

# The Hidden Things of God - Part 3

by Paris Reidhead

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*Paris Reidhead explores the concept of hidden believers within the Church and the challenges they face in a world focused on visible religion.*

**Duration:** 58:44

**Topics:** "Church History"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker describes his experience attending a church service where the back pews were roped off and everyone was sitting in the front half of the auditorium. He initially felt overwhelmed by the committed people in attendance. However, the speaker was encouraged to come back for a prayer service on Wednesday evening. The speaker then reflects on the biblical passage in Ephesians 2:1-3, which describes the sinful nature of humanity. Despite feeling discouraged, the speaker decides to attend the evening service and is intrigued by the message. The sermon concludes with the speaker emphasizing his preference for the King James version of the Bible.

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## Transcript

Now I want you to remember, you that have been with us in this service's past, that we're talking about God's hidden things, God's hidden blessings. It's interesting that the attention of the world seems to be fastened on what they can see, and in our attempt to recruit the world and get it involved with us, we are almost invariably forced to entertain, to bring the kind of program that's going to be attractive, all of which would indicate that the spiritual life of the Church is very deficient. The hidden Church, the Church that is not seen.

The Church buildings, as you know, don't constitute the Church. The Church organization does not constitute the Church. The hierarchy does not comprise the Church.

It means ecclesia, a gathered group, a body that have been drawn by the Spirit of God out from the world and to the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are often not the company that you see in the congregation on Sunday morning. Now why would I say that? Because what you see in the congregation on Sunday morning is not what you see in the service on Sunday night. Have you ever noticed that? There are far fewer that come on Sunday night than do on Sunday morning.

And what you see on Sunday night is considerably larger than the company you see on Wednesday or Thursday night whenever the Church meets to pray. And I am wondering, therefore, if it isn't wise for us to

reexamine what is indeed the congregation of the Lord. Years ago when I was a student at Bible school in Minneapolis, Northwestern Bible School, first year, winter, fall of 1935, I was assigned by my English teacher, our English teacher, to write a theme, write a paper on some subject that was current and germane to the life of the Church.

And so I thought about it a good bit. I noticed that just across from the front doors of the great First Baptist Church in Minneapolis was the headquarters of the Communist Party in the state of Minnesota. Now you may not have known it, but Minnesota was the one state in the Union that came within just a few votes of electing a Communist government back in the Depression years.

And the Communist Party was very, very strong in Minnesota. Well, I finally screwed up enough courage to open the door. I kind of thought that if I stepped inside, I'd be on a trap door and I'd slide right through to Siberia.

I was so intimidated by going into the building that was dedicated to Communism in Minneapolis. And I went to the desk and there was a woman there that was doing some stenography and was also a receptionist. And I told her I was from the Bible school across the street and I wanted to talk with someone there who could explain to me Communist educational methods in the state of Minnesota.

And she said, oh, I guess you'll have to talk to Big Bill. He's a God-hater, but he's awful smart. And so she got on the intercom and she said, called him down.

Bill! She yelled up the stairwell. And after a moment, this man came down. He stood about 11 feet, six-inch sandals high, or so it seemed to me.

He just seemed to fill that stairwell. And the closer he got to the bottom step, the smaller I felt. And here he is, intimidating me by his presence, six foot six or seven.

I judge. And Big, this could be a weaver's beam across the shoulders. And he's standing there, what do you want? And I'm a, at that time, a 16-year-old Bible school student.

I got in a year or two younger because my folks couldn't afford to send me to the last year of high school. And Dr. Riley took pity on me. I'd been his bird dog and scared up pheasants on our farm when he came hunting.

So he said, yes, you can come. So here I was, 16 years old, asking Big Bill about the kindness educational methods in the state of Minnesota. And I told him who I was and what I was doing.

And he pointed to my briefcase. He wouldn't have called it brief. It was bowed so far with so many books and papers and notebooks that the snap wouldn't snap on the side.

So I had a couple of straps on it to try to hold it together. And I had to carry it under my arm. It was all I had.

