises was he referring to?

Chapter 6, verses 14-18 tell us: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [the filthy] thing; and I will receive you [unto Myself] . . . and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Now, having these promises, let us get rid of the filthiness. How do we become filthy? By being unequally yoked together with unbelievers. He is not talking about marriage here at all. First Corinthians, the seventh chapter, says that if you have an unbelieving wife or husband, if they be pleased, stay with them. Now he would not tell them in the first letter to stay with them and in the second letter to come out from among them.

Unequally Yoked Together

Now, what is he talking about? How do we get unequally yoked with unbelievers? Friend, when you come in old-time repentance and are truly born again and receive God's nature; you become God's child. You are a member of the body of Christ, the church of the living God. Your name is written down in Heaven, and all you are yoked with is believers, because no one except believers have their names in that book.

Some, however, are born again at some sectarian altar, and they insist that you join that church. I often picture it this way: Suppose two of you go to a revival, and you get under conviction because of the

Gospel, and go down to an altar. Because you are with the other fellow, somebody goes to him and says, "Why don't you come and get saved too?" Well, he is embarrassed and goes to the altar, but he did not get a real experience. The one is saved, but the other is not.

The Bible asks, "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" The one who was saved, when Wednesday came, said, "Well, I'll pick you up, and we'll go to prayer meeting."

The other one said: "Prayer meeting? What's the matter? Do you have holes in your head? I am going bowling." What communion hath Christ with the devil? The devil is in one and Christ is in the other.

Now you can go right along; you are not yet yoked together. Then they have a day when they are going to open the church doors; they want all the converts to join the church. The people come down, some of them saved, some of them not saved. When they take you in, you become yoked together with unbelievers. My friend, it is going on in every sectarian organization over the globe, and in most all of them, the believers are a very small minority. The unbelievers run the place.

When do you get yoked with unbelievers? When you join these human organizations. The Bible calls that organization an unclean thing. The Revelation calls every one of those churches you can join "harlot bodies," or an unclean thing. If you are truly born again, you have been cleansed to be the temple of God, and God dwells in you. Now what agreement has the temple of God with idols? People who claim to be Christians, but God is not actually dwelling in their hearts, are worshiping what the Bible calls an idol. Now he tells you exactly what to do: Come out from among them and be separate from them. Touch not the unclean thing, or the filthy thing. He will then be a Father to you, and you will be His sons and daughters.

Flee Spiritual Fornication

In Revelation 17:4, we read about the filthiness of the daughters of Zion: "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." What is in her hand? Before Babylon fell, she had the cup of salvation in her hand. The early reformers were offering men the cup of salvation, but because she fell, she is now handing out the cup of the filthiness of her fornication.

What is she really wanting you to do? Join that organization, join that church. When you join it, according to the Bible, you commit spiritual fornication. When you are truly born again by one Spirit, you are baptized into one body, and you are a member of the body of Christ, the church of the living God.

This false church is spoken of in Revelation, Chapter 17, as a woman on a beast, with harlot daughters. Every Protestant organization came out of Roman Catholicism and built an image back to her. That is spoken of in the Revelation as a woman and her daughters, and every one of her daughters are harlots. A harlot is a woman who engages in illicit sex. Even so, my friend, false religion is allowing man, so-to-speak, to have a relationship with Christ through a cheaper method, but it is a deception. There is no truth in it.

The Bible calls it an unclean, filthy thing. The Bible says to come out from among her and not touch her saints, you have no business being in touch with these organizations. Take a square stand, come out, be separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Man today say it is all beautiful and wonderful. God says it is rotten and corrupt, it stinks, it is unclean and filthy, and it is not good for your spirituality. He says, "Come out of her, my people."

First Corinthians 6:15-18 says: "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I the

Lord take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication." So the filth, my friend, is spoken of as fornication.

