

Mid South Conference 1978-03 Fellowship in the Gospel

by Aldy Fam Fanous

The sermon emphasizes the importance of fellowship in the gospel and living a separated life unto Christ, highlighting the dangers of compromise and the power of the Christian life.

Duration: 33:12

Scripture: Isaiah 2:11, Isaiah 4:2, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 28:16, John 10:28-29, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 1:6

Topics: "Gospel"

Description

The sermon transcript begins with a call to believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice to God and to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. The speaker emphasizes the importance of looking to Jesus Christ daily and living in fellowship with Him. The sermon then takes a sudden shift as the speaker recalls his experience in New York City and the sense of urgency he felt. The sermon concludes with an announcement about a film called 'Kisses Sunday' that explores the concept of the tribulation and the events that will occur after the war. The speaker mentions a verse from the Bible that is vividly portrayed in the film.

Transcript

We were supposed to yesterday receive the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not quite there. This is by special request from a number of you.

But we were meditating on verse six. That's the one, verse six. Being conscious of this very thing, that he which hath done a good work in you shall perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

And we say that this refers to fellowship in the gospel. It's often misquoted as the eternal security of the believer. I don't think that the thought here is the eternal security of the believer.

The believer determines that people are close to God's promise. My feet hear my voice, and I know them, and I give unto them all kinds of life. Eternal.

Eternal means eternal. And they shall never perish, because there are many men who are in my hands. My Father who gave them me is greater than all.

And no man can fight in love with my Father. And I and my Father are one greater Lord. But the thought here is the fellowship in the gospel which hath been parted in them by God himself.

And he says that he which hath done a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. We have been considering times that precede the coming again of Jesus Christ our Lord. Turn with me please to Isaiah chapter ninety.

We've not finished those times yet. Isaiah chapter ninety. We have noticed that there are three words repeated over and over again in that particular chapter.

What are the three words? Amen. In that day. And we find them in a number of verses.

We find them, as I said, in verse eighteen in that day, in verse ninety in that day, in verse twenty-one in the middle of the verse in that day, in verse twenty-three, in verse twenty-four, repeated over and over again in that day. Please look at verse twenty-four. It's a difficult verse to read and my reading is a bit poor.

Let us try and read it again. In that day shall Israel be the third against Israel's right? No. What does it say? Good.

What is with me? Not against. So many people have been asking me what is going to be the outcome of the conflict in the Middle East between Arabs and Jews. This is what is going to be in it.

Well, the answer to this question is in God's Word. And as a matter of fact, it is one of the signs, the answer is one of the signs, that we see the coming again of Jesus Christ, our Provider and Light Preacher, who indeed serves in a place called Benton Harbor, Michigan, as was eight years ago, when things seemed absolutely contrary. And so people questioned me.

But this is God's Word that is forever established in the heavens. In that day shall Israel be a third, the third with Egypt and with Assyria. In other words, the outcome is going to be peace and alliance even among those three nations with Egypt and with Assyria.

And you know what happened just recently when two great men of these two great countries met together and the eyes of the whole world were focused on the meeting place of those two leaders. Why? The focus, the attention of the world was focused on the Middle East 1,900 years ago when heaven drew near to earth and placed in the left birth a great gift, God's unseekable gift, the day of death. And I believe the time has come when the eyes of the whole world again will be focused and directed to that part of the world because of the coming event.

I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and speak unto myself that where I am, there you may be also. In that day shall Israel be a third with Egypt and with Assyria. Assyria is what we know now as Iraq, Syria, and Trans-Georgia.

Iraq, Syria, and Trans-Georgia. Even a blessing in the midst of them, from the Lord who is blessed, saying, Blessed be Egypt, my people, and Assyria, the work of my hands, and Israel, my inheritance. According to this verse, who is God's people? Don't be afraid.

Jews. That's right. I'm calling this.

From the Lord who is blessed, saying, Blessed be Egypt, my people. That's God's word. Not my word, God's word.

And Assyria, the work of my hands. And Israel, my inheritance. Yes, but we have heard otherwise.

Yes, you've heard right too. You've heard right too. Because Ishmael was just as much Abraham's son as Isaac was, right? That's right.

You remember some time ago the people came to the Lord when he wasn't there. They asked him, shall we give tribute to Hebrew God? And he said, show me a coin. And they didn't.

And he asked them two questions. One question, rather. Two, four questions.

To whom is the inscription? And the what? And the picture. There are two sides. There is the picture, and there is the inscription.

The Middle East, I might say, is a two-faced coin. Ishmael and Isaac, and both other children of Abraham. Why does he say, Blessed be Egypt, my people? Because God's promises are without offense.

Turn with me, please, to Genesis 17. Genesis chapter 17. There's a very interesting incident there.

