

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST 5

Brother Jason Bright
Phoenix Assembly Church
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Edited by Sister Nicole Wentzell

There has certainly been a lot going on. We know last Monday, President Trump was inaugurated. We were talking with Brother Victor on Thursday and he mentioned that the President was inaugurated on Monday. I felt like it had already been two or three weeks because when we read everything that has been done, so much has been done that I thought: wow, it was just Monday!

I'll say this morning: if you have not yet watched the inauguration, I strongly recommend that you do so. It was very beautiful. I know that some people may say: I didn't