And so it's sitting on the floor. He said, is that yours? And I had to admit that it was. He said, do you have a Bible in it? And I said, yes, I have a Bible in it.

He said, then why? And then he started to swear different assorted reasons that you come over here and bother me if you've got a Bible in that book, in that bag. Well, I said, what does that have to do with the communist educational methods in the state of Minnesota? He said, don't you realize that when we found

out that a small group of people without political influence, without financial power, without any organization, were able to conquer the world in 150 years, that we would study how they did it? And I said, I never thought of that. He said, of course not.

None of you Christians think, much less think about something as important as that. I said, well, explain what do you mean, what do you mean? He said, let me tell you what happened. He said, I came here, they brought me from another state to take over this training work here.

And I noticed that on Sunday morning, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people poured into that auditorium across the street. And I watched it a few months. And one Sunday morning, I got up courage enough to go over and sit down.

I had to go up to the balcony. It was all full in the lower level. And I got up there and the balcony was full.

And that man got up there with all that dignity and power, and he started to speak. And before he finished, I said, we don't have a ghost of a chance. They're too powerful for us.

But he made one statement. He said, I want all of you to come back tonight. A very important service.

The message is so and so. So I said, well, I'm going to see. And so at night, when the doors opened, I was there.

The service started. They roped off the back pews. And everyone there that night was sitting down in the front half of the auditorium.

And they said, I looked at it and I said, well, that must be the main cadre of committed people. I understand that. That's formidable.

We can't meet that. But he then gave a cute clue. He said, now, I want all of you to come on Wednesday evening to the Hour of Power, our prayer service.

Well, Wednesday night, I was going to be there. And I went to the front door and it was locked tight. So I kept walking around the church until I find a door that was open.

And finally, finally, I found one in that building down at the end there on 11th Street, 12th Street. And I went in and I saw a janitor there and I said, where's the big meeting? He says, there's no big meeting tonight. Well, I was here Sunday night.

And he said he wanted all those people to come. Oh, yeah, that's down in room 118. And that was a classroom.

And he said, I went in there. And when the man that had talked to 2,500 people on Sunday morning came in, I counted them. There were 56 people there.

He said, I want to tell you something. Christianity in America is dead. And he said, we're going to take what you throw away and we're going to wipe you off the face of the earth.

I said, you know, I don't understand. He said, I see you don't. He said, communism, the leaders in communism went to the Bible and took the very principles of the Bible that are there that you people throw away.

And we use those principles and we're going to take what you throw away to wipe you off the face of the earth. I said, I still don't understand. He said, let me ask you, doesn't your Bible say obey them that have the rule over you? I said, yes, it does.

Was that man that stood there on Sunday morning the respected and the authorized spokesman to those 2,500 people? I said, he was. Why didn't they come? He told them to come. They didn't come.

They have no respect for authority. They have no respect for their faith. He said, I am a communist.

We have a hierarchy. I know my place. I am obedient to those above me.

And there are those below me that I direct. If I say to a man, go out into the street and stand there in front of that truck, he doesn't say, well, I might die. He goes out there and stands in front of the truck.

Because the one principle we have inculcated into everyone that is associated with communism is you obey them that have the rule over you. Now, he said, that's just one principle. We throw away the theology of the Scripture, and we take the practical principles of the Scripture, and we're going to use them to destroy you.

Well, that was back in 1935. They haven't succeeded yet in destroying us. And I don't think they will.

I think communism is on the way. I have no fear of political communism destroying America or destroying the Church. I have far greater fear of that which is called the Church destroying the people of God, that little segment of people that are hidden, that are hidden, the hidden people.

Now, to see this, you're going to have to go to Revelation, the 12th chapter. And we'll come back to Ephesians. We're not abandoning it.

I simply want you to understand of whom and of what we speak. Revelation chapter 12, and I begin with verse 1. And there appeared a great wonder in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. What is this? This woman that in chapter 17 is the harlot.

Here she's the beautiful woman, the beautiful, what is it? It's organized religion. It's the church of the centuries past. And notice in the second verse this strange statement.