Revelation 18:1-4 pictures the same thing: "And after these things I saw another angel come do from heaven, having great power and the earth was lightened with glory. And he cried mightily with strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, [He was speaking of Protestantism. God's people never were in Catholicism. They never was enough truth taught in it for a man to get saved by. It is in Babylon that people were saved and joined harlot bodies. Roman Catholicism never fell, because she was always on the bottom. It is only truth that exalts a nation, and she never had any truth. The Bible was closed while Rome ruled the world. The Babylon that is fallen is Protestantism. Why is she fallen? Every reformer who came forth, came with truth and zeal to reach a lost-and-dying world. The cup they reached to the world was a cup of salvation, but she is fallen. Today, she is not as much interested in salvation as she is in building her organization and getting you to join her church.] and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean [filthy] and hateful bird.

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

"Come Out of Her"

All through the letters to the churches it says, "He that hath an

ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." First, the Spirit of judgment will tell you Babylon's true condition. Man, according to his own thinking, would think that religion was at an all-time high, and I will go along with the fact that there is more religion in the world today than ever before. While there is more religion in the world, spirituality is at an all-time low. We have more corruption, not just out in the world, but right in religion, than ever before. Someone may contend, "Oh, I do not think she is a cage of hateful birds." Just try to lay this truth on some of them. Brother, they can be so docile and sweet, but when you can lay some of this truth on them, you will see that they are hateful birds. You may think they are nightingales until you put some truth on them. Truth discerns our spirit, and when it is put on hot enough, it will get us to show our spirit. We will not be able to hide it. The Bible says that Babylon is a cage, not full of sweet, singing canaries, but of hateful, unclean, filthy birds. Many of those birds are right in the pulpit, drinking just as the drunkards do, running women just as the adulterers out in the world do. False religion is full of it.

Brother, it's God's eternal Word, the Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning, that makes us the Church of God. Babylon is fallen, and I always turn that around: anything that is fallen is Babylon. If a Church of God movement has fallen from the standard they once stood for, they are just as much Babylon as Catholicism, Protestantism, or anything else. If we fall, we are Babylon; we are adding to the confusion.

I am not talking about people. No, we are trying to help people when we tell them the truth. Little do people know, who are dabbling around in the many organizations of men, that in the sight of God, they are playing with a filthy thing. Take a born-again person, let him join that, and watch him go down. You have never seen one grow in

Babylon yet. When they try to grow, the first thing you know, they are brought to a place where they have to come out of it or compromise with it. So the filth of the daughters of Zion will be washed with the Spirit of judgment and burning.

Let us consider Revelation 18:4, which says, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins. . . ." God's people are in some of those places. God has sent a ministry to pour out the Spirit of judgment, telling Babylon's true condition; then follows the Spirit of burning. Thank God, the very Holy Spirit speaks to the heart and says, "Come out of her, my people." For what reason? If you stay there, you are going to be a partaker of her sins. You may be clean, but if you stay there, they are going to get you to bow down to that image: you are going to be a partaker of her sins in one way or another.

Friend, as soon as the devil gets you to be a partaker of her sins, it will be no time until you are on the bottom spiritually. So there is only one thing to do: come out of her. I repeat, the Spirit of judgment will show you the wrong, and the Spirit of burning will warm your heart to move to that which is right.

The Blood of the Saints

Again, let us read Isaiah 4:4, which tells us, "When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning." What kind of blood needs to be purged? Revelation 18:24 tells us, "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." Where? In Babylon, the Babylon that God says to come out of.

Oh, she will tell you that she is pure and clean. Roman Catholicism would like to cover the fact that they killed millions. They say that

the pagan Roman Empire killed them. Well, the Roman Empire did do a lot of the killing, but the church gave the orders.

Protestantism will tell you, "Why, Protestantism never killed anybody." Well, the Bible says that when God looks in her, He sees the blood of the saints, the blood of prophets and preachers, killed by the hundreds, on her hands.

Revelation 17:6 says, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs. . . ." What a thing to think about? Friend, she got so carried away, like a man would who is a drunkard, that she thrived and found pleasure in the blood of the saints and the martyrs. She loved to see it flow. Now that is the kind of organization you are lined up with.