When Abraham was nineteen years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abraham and said unto him, I am the Almighty God. Go before me and be without purpose. Now, the name of God has meaning.

El Shaddai, in Hebrew. Shaddai is in Arabic. And Hebrew word Shaddai means prince.

I am the Almighty, the all-strong God. Why? Why didn't he say, I am the righteous God? Or I am the merciful God? The all-compassion God? I am the Almighty God. Because he was going to speak to him about something that needed God's power only to perform.

He had promised him a son by Sarah. And that son never came until Abraham was ninety-nine years old. By Sarah.

Well, what could happen? Had God forgotten his promises? No. But Abraham, fourteen years before, had behaved in a way which showed that he was not merciful. These are perfect.

These are mature. In this chapter, in chapter sixteen, he did something which showed immaturity. He wanted to help God perform his promise.

And he married Hagar at the suggestion of his wife, Sarah. And God gave him a child by Hagar and he named him Ishmael. Names in the Middle East are very important.

They have meaning. Ishmael is made up of two words, again in Hebrew and Arabic. Ishma means hear or listen.

And el or Allah means God. Ishmael, Ishmael, God hears. He thought God had heard his prayer and gave him the child.

But the Lord appeared and said, Behold thou before me and be thou perfect. Be thou mature. And then comes the first prayer recorded in the Book of Genesis.

Or rather, in the Old Testament. It's mentioned in verse eighteen. Abraham said unto God, in chapter seventeen and verse eighteen, Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee.

Why? Did he say O that Ishmael might live? No. He didn't ask for a long life ratio. The most important part of the prayer is before thee.

O that Ishmael might live before thee. Because before God by nature, and I make no apology for that, you and I are dead in sin and trespass. Right? We are dead in sin and trespass by nature.

When do you become alive? I become alive when I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord because in Him was life. And life was the life of man. He that hath the Son hath life.

And he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. You are quickened as you accept Him who is our life, Jesus Christ our Lord. So Abraham with the eye of faith looked ahead thousands of years and prayed for Ishmael that he might live before God, the life that is really worth the name, life eternal.

O that Ishmael might live before thee. The Lord said to him, Wilt thou before me? He prayed for Ishmael and said to him, O that Ishmael might live before thee. And how did God answer his prayer? No, no.

On preparation. He had no plan, no place in my plan. Is this what God said? Look at verse 20.

As for Ishmael, I have heard thee. I say it very rapidly, there is a play on words here. Ishmael means God hears.

As for God hears, He says, I have heard thee. There you are. What sense to me this translation, has heard.

Has a different purpose. Has a purpose. It's a comforting fact.

I have heard thee. Not I shall be about it. Maybe I will.

I have heard thee. As for Ishmael, I have heard thee. Behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly.

Twelve princes shall he beget and I will make him a great nation. That's God's promise. And God's promises are without exception.

They are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus our Lord. And friends, this prayer has been answered. I must tell you right away that the Mormon faith is a very, very difficult faith.

A decade ago, only ten years ago, when a Mormon came to Christ, there was a great synod of us. But today, scores in various places are being converted and accepting Christ at that table. And baptized and received the cross.

I know a number of them. We praise God for what has happened today in the Middle East, which we see with our own eyes and take as a sign, a sure sign, that this prophecy is being fulfilled today, which is a sign that receives the coming again of Jesus Christ our Lord. I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly.

Twelve princes shall he beget and I will make him a great nation. Praise God for what has happened today in the Middle East. But, let me in passion again bring out the voice.

Walk thou before me and be thou mature. Be thou mature. Don't try to help God.

What He promised, He will bring about. Standing on the promises of God, my Savior, we stand and we praise God. We have great promises in Christ Jesus.

Christ. The point was brought up by one of the sisters yesterday. What is the order of events? When Christ does come again, He may come again today.

We fix no date. No hour. We know that it's imminent.

It's very near. But we know very well that He is coming again. And our brothers, refer to verses 20 and 21 of Philippians chapter 3 this morning.

Our conversation is in heaven. Please refer to Philippians 3, 20 and 21. We have again the sure word of God to assure us of what is going to happen when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

For our conversation is in heaven from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our blind body, the body of our humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto a glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. All right. In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, for He shall come again, the dead in Christ shall rise first.

And we who are alive will be forethought and prepared to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. But, at the time when you and I are with the Lord in the air, something is going to happen on earth, a great tribulation. I don't believe I'm aware of most of the doctors, but as I study God's word, I'm aware of the fact that the Church will never go through a great tribulation.

This is my conviction as I study God's word. Please look up a few references here. Look at 2 Thessalonians 2, 1-12.