And she, being with child, cried, prevailing in birth and pain to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven, and behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and it cast them to the earth.

And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man-child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her child was caught up unto God and to his throne.

Here you have a situation where in the woman, in the organized religious system of history, there has always been a small company of people who were the man-child, who were born of God, who were partakers of the divine nature. God ordained that the man-child should be protected, and for many centuries it has. But notice there was a red dragon that stood outside the woman.

There had been a league made between the red dragon and the woman, that the woman would be able to protect the man-child. She wanted to be delivered of it. She didn't want it in her.

She couldn't wait to get rid of it. But God had sovereignly ordained that she should protect it until a time. And that there would come a time when the woman would deliver the man-child.

And that the man-child then would be caught up and taken away, because it had a purpose with God, a purpose to serve God. And so the consequence is, here we have a hidden people that are encompassed by the organized religious system of the day and of the time. In Catholicism there have been and there are a company of people who are born of God.

I've met some of them. I've talked with them. I know that they truly, wonderfully love Christ.

That's true through the ages. Many of the hymns in your book have come from Catholic saints that sought God and loved God with all their hearts. When you sing, Jesus, Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.

But sweeter for thy face to see and in thy presence rest. Your singing was Bernard of Clairvaux back in the twelfth century. And through the ages some of our great poetry and hymnody has come from Catholic saints.

But it's still the woman that sits upon the throne in Revelation 17. But hidden in her have been those that have been born of God, that are His. And so it has been also with the denominations.

Many years ago that group founded by John Wesley, known as Methodists, who subsequently in the century that followed repudiated Wesley in the message he had preached. Still if you'll go throughout the land, you will find in Methodism that there is a company of people, in most every church there are some, who are truly born of God and love God with all their heart. And you will find this throughout all of Christendom today.

Dr. Dozer at the Tabernacle in New York when I was pastor there said on not one occasion only but on several occasions, he was convinced that based on his 40 years of ministry that probably no more than 1 out of 10 of the members of evangelical churches and he proceeded to say including the society of which I am a part have ever been born of God. And of course that would cause some to go, and he would stop and say now if I made an error I probably put it too high. If the facts were truly known it might be considerably less than 1 out of 10.

R.G. Lee in the Spartanburg First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1950 at the South Carolina Southern Baptist Convention said in his experience based on 40 years observation probably no more than 1 out of 10 of the Southern Baptists knew anything experientially about the new birth. And again the preachers gasped, but the fact was that he said that if I am in error I put it too high it's probably far less than 1 out of 10. What is it? What am I talking about? I'm talking about the man-child.

I'm talking about that company of people that have been made partakers of the divine nature. We have been told by God that we are not we are not to take away the wheat from the chaff lest there should be destruction of wheat take the chaff away or the tares away from the wheat lest there should be destruction of the wheat. We've been told we can't do that.

And every attempt to do it has ended up with another generation of problems. I suggested two nights ago that there may be another answer to that that will come because the tares will decide that they don't want the wheat any longer and the woman will decide that she doesn't want the man-child any longer and that there will be persecution that will break out in our day and time possibly and I trust not but there's a possibility of it where the pressure will be to get those that are born of God that are always opposing the program always are dissatisfied with what's happening the troublemakers because they're always talking about something spiritual when we want to go ahead with what we've got it's going to come that the tares are going to say hey, we've had enough of you you're only 10% out with you out with you away with you can it happen? yes, it can happen it happened to me back in 1953 I was a member of a large church in a southern city and I had made the mistake of reflecting on the evangelism of that church I hadn't done it deliberately but it was taken as though I had when I had said that in Africa we did not baptize people the day that they said they were born again we didn't do it for a very explicit reason we didn't and I said right there in that church which did baptize people the day that they professed to be born again and I made the statement because we don't want the church in Africa to become like the church is in America and the associate pastor rushed to me afterwards in Paris you never should have said that he'll never forgive you I said what?