Someone may contend: "Well, Brother Wilson, we have not done any of those things. We have none of that blood." Well, let us come down a little closer. First Corinthians 11:27 tells us, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

You are worthy when you have already partaken of the real body of Christ and been cleansed from sin. Then you are ready to take that bread which is a symbol of the communion that you have through the Spirit with Christ. If you are still living in sin, never having partaken of the body of Christ, the blood of Jesus Christ never having purged you, if you take that communion, you are partaking of it unworthily. You then become guilty of the body and blood of the Lord as much as the Jews who hung Him on the cross.

Around some religious organizations, it goes on every Sunday. Because they are falsely taught, they think when they partake of that piece of bread, they are getting strength and that it is their communion with Christ. They want it every Sunday—they do not know they can have communion every day.

If they would look closely in the New Testament, they would find that our communion with God is through the Word and the Spirit. You can have it as many times a day as you want; if you want to stay up all night, you can have communion all night: You do not have to have any preacher break the bread; God will break it for you.

False religion, week after week, is teaching people that even though they are living in sin, they can still have communion with Christ. The Bible, on the other hand, tells us that as long as sin is in your life, you cannot have any communion with God in any manner; sin separates from God. They are partaking unworthily and are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Crucifying the Lord Afresh

We have studied how Protestantism killed the Word and the Spirit. Their dead bodies lay in the street three and one-half days, or 350 years. From 1530 to 1880, the Word and the Spirit lay dead in the street. How did Protestantism kill them? Just the same way you can kill the effect of the Word: by adding to it or taking away from it. It has no power to carry out what God said when you add to it or take away from it. You kill the Spirit when you grieve Him and refuse to let Him be the vicar of your life, or to be the vicar of our assembly and direct us as He wants to.

So, the Word and the Spirit were killed there and lay dead for 350 years in the streets of that city (Babylon). Revelation 11:8 says, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually [we are dealing with the spirit of the thing] is called Sodom [because of the lewdness and ungodliness that goes on under the cloak of religion] and Egypt [because Egypt is where the Lord's people were taken in bondage and could not be free to go worship the Lord as they wanted to], where also our Lord was crucified."

Brother, He is crucified afresh day by day in Babylon. How do you crucify Him afresh? When you profess an experience with Christ, then go right out and dabble in the same sin you were in, you crucify Him afresh to yourself. You put Him to an open shame and tell the world by your life that there is no power in Him, that He cannot deliver from sin.

Babylon, day by day, is putting the Lord to an open shame when she cries out: "Nobody can live free from sin. There is no power in the blood to deliver you from sin. Everybody sins." They are putting the Lord to an open shame. I am trying to get you to see why the Lord calls this a filthy, corrupt thing. The Lord's presence is just not everywhere that people say He is. We are in a day and time when people are saying: "Lord, Lord; He is here, He is there, and He is everywhere." There must be some conditions met, however, before the Lord moves in our midst.

A Canopy of Love and Protection

Once more, let us read Isaiah 4: 2-5: "In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon the glory shall be a defence."

Friend, the picture is this: when we are honest and ready to clean up, get rid of the filth, cleanse our-

selves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, the Lord will create the cloud and the fire. That cloud and that fire are symbols of the divine presence and guidance of God. Exodus 16:10 says, "... the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud." Not only will the Lord's presence be here and His glory felt, but there will also be divine guidance and help.

Isaiah 4:5 concludes, "... for upon all the glory shall be a defence." I like the Hebrew translation of that. It says: "... over the glory shall be a canopy for defence of divine love and protection." In other words, God will not only set the cloud there, but there will also be a canopy put over us of divine protection, which will help us keep the glory. When we are ready to get the glory and pay the price to have the glory, God will put a canopy over us and protect us so that we can keep the glory.

Friend, when the church gets to that place, there are going to be people crying out to Him who sits on the clouds: "Put in the sickle, O Lord, reap the harvest; help us to win others." The Bible says that He will put in the sickle, and when He puts in the sickle, the earth is reaped. There is nobody too hard for Him to handle, no heart too hard for Him to crack, and nobody too far off for Him to reach.