2 Thessalonians, chapter 2. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by thirst, nor by word, nor by letter asked for from us, as that the day of prayer is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man shall still be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, for this worship, so that he, as God sits in the temple of God, shall show himself as that he is God. Remember ye not that when I will get with you, I shall show you these things, and now ye know what was supposed that he might be revealed in his time.

I believe that that which was supposed is the presence of the Church and the Holy Spirit in the world. When the Church is taken up, and the Holy Spirit with the Church who meets the Lord in the air, well then, the great tribulation which is causing us to be weak as you study and study, what must you do? We have seen signs that we see the coming again of Jesus Christ. What is your attitude? What should your attitude be? As you heard, we know these things, we heard these things, we know them, they have been recorded in God's Word, and we hear them over and over again.

I want to give you one or two verses in 2 Peter 3. The third chapter of 2 Peter. And look at verse 11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dispelled, what manner of persons ought he to be in all holy conversation and talkings, looking for and hastening up to the coming of the King of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dispelled, and the elements of men shall certainly be.

What manner of persons ought he to be in all holy conversation and talkings. Yes, holy simply means separate unto God. We are a separate people.

I stress this fact over and over again. You are saved to live a separated life unto Jesus Christ our Lord. And as the day approaches, as the time comes to an end, what manner of persons ought you to be in a holy conversation, a separated life unto Christ.

Young people, the tug of the world today is too strong, but we praise God that he that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. In Egypt we have a river called the River Nile, as I told you some time ago. One day I was walking along the shore of the River Nile, the bank of the Nile, and I saw different kinds of ships.

I saw a sailing boat. It goes by the wind. Whenever the wind blows, the sailing catch the wind, and it pushes the sailing boat.

I saw a rowboat. You row the boat, the wood goes, the boat goes. You stop, the boat stops.

But I saw a motorboat. It has a motor in it. It has power in it.

The Christian has power. Because I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. And it is the more abundant life that is your portion in Christ, the victorious Christian living.

And I say this especially because of the difficult times you and I are living in. You are beset with temptations from every side. But we praise God that we have the power in us to live the victorious Christian life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I was reading in Genesis 49 the other day, and I was struck very positively by the comment that Jacob or Israel, and he was about to give up the spirit, still about to prove it. Jacob was the firstborn.

He was the firstborn. And as a firstborn he had three privileges. He was the priest of the family.

He was the leader or the king of the family. And he had another portion because he was the firstborn. But he forfeited all these.

Because as we read in 1 Corinthians 5, in verse 1, he defiled his father's spirit, and he lost the three privileges. The priesthood was given to Levi, the kinship was given to Judah, and the birthright was given to the son of Joseph. Prince for the enjoyment of a season.

He lost all his privileges. Samson was a powerful man, but he lost his power because he lowered his standards. He started by lowering his standards.

First of all, he wanted to marry a girl which was not a prophet, which was not an Israelite, not a Jewess. And I can understand the argument you would have had. One day he went to his parents and said, Dad, I want to marry a girl.

Oh yes, I'll tell you who she is. Oh, she's so and so, her name is Delilah. That's not a Jewish name.

Oh, you know, I'm going to win her to my race. I want to win her to my God. What if she wins you to her God? Oh no, I'm strong.

You know how strong I am? I am firmly established in the faith. I'm firmly established in the tradition. I cannot be one to other gods.

He lowered his standards. And when he was going to visit Delilah one day, he was forbidden by his laws not to touch the head body of a Jew. He not only touched the body of the lion, but the ape of the honey bee.

Good, he started by lowering his standards. Where will he stop? The way of compromise is a one-way road, and it leads to a precipice. Is there someone this morning here who is lowering his standards or her standards? Make an exception.

There is no way to stop the exception. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, even your reasonable servants, and be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed. Why? How? As you look to Jesus Christ our Lord, day by day, in fellowship with him.

You know, if I am asked to summarize, as a person who doesn't come from the USA originally, if I'm asked to summarize the life in the USA, I will summarize it in one word, hard. If I'm asked to summarize it in two words, I will say, hurry, hurry. And if I'm asked to summarize it in three words, I'll say, hurry, hurry, hurry.

Right? I should never forget an experience which I had. The first time I took my ride on the subway in New York City, and I had to get out of 116-hour town, one minute early. I literally stood, stood at the front of the train and looked, and saw that sea of people rushing at me, Well, I, I thought there was something wrong with everybody here.

But later on I thought something was wrong with me too. Because I was missing when they were rushing. I'm afraid we are just pushed, pushed our feet off our feet.

There's no time to finish with the Lord. Martha, Martha, you are troubled. Oh, so am I. I'm going to be hard on Martha today.

I'm going to be very hard on her. At that time, how many people had to eat for lunch? Or supper? At least 13 people. How do we know? The Lord Jesus and His disciples.