I was talking about Africa he didn't hear Africa, he heard here two years later two years later they found out that God had met the hunger of my heart I'd had an experience with the Holy Spirit and they said the pastor said to the head of the mission if you don't dismiss Redead today we're going to stop supporting the mission I'd previously gone to the head of the mission given my testimony and he with tears in his eyes said praise God I'm hoping everyone in our society will be met the same way God's met you and I said well that's what you say now but when the pressure gets on as it might remember this you have my resignation if you want it and he called me on the telephone where I was in meetings and he said I got to have your resignation now because if you don't I'm going to have to dismiss you I said I will resign but I will do it at my time with my testimony and I will not accept dismissal I came in through the board I will go out through the board and I wrote a 40 page testimony of what I believed and how I came to believe it that pastor, my pastor had absolutely no concern about me my ministry about my wife about our children about our livelihood we were cut off that day and when finally I went to the board with my testimony and resigned they just accepted my resignation and then two months later in another meeting rescinded the acceptance and dismissed me for heresy when I found that out I was pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle Church of the Christian Missionary Alliance on 8th Avenue and 44th Street and Dr.

Clyde Taylor the head of the National Association of Evangelicals went to the mission and he said you have just committed one of the most insane acts that any evangelical agency has ever done you branded the pastor of the founding church as being a heretic and they said well we're not going to change it if they want to view it that way and it stands that way till now that director that had accepted my testimony with tears told me I'm going to close every door to you when you go back home you better go to the Encyclopedia Britannica and get licensed as a salesman because you're never going to have another church that will listen to you I'll close every door well God had told me the day before and then the day that he called the door shall close behind you and open before you and so I said

well doctor I'm extremely interested in this you go ahead and do everything you plan to think you're going to do because it's going to be very exciting to me first if you're successful in closing every door it proves that you have far more power than any one little man who puts his socks on one at a time in the morning ought to have and secondly if you are successful it's going to prove that the God of heaven and earth

doesn't have nearly as much power as he ought to have if he's going to stay God so you just do whatever it is that's in your mind to do and I'll pray for you but I'm going to go right on just doing what God wants me to do the point I'm making was that there was an attitude toward anyone who would cross that line anyone regardless of who they were what they were you can call

it persecution if you want to it was mild it didn't hurt me I never suffered from it they have if you go back to that city you will find mention my name they'll get out their clubs and go out to the hole where they beat me into the ground and they'll start to pound again they pounded me into the ground God made a way under the ground I came up and I've been ministering ever since and rejoicing and praising the Lord but the fact still remains that there is a great hatred on the part of those who are in any wise crossing crossing the line the party line I was at a table last summer my wife was with me I had been preaching at America's Keswick in Tom's River, New Jersey I'd been there the second year I've been preaching what I preach here what I preach everywhere just the word as I see it as

I believe it's been seen by the church for centuries a conversation started at the table it was the last day I was excluded from the conversation because it was directed to the other members around the table I had been invited to the table specially and they said to one man what do you think of John MacArthur's book The Gospel of Jesus and the other man said I consider that this matter of Lordship Salvation is heresy I had been preaching Lordship Salvation all week it wasn't addressed to me it was addressed to me indirectly I wasn't asked to comment I wasn't asked for anything what I was what happened was I was told by that conversation you'll never be invited back to Keswick again you see John MacArthur had broken the party line he'd stepped over the traces and he had began to articulate

the message that has resulted in producing that hidden body that man child and the enmity against that message is so fantastic the book that Pastor Evans called your attention to Getting Evangelical Saved is probably I trust it's going to be as successfully controversial as The Gospel According to Jesus by John MacArthur I hope so I'm trusting so I'm praying so nothing would please me more because it has to be raised now what have I said we saw last night that there is a hidden blessing blessed is with all spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ the Father purposed our salvation the Son provided it the Holy Spirit will work it in us and make it real and we saw also that we have to ask God to open the eyes of our understanding so we may know these hidden blessings they aren't seen