Oh, so much depends on you and me cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit to the place that God can set His approval on us. We can worry ourselves to death and have all-night prayer meetings, yet see very little moving of God. But friend, if we will clean up and measure up to the place that God can set the cloud in our midst and put in the sickle, there will be reaping going on. When He put in the sickle, the Bible said the earth was reaped. He is still able to do it.

I know that Peter did not know much about preaching when he got up on Pentecost, but when Jesus put the sickle in, I suppose Peter was just about as surprised as anyone

else when three thousand went to the altar. He had a job on his hands—three thousand to be baptized, and if that was not enough, the next day five thousand more got saved. The Lord put the sickle in. Even though the disciples were ignorant men, people were convinced that they had been with Jesus. My friend, the message to us today is that there is a greater effectiveness which can be manifested right in our day and time. God wants to set the cloud over us.

New Testament Unity

In the Old Testament there was one cloud and pillar of fire over one camp; but in this lesson, there are many pillars, one over every one of her assemblies. Wherever Zion is assembling and has a people who have the filth cleaned up, God will set a cloud at every one. The same thing is true with the candlestick. In the Old Testament there was just one candlestick. In the Revelation there are seven candlesticks with Jesus standing in the middle of them all, a greater picture of unity. Which is the greater picture of unity? Three million people all in one camp with one pillar, or two thousand different congregations of the church with a pillar at every one of them? There is unity in a much greater sense than the Old Testament ever had.

Man today in his blindness thinks he has to get people all on one hillside, all in one building, all in one geographical location to have unity. No, the greatest picture of unity is when we can be scattered clear around the world, but every one of us being so sold out to God and so cleaned up that the cloud can sit on every one of our assemblies. That is the unity that Jesus prayed for.

Oh, friend, whatever it costs, it is worth it. Let us get our eyes on the cloud. No matter what it costs, let us have the cloud sitting on the

assembly. I will guarantee that with it will come a burden from every heart for Jesus to put in the sickle and reap the earth that so needs to be reaped. Why? Because there is a destruction coming. Just over the brink of this hill, there is destruction coming; the earth will be destroyed and the fullness thereof. Men and women without an experience with God will be cast into a lost, everlasting eternity to be tormented forever.

Oh, how the earth needs to be reaped. The only thing that will reap them is the sickle, and there is only. One who can handle the sickle and He is sitting on the cloud. We cannot get Him with the sickle until we get the cloud, and when we get the cloud, He will be sitting on it. He will be there, ready to reap, ready to move.

Are You His Friend?

Many of us today, no doubt, have been out of sectarian organizations for a long time, but have we truly cleansed ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit? James, the fourth chapter, says that if you are a friend of the world, in God's sight you are adulterers and adulteresses. You are committing adultery against God when you try to serve God and still be a friend of the world. He is not talking about being a friend to people in the world. He is talking about the world, singularly.

Someone may question, "How can you be a friend of the world?" Well, think about how you are a friend to Jesus. In John 15:14, Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Now, how do you become a friend of the world? When you start doing what the world suggests you do. If you sit under the influence of truth, the good, old-fashioned truth will clean you up. It will take the lipstick off your lips, the rouge off your cheeks, the earrings out of your ears, the finger rings off your fingers, and it

will cause you to start dressing modestly from your head to your feet.

The world, however, is ever suggesting to just do this or just do that, but when you start being a friend of the world and start doing what the world asks you to do, Jesus says you are committing spiritual adultery against Him. You are flirting with His rival. Friendship with the world is enmity against God (James 4:4).

My friend, religion and all other levels are accepting the world's standards. The enemy would like to take the cloud away from us, church, if he possibly could. He just wants us to fall to a nominal level. He wants us to lose that divine quality.

The only way to keep that from happening is for us to be sure that we stay clean. When the Lord shows us something filthy, let us lay it aside. If something is not good for your holy living, lay it aside. If it hinders your communion with God, lay it aside. Why? Even though no one can say it is sinful, yet it can become a tool of the devil and put some filth on you so that God cannot look on you as pure.

So everyone is blessed in Zion: ". . . he that is left in Zion . . . shall be called holy . . . When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

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