

THE WORLD TOMORROW

Herbert W. Armstrong brings you the Plain Truth about today's world news and the prophecies of The World Tomorrow

Healing

...life, the ministry, and the experience of Jesus Christ--the example that He set and finding out why it is that He taught exactly contrary to what the churches teach today. They call themselves Christian. They say they're preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but they do preach a gospel about Christ, about His person--they exalt Christ, but they do not preach the things that He proclaimed and that He taught. And they do not follow the customs of which He set them an example. Why?

Now, we've found that Jesus went everywhere preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Not very many people today know what the Kingdom of God is. Some people use the word Kingdom of God, some people use the word Kingdom, but they aren't preaching the Kingdom that Jesus preached. He was preaching a Kingdom that was not of this world. And they preach something that's altogether of this world today.

But along with it, Jesus was healing the sick. Here in the eighth chapter of Luke and the ninth chapter of Matthew where we find the

same thing along parallel both of them speaking of the same mission or the same experience of Christ at this time.

And a man named Jarius a ruler of the synagogue had come to Him because his twelve-year old daughter was very ill. And as Jesus was going to this man's house to heal the daughter of her sickness, the woman who had had a trouble for twelve years and had spent all that she had on the physicians. She hadn't been helped, she had grown rather worse, she had spent all that she had. She touched the hem of Jesus' garment, she was healed instantly because she had faith, she really believed.

Christ said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole."

Jesus required their faith. He didn't say, "My faith has made you whole." But, "Daughter, thy faith hath made you whole."

Well, you will remember then that messengers came and told this man that his daughter was dead and why trouble Christ, He delayed getting there and they said the daughter was dead. Jesus said she is not dead, she's only sleeping.

But when He came to the house, they were wailing and they were crying. Jesus rebuked them for it and then they sneered and jeered at Him. And He put them out because He couldn't have unbelievers in the room while He healed the sick. How different that example is from the kind of healing meetings we have today.

Now, most churches today don't believe in healing at all. They say that's all past and yet God has healed the sick ever since He's had people on this earth. God healed people way back in ancient Israel in the days of Moses and He had continually healed them back in the days of Moses.

Now, I could take the time, but I'm not going to take it now, to go through the passages of the Old Testament in Kings and Chronicles and show you how God did heal the kings and the people in Israel all

down through that time. And one king that did not turn to God, did not rely on God but relied on the human physicians, died because, as God said, it is because you haven't got a God in Israel. Well, he went to the god of medicine that was over in an adjoining nation. But the way they did. They believed that their God would heal people through human means. They believed that their God had raised up medical science and would heal through the doctors, their drugs and medicines. And God said that was idolatry and this king had to die because of his sin in trusting in that sort of thing. Now, believe it or not, my friends, that's in your Bible.

And then David in the Psalms wrote about healing and among other things, He said that we should, Bless the Lord and praise God and "bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits who forgiveth all thy iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases" and that God heals diseases just as much as He forgives our sins.

Well, Jesus paid the price of forgiving our sins by giving His blood, His life and the blood is life. And He shed His blood and the blood of Christ--well, it paid the penalty for your sins and mine. Therefore we can be released from paying the penalty.

Now, when you're sick, you're merely paying a physical penalty of transgressed physical laws within your body. And whether you did it and did something wrong or whether it was an accident or whether it was hereditary or whether it was a disease germ or what, the laws of nature as we say or of your physical body have been broken, and your sickness is merely paying the suffering, the penalty that you were paying because those laws have been broken.

Now, my friends, Jesus Himself took our infirmities, He bare our sicknesses so He said and He was only quoting from the prophet Isaiah and Isaiah was inspired to write that and the New Testament Church is founded on the very foundation of the prophets as well as the apostles and Jesus Christ Himself the chief cornerstone. Now,

Isaiah is one of those prophets and the New Testament Church is founded on the apostles.

You know, I heard a minister saying...I don't know whether it was on a coast to coast broadcast or not. It may have been a local station, I don't know, I just happen to catch a part of it apparently. And I heard a minister saying, however, on that program that if you wanted...about the Old and the New Testament, he was explaining the Bible, and that it's divided into the two parts and one we called the Old Testament and the other the New and he explained that the word Testament means Covenant. And he said, "Now, if you want to know the way of salvation, you wouldn't look in the Old Testament, you'd never find it there."

You know, I'm astonished, my friends, that people like that can come out and call themselves the ministers of Jesus Christ in such colossal ignorance.

Do you know how the apostles that Jesus sent out preaching the true way of salvation--do you know how they preached it? They preached it out of the scriptures and the only scriptures they had at time was the Old Testament. And they preached the way of salvation solely out of the Old Testament.

And today, you'd say it couldn't be done.