the eye of natural man perceiveth not the things that be of God the 90% or whatever percentage it is that have not been born of God in the church do not know what you're talking about when you talk about that just because natural man receiveth not the things that be of God eye hath not seen or ear heard neither hath it entered into the minds of men that which God has prepared for them that love Him but they're revealed by His Spirit and if they're not born of the Spirit the Spirit of God is not going to reveal them and they think you're talking nonsense and to them it is nonsense so what we're finding then is that the body of believers that are born of God that man-child are not comprehended by the rest of the membership or whatever group they're a part of they don't understand them they

don't comprehend them and I've had them tell me listen, I don't know what you're talking about and I've had to say yes, I think you're absolutely right you don't know what I'm talking about not because it's so difficult to understand but because it's revealed by the Holy Ghost eye hath not seen, ear heard it isn't a function of the intellect it's a revelation by the Holy Spirit now if we are to have as we have found in Ephesians the fourth chapter the the building up of the body of Christ given there and I want you to turn to it now in Ephesians chapter four where we are told that verse eleven He gave some apostles and some

prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints into the work of the ministry under the building up of the body of Christ

till we all come in the unity of the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God unto a mature, a perfect man under the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ now if that is the function of the ministry the fivefold ministry apostles, prophets, evangelists pastors and teachers is the maturing of the saints then you can understand that the only ones who can be matured are the ones that have been born of God and the ones that have made a profession of faith products of an easy-believism or by any other means brought into the membership of a of a Christian church so called they're not going to be able to be matured let me put it this way I was in a we had a big evangelistic crusade in New York some years ago when I was pastor there and the word was out the results of this are

going to depend upon the follow-up well I was responsible for an area around the church and some of the people that had designated us to follow them up and I went through some 700 cards that were given to me and I did not find one person that gave evidence of being born of God now let me ask you how much follow-up do you have to have to make a stillborn baby live how much warm milk and tender loving care does it take to make a stillborn baby live if there's life then there can be follow-up but if there isn't life then follow-up is not going to be effective so here we read he's given evangelists or apostles, prophets, evangelists pastors, teachers for the perfecting of the saints into the work of the ministry to what end to what end a monument to personal prowess and ability and leadership

and charisma is that what it is?

No to the end of for bringing individuals into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ that's our task but if they haven't been born of God there isn't any way that you can bring them up into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ no way in the world therefore the ministry is a hidden ministry it's a ministry he gave some to be apostles some to be prophets some to be evangelists pastors, teachers for this purpose of maturing the saints bringing them up to maturity to full growth he wrote to the Paul wrote to the church in Galatia and he said I labor and I prevail in pain night and day for you until Christ be formed in you what is he saying? he is saying I do not want to preside over a playpen full of spiritual infants that never went beyond the baby stage I want

to be able to present you mature in Christ that's what I'm praying for that's what I'm laboring for well listen to this that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie and wait to deceive but speaking the truth in love may grow up into him in all things which is the head even Christ from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplyeth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part maketh increase of the body under the edifying of itself in love what is he saying? it's a hidden church a hidden relationship it's a hidden life is it being joined to each other in a given locality? no it's being joined to the Lord Jesus

Christ to Christ be formed in them because he is doing something I've mentioned to the brethren as I've been with them since coming to Twin Falls that we've got to remember Israel knew the works of the Lord they knew the miracles that Moses performed to get them delivered they saw the Red Sea part they saw the water come out of the rock they knew the works of the Lord but Moses knew the way of the Lord and when Moses went up into the mount to meet with God Aaron his brother did not know the way of the Lord and so he took the gold that was to have been used by God for the tabernacle and he fashioned it from his

own mind into a cap and said worship the cap of gold because Aaron did not know the way of the Lord and through the centuries the leadership has been taking the gold and fashioning