And she asked, How do you like to spend lunch for 15 years? She was really troubled. She was really troubled. And brother and sister, I don't know.

I don't know. Don't let anything in the world rob you of the pleasure, and the privilege, and the joy of fellowship with the Lord day by day. The topic was Sunday, at the assembly in Nashville, on 2nd, 20th, 5th, 17th, and any man being Christ, he's a new creation.

He ought to be born again. Be born again, a new, new creation. And we said, Yes.

What was the thing that God created on the first day? Life. Let there be life. And so it is with you.

It is nothing that you can do, whereby you can be saved. It's the grace of God alone. By grace I mean faith through faith, and that's not of yourself.

It's the gift of God. It's not a word that any man should bow. The word of God.

And if there be anyone this morning here who is not being born again, it is the way. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man shall come to the Father but by me.

Let there be life. Let there be life. I quote now the cry of the ages.

Mentioned in Psalm 118, verse 19. Hope began to be the gate of life. As if there are gates in the pool of sin.

There are no gates for life. All right. Men have made gates.

Prayer on giving, going to church, fasting, doing all these things. These are gates man made only. Man made gates.

And the answer comes in verse 20. This gate is the single door of the Lord. There's only one gate.

Only one gate. Faith in Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son.

Lent, fasting, all right. Yes. But what did God preach on the second day? The firmament expands.

And He said three times, let it be five. In other words, God on the second day created division. There must be a division.

There must be a separation. I am a separate people. I am a separate man.

I live separately unto Christ. He is my Lord. He is my Lord.

Anything that is not in accordance with God's will is not for me. You know, some time ago, when I was in London, I bought a new tape recorder. I was using a great, great tape recorder.

It was a beautiful tape recorder. It had all I was so proud of myself. One of my brothers came to me to visit me in London, and I wanted to show him the beautiful tape recorder I bought.

He came to me and he said, He took the tape recorder, and I probably bragged about the tape recorder. And I wanted to show my brother the tape. And then they read the letter.

It didn't work. Oh, shucks. I'm not a technician.

I'm not going to be innocent if it doesn't work. And then I probably showed my brother how good it is. No sound, nothing.

It was one of those beautiful tape recorders. But no noise. Nothing at all.

And then I started to question. What happened? He said, Maybe there's something wrong with that. Maybe there's definitely something wrong with that tape recorder.

And of course I blamed it on myself. My father, only two years old, he played with everything in his house. He said, Oh, this kind of thing, he must have told you.

Which I still don't know all the time. But something behind, I found the reason. I forgot what it is.

It was not good. And oh, was I ashamed of myself. Was I ashamed of myself.

Brother, sister, I mean, love you. Is there a direct touch with the Lord day by day? Is the fire flowing through you? Yes. We are saying to live a separate life on this planet.

Anything that stops the touch with the Lord, however treacherous it may be, however insignificant it may be, caused by sin, sin, sin has to be dealt with. We have God's promise. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just.

He will give us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Yes. What should you do? What should you be? Touching with the Lord, being in the center of God's will, day by day, and more often times as the Lord enables us.

Thank you. He's been doing this for a long time. He's plugged in.

Let's sing. Let's sing together. Not so much in regards to sport because you can see see it.

So the third message, and our brother's been bringing some pretty vivid, pretty beautiful messages, and I'm so sorry I missed out on all of them, but anyhow, it's a new film, and how many of you saw A Thief in the Night? Raise your hand. All right, quite a few. Most of you saw A Thief in the Night.

If you haven't seen that, it's been viewed by a few million people already. It happened to be a friend of mine who got converted into Hollywood as a producer in the Mark IV films, the Heartland films, and he won out of them. They put out quite a few films, which are beautiful films.

We have brought down with us a film that hasn't been viewed in the South yet, anyhow, called Hitchin' Sunday, and it takes off from where the Thief of the Night left, and this has to do with tribulation. I say this without any reservation. When you view this film, it really brings before you vivid about the tribulation and what is going to happen immediately after the Lord takes it.

And there is some questionable things in it in regards to, if you have listened to the gospel once before, we have another chance, but there's no question about the church. But I just want to read one verse that they bring out, very vividly, because I know the people who own it, and they kind of leave this found in 2 Thessalonians, it says in the second chapter, Even him who is coming is after the working of thinking, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness and unrighteousness in them, that's very, because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, and for this cause God shall send them a deluding influence that they should believe a lie. Brought out very vividly in this film, though, that this lie will be told, and of course, many will believe it.

But I do want you to look at it, and it will be shown tonight in your home, in the dining hall. And so, make preparations to see it tonight. It's 70 minutes ago.

Beautiful film. I'll tell you, it's really beautiful. Shall we pray? Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Amen.

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