Why, did you ever read in the book of Acts of how Philip was sent over to Ethiopian eunuch and he was reading an Old Testament book Isaiah about Christ and about the crucifixion of Christ and he said, "Who is this and who does he speak about?" And beginning at that scripture Philip preached unto him Jesus and the man was converted and baptized.

And then upstart preachers that honestly, they don't know, well, they don't know as much as the bird I was talking about that had a bird

brain when it comes to the Bible and to real knowledge and set themselves up as Bible teachers.

Do you remember that Paul in his letter to Timothy was telling Timothy how he could find the way of salvation? Did you ever read that? Let me just turn to it real quickly, I haven't thought of this, hadn't intended to but I'll turn to it here in just a second and I want to read that to you where Paul in his letter to Timothy said, "That from a child, thou hast known the holy scriptures." Now, what Holy Scriptures had Timothy known from a child? The only scriptures that had been written at the time Timothy was a child were the Old Testament. The New Testament wasn't gathered together as scripture for some time later. They were letters that Paul wrote and the epistles of well of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the letters of John and James and of Peter and so on. And part of it, the Book of Revelation, for instance and most of John's writings were not written until along in the nineties A.D. and this was written a long time before that and he's talking about the scriptures that Timothy had known from a child. Now, that was the Old Testament.

"From a child thou has known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ."

And then a minister stands up and says to people out over the air that you can't do that. Well, the apostle Paul doesn't agree with him and he says, "that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God." And it's about time we realize that the whole Bible is the whole word of God and the Old Testament just the same as the New.

My friends, you can't even find what you're going to inherit through Christ and what the promises of salvation to the Christian are unless you can turn back beginning at the twelfth chapter of Genesis and find what God promised to Abraham.

Yes, they certainly have lost the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we're living in an age of confusion.

And let me tell you, my friends, don't believe everything you hear. I'm just too busy to listen to everyone who's preaching on the air and sometimes I don't realize how many there are that are preaching. They aren't preaching the Gospel, all of them, but they claim to and they're preaching on the air.

Now, listen.

Sometimes you have no way of knowing who is right and who is wrong. But I'll tell you how to find out. Do like the Bereans did. When the apostle Paul came along they'd heard a lot of false preachers then too, because they had a lot of them then. I don't believe as many as we have today, but they had a lot of them. And Paul came along; they didn't know whether he was one who had the Truth. And so far as that's concerned, a lot of you, if you hadn't listened a long time and followed this example that I'm going to show you, perhaps won't know whether I'm one of the true ones or one of the false ones and there're plenty of the false. And I'll tell you there about nine hundred ninety-nine false to everyone that's true if you can only believe it. And if you'll read the Bible you'll find that's what's prophesied. That's pretty hard to believe.

That was the struggle I had in the beginning. I couldn't believe that all of these religious people could be wrong. And I had to find how wrong humanity can be, and far we have strayed from God and how far we've strayed from the Bible. That was a pretty bitter pill for me. It was a very hard lesson for me to learn and I finally learned it.

But the thing to do is do like the Bereans did when Paul came to Berea--they listened without prejudice. And I will say listen to everybody without prejudice even these fellows that are wrong. Don't get your prejudice up and don't get your fur..., you know, stirred up the wrong way or rubbed the wrong way. Maybe they'll rub it the wrong way. But just keep you anger down and keep your mind open, and also keep your Bible open and your heart to God.

And then study your Bible on your knees. And do like the Bereans did. They listened to Paul and they didn't have prejudice, they listened without prejudice and then "they searched the scriptures daily whether these things be so."

If I speak to you exactly what your Bible says in plain language without twisting it, without distorting it, without wresting it, without trying to interpret it, then you can believe it because it's exactly what the Bible says. In other words, my friends, here's what I'm trying to tell you. Don't believe me, don't believe any other preacher, believe God. But listen to the preachers, and then search the scriptures and see whether they're leading you in the right place or not.

Now, you're going to get salvation, if you get it, through the Word of God and you have to be born again through and by the Word of God. I wonder if you realize that. That's what God has given us. God has said or Jesus said we must live by every word of God. It's something for you to live by. How can you do it if you don't know what it says? How can you do it if you don't understand it, if you don't ever study it?

I'll tell you the trouble with us today. It's why we have so much sickness and disease, why we have so many fears and worries, why our lives are so empty and why we're so worried and everything else, we're too far from God and we're far from God because we don't spend enough time in prayer and we don't spend enough time studying the Bible.

We're just willing to believe anything that comes along. And I want to tell you, my friends, plenty of things are coming along. And I couldn't be honest if I tried to tell you, "Now, just follow me," that, "I'm the only one that's right and everybody else is wrong." I say you read your Bible, you be the judge of who's right. But I want to tell there aren't very many of them that are right.