it into the products of their own minds and so it's extremely important for us therefore to understand extremely important for us to understand that what God is telling us now is I told you on Thursday night that when God had a chance to do things his way in our lifetime since 1949 he did it in China he had to get all the missionaries kicked out he had to get all the leadership the missionaries had established killed he had to get all the buildings taken over for recreational centers and when he got the thing cleaned then God did something and since that time we now have in China as I pointed out at least 25 million people that have been born of God it's a hidden church the government can't find it the devil can't find it doesn't know where it is how to get to it it's God's miracle that's

what God did when he had a chance when there wasn't anybody to interfere when Aaron and Damon and the others weren't there saying no no no not stop the way do it this way this is the way we do it back in Keokuk, Iowa I don't know why I'm picking on Keokuk but it just stands for all of the things back here that we pass on over there at any rate when God had a chance to do it what'd he do? he hid that church in China so beautifully that the government secret service can't find it but it's there it's there and what we're finding here in Ephesians is that everything he has to say to the church is hidden it's not going to be understood or comprehended by the world not going to be now let us go back and take a few closing moments here and look at the second chapter I have to begin with the 20th

verse of the first chapter and then I'm going to read down through the sixth verse of the second chapter but I want you to do something I happen to have a King James Version no I don't happen to I choose to I'm too old I'm too old to change now that's all and I don't have to say if it was good enough for Paul it's good enough for me it's just I prefer it that's all now having made that little explanation I'll tell you why because the first two words of the second chapter are and you I don't know if you have it in the version you're carrying and I don't want to make a fuss if you don't but mine does now to begin a chapter with and you it seems to be one of the most nonsensical uses of the English language you've ever seen because the function of a conjunction is to conjunct now what does

this conjunct with and you who were dead in trespasses and sin it doesn't make sense I'll tell you how I made sense out of it I took my pen and I drew a little oval circle around those two words and you and then I took the edge of the pen and went right up the edge of the column to the twentieth verse and I brought it in and I tucked it in where it says which he wrought in Christ when he raised him and you from the dead and said him and you at his own right hand in the heavenly now it gets a conjunction that really does its work and you he just put it down at the end now you're going to say hey wait a minute what right do you have to tuck words in here and there where you want to well I understand that you have a right to raise the issue I hope you haven't but I'm assuming you have so I'm

going to tell you that down in the fifth verse and the sixth verse he repeated it justifying what I've just done look at it here verse four but God who is rich in mercy for his great love for which he loved us even when we were dead in sins has quickened us together isn't that what he said up in verse twenty which he wrought in Christ when he raised him and you same thing from the dead quickened us together and made us sit together and said him at his own right hand in the heavenly verse twenty that's what he's saying what is it the position of God's blessing the position with which to receive God's blessing was stated back in verse three bless us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies now he's telling us how we take our place in the heavenlies well what's he saying you who were

dead in trespasses and sins who walked according to the course of this world according to the prince and the power of the air the same spirit that now works in the children of disobedience among whom you all had your manner of life in times past fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature the children of wrath even as others well now that's my biography I don't know about yours but he told it all right there that's me from top to bottom a full length portrait and then it says which he wrought in Christ when he raised him and you and sent him and you at his own right hand in the heavenlies do you see it and down there it says rich in mercy with great grace wherewith he loved us even when we were dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ and raised us up

together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ now a believer is not someone who stands at the foot of the cross and believes that the Lord Jesus Christ died for him a believer is someone who stands at the foot of the cross and knows that he was in Christ and with Christ when he died and then he goes around to the back side of the cross and he looks up and he sees himself there crucified with Christ that he might have victory over himself and buried with Christ that he might have victory over the world and quickened with Christ and raised with Christ and seated with Christ that he might have victory over principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness all hidden relations hidden the world can't see it the world looks at you it doesn't realize that you're on the

back of the cross crucified with Christ that you're in the tomb buried with him and that you've been quickened with him and raised with him and seated with him in the heavenlies and it doesn't see Christ living in you it just sees a person a root out of the dry ground no beauty that you should desire the whole relationship is hidden it's a hidden one it's a hidden one you can't give a diploma in it really you can't there isn't any way you can train people to it you experience it you experience real, real you know if the Lord went around with a dagger and plunged it through people there'd be no moral value to it he doesn't do that he does more or less what he did to me I told you about it I went to prayer I sought God and he met the hunger of my heart and I went to prayer and the Lord said