Most churches don't even believe in healing today. And the few that do, it seems that a good many of them put on a public show about it and they invite everybody to come in and with unbelievers as well as believers. And how do they know what a mixture they have or who's a believer and who isn't? And then they claim to pray for and anoint the sick right there in a parade and in a show in front of everybody.

My friends, Jesus Christ didn't do it that way. Jesus Christ put the unbelievers out of the room before He prayed. He had the people of faith there because a lack of faith will destroy it every time. And if even the Savior Himself, Jesus Christ, couldn't heal the sick, until He put the unbelievers out, and if He couldn't heal those that did not believe, and I'm going to show you that He couldn't, then how can men today do any better? It's about time we begin to learn just exactly what the Bible says about this thing.

Now, here in verse forty, Mark the fifth chapter in verse forty, Jesus, "having put them all forth"--these people that were wailing and weeping so and that had laughed Him to scorn when He told them not to do it and that the woman only sleeping and not dead or the girl rather. "...he, having put them all forth," He took the father of the child and her mother and those that were with Him, and before it had explained that was just some of His own disciples that certainly believed, and He went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and had her rise and she was well and healed.

Now.

Then a little later, two blind men followed Jesus and they cried out and said, "Have mercy on us." Jesus went right on into the house; He didn't turn around and heal these men. He tested their faith and He had to know they had the faith before He healed them. He went on into the house but the blind men followed Him. They were persistent. They did have faith. And Jesus then said, "Believe ye that I am able to do this? And they said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their

eyes, saying, According to your faith be it done unto you." They had the faith, they were healed, they received their sight.

Now, if a blind man would come around to me and say, "Now, Brother Armstrong you've got to have a lot of faith. I want you to heal me. I'm going to get good and mad at you if you don't." And then if he isn't healed right away, he becomes enraged at me and says I didn't have faith to heal him. Well, you know, if this blind man had come to Jesus that way, he would not have received his sight, either one of these two men.

But, Jesus said, "Do you really believe that I am able to do this?"

Now, a lot of people say, "Well, I know He's able but I don't know whether He will." And in another case, a man came to Jesus and said, "I know that you can heal me, if you will." He wanted to know His will. Jesus told him His will. He said, "I will, be thou healed." We passed that some days back in this program.

Now, "according to your faith be it done...and their eyes were opened."

Alright, now, let's go on, I want to show you something.

In the sixth chapter of Mark, now, and the first verse. Now, Jesus went out from there and "he cometh into his own country..." Now, He came to His own country and His own city even in Nazareth, where He had been brought up. Now, He's coming to His own hometown, where He had been brought up and people had seen Him grow up from a little boy.

"...and his disciples followed him. And when the sabbath was come, he began to teach in the synagogue..." Now, looking to the example that Jesus set, here's another example. We've seen it repeatedly, repeatedly, repeatedly in this program--when the Sabbath Day came, Jesus entered into the synagogue, always.

Now, when the first day of the week came, you can't find one place where Jesus ever went into any synagogue or had any church service. Jesus Christ set us an example that we should follow His steps.

People have certainly gotten a long ways off from God and from the Truth and from Jesus today.

Now, "many hearing him were astonished, saying, Whence hath this man these things?" Or as it is in Matthew's account, "Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works ('these mighty works' or powers as it is otherwise translated)?"

And now back in Matthew's or Mark's account rather in the second and third verses: "What is the wisdom that is given unto this man, and what mean such mighty works [or powers] wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?"

In other words, "Why, we've seen him out here as a carpenter building houses." And I want you to notice along the way that while Jesus grew up and before He entered His ministry, He was earning His living. He didn't idle away His time. He didn't live in ease and luxury and in idleness.

Now, He did have some good things. He wasn't altogether poor. He was poor in one way but He did have good things. Some of them were given to Him but He had them. But, nevertheless, when He worked, my friends, He worked at something that was constructive--He builded--He was a carpenter. I wonder if you can realize that God is Creator and creating is building, making, constructing, creating.

Now, of course, there's a difference actually and technically between making and creating. Creating is really bringing into existence and from nothing. No man can do that. But God has given us in a sense some creative powers in that we can at least plan and design and construct and make. But did you ever notice that human beings get a

lot more joy somehow or other out of tearing down than they do out of building up.

Now, God is Creator and He set us here to become like Him. We are to enter into the Family of God, if we are ever really converted. We're to leave the human family, the animal kingdom and get into and be born into the God Kingdom. Very few people seem to realize that or know why we were put here on the earth. Well, if you have an ear to hear, my friends, you'd better hear because you haven't heard these truths very much in this day and age. They haven't been heard very much since the days of the apostles. Why these truths have been buried, I don't altogether understand except it is the way of humanity and God has let humanity have its own way. He's given humanity a lot of rope. And humanity is just about to commit suicide if God were not going to step in the very near future and intervene.