the door shall close behind you and open before you and I could feel that sword come right up against my heart if you don't change if you don't renounce if you don't recant it'll go through you after I had resigned they said oh we're so sorry to lose you you've been such a help to us I said what would it cost me what would I have to do to be reinstated they said you're going to have to first say that your experience is of the devil that you are a victim of the satanic delusion to occur at the end of the age and you're going to have to reaffirm your faith in the dispensational interpretation of scripture and you're going to have to do this in as many places as we feel it's necessary and I looked at the man telling me and I said my dear friend the price is far too high I can't pay it what

had happened he had put the Lord and let the sword come right up here against my heart he didn't plunge it in he's standing at the other end and he's saying come my child come if you're ever to experience union with Christ in his death it will not be a plunging it may plunge because of your sin but it won't be something the Lord does he simply says come come come you have to take the step that threads you on the sword he won't plunge it you take that step you take it and when that sword pierces you through you'll realize then a little bit of what Paul meant when he said I am crucified with Christ I have been and the effects continue crucified with Christ to himself to his skill to his talent to his reputation to his name to all that he'd earned by the years of his activity and diligence

preparing for his life and his work and now by revelation of Jesus Christ the sword comes against his heart and he takes the step and he can say I am crucified with Christ and he could add I'm buried with him I'm

quicken with him I'm raised with him and I'm seated in him and with him nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ lives in me a hidden life the people that saw Saul of Tarsus did not realize that Christ was living in him he did the church did and the Lord Jesus did but the people didn't the jailer at Philippi that had him scourged didn't see that he was hidden to the jailer the people that stoned him three times they didn't see it people that pulled him out of the water when he was shipwrecked and clung long after he would have gladly have let go and slipped to be with the Lord

in the cold water Mediterranean but he hung on because of his commitment to the Lord till he was rescued they didn't know who they were pulling out of the water a person that was crucified with Christ buried with him and quickened with him and raised with him and seated with him all they saw was a little wet, sopping wet Jew that they'd drawn up out of the water they didn't have any idea who he was he was all hidden and so it is at this position that wherein we receive God's blessing and we have our ministry is a hidden place seated with Christ in the heavenlies it's hidden who's going to know it? only those that have been born of God only those that have passed from death to life only that small minority you see big Bill back there in Minneapolis didn't understand Christianity at all he

thought that it was the great church he thought that it was the great auditorium the large congregation the splendid organization the Bible school, the Sunday school that's what he saw and he thought that that was Christianity big Bill ought to go to China if he was still alive in some way find one or two of 25 million or 50 million or 75 million that right under the sword of communism in China have prevailed and survived and loved and served Jesus Christ proving that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church now, it's that hidden company that are going to overcome not because they're going to use worldly methods not because they're going to have a better organization but simply because they have found their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another and are

going to be able to stand for him even as our brethren in China have stood in some of the fiercest persecution since the time of our Lord Jesus oh, I'm so glad I'm part of that company I'm so glad and I trust you are hungry for the hidden life, the hidden relationship and somehow God is going to stir your heart because all other relationships only have their meaning by our vertical relationship with the Lord nothing else has significance or value Father of Jesus we've covered a lot of ground tonight in our attempt to see and to understand the hidden things of thyself what thou art doing in our day and in our time and where this life of blessing is and what our position is in our union with the Lord Jesus Christ that it's there in this hidden relationship that the world doesn't understand

and can't comprehend but the Apostle Paul exhibited when he justified I'm crucified with Christ nevertheless that Christ liveth in me so may it be, Father that this company comprise that nucleus here in this city, in this area who are going to live this hidden life to the glory and honor and praise of the Lamb that was slain we thank thee for them we ask thy blessing upon them and we're praying that as we think together we'll be taught we'll be instructed we'll be guided the truth will become a living reality to us in Jesus' name let us stand for the benediction

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