Well, anyway, Jesus now, here He is in His own home city. These people knew Him. And I just wanted you to notice though that His work was constructive. It was an honorable occupation and so being a carpenter and building is one of the very honorable occupations I would say. Farming is a very honorable occupation. It's an honorable thing. Making things or even working in a factory, if it's something useful, those are honorable occupations. There are others but I just mentioned those as some.

Now, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, and Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended in him [or He was a stumbling block to them]. Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."

You know, my friends, I used to hear an expression, years ago, "Far away pastures look greener." I wonder if you ever heard that. The far away pastures look greener. The pasture right at hand never seems to be very good.

You know, I knew of a man one time, he was so miserable and so unhappy he just said if I could be in some other place I would be happy. And he'd, first, he would want to go one town or one city or one state. And if he could only be there and live there, he would be happy. When he got there it was the most miserable old rotten old hellhole on earth. That was the expression he used. And he was so unhappy. Now, he wanted to go some other place. He'd go there and he was still just as miserable as ever and now it was the most terrible place on earth. He had been in Iowa. He wanted to go to Idaho. When he got there, it was a, oh, it was a terrible place. He got back to Iowa. Then he wanted to go back to Illinois. And he got to Illinois and it was worse yet. {Laughs} He was never happy wherever he was. He never could see that that unhappiness was inside of himself and not in a geographical location. So far away pastures always look greener and look more pleasant.

And why is it, my friends, that a prophet looks like he is...he looks like a real prophet to people if he comes from way off? If a man is a famous scientist and he comes over here from some foreign land way, way off someplace and he's supposed to be a doctor or a scientist, oh, you think he must be a great man. But if he's in your own town you think he couldn't amount to anything. Well, sometimes the greatest are right there near at hand and the biggest opportunities are right at hand if you could only see them.

Well, they thought Jesus couldn't amount to anything. Who could he be? He was a local lad.

"And he..." Now, listen. "...he could there do no mighty works..." He was Jesus Christ the Savior, the Son of God but He was not able to do any mighty works. He couldn't do these powerful things. He didn't have the Power of God. Why? "Because of their unbelief." Even Jesus was unable in that kind of company.

Now, I showed you a while ago He had to put the doubters and the unbelievers out of the room before He either healed this woman or

raised her from the dead, take your choice. The people said she was dead, Jesus said she was only sleeping. (Maybe it was both.)

"...he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them." And only a few were healed and many were not.

I've told you my friends, thousands of people come to me or write to me for healing and when I can't go to so many because I haven't enough time for one man to go to so many people, it isn't possible and my time is so filled, I have to do as the apostle Paul did as you find recorded in the nineteenth chapter of Acts and pray over pieces of cloth, anoint and lay my hands on them and send those out to the people, just as the apostle Paul did and God honors it.

And by that method, a man born blind from birth received his sight. A number of people with cancer have been healed. A woman with a withered arm--her arm grew out normal and natural. And her doubting husband confessed it to two of our young men from our college here when they visited the place back in the Middle West even though he was still, apparently, a scoffer and a doubter as I remembered. I'm not sure about that. But anyhow, incurable diseases and everything and God has healed them because He is the same God today and He has the same Power today that He did then.

But on the other hand as I've told you there have been other hundreds and hundreds that have not been healed I suppose. I don't hear from a lot of them. A lot of them never let us know whether they are or whether they're not but they begin to doubt and if you want to know why some are and some are not it's the same today as it was in the days of Jesus.

Now, I merely represent Him. I'm merely one that He has called. I'm merely an instrument that He uses. I can't heal anybody but Jesus Christ can.

And it's all done through faith and He said, "According to your faith be it unto you." And again, remember that scripture I quoted I think yesterday, "What [thing] soever we ask of him we receive [why?], because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." Obedience and faith--those are the twin conditions--surrender to obey God and then believe Him and trust Him.

"...he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folks, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief." Now, why couldn't He do very many works there? Why was it He could only heal just a few, even Christ Himself? Because of their unbelief.

And, my friends, I know that there perhaps are a few hundred of you listening who have written in for anointed cloths and I've sent them and you have not been healed and I hope that you're learning now why.

Why don't you write in for our booklet on "What Is Faith?" and learn why you have not had the faith. And perhaps you don't understand well enough, and to understand better you better get our booklet on healing. I mentioned this in the preceding program. Now, a lot of you intended to write for it. You didn't do it then. Don't put it off again now. Do it now. Get that pen and that paper and write it down. Don't let another thing interfere and write it immediately, the booklet on "What Is Faith", the booklet on healing. There's no charge.

So, until tomorrow, goodbye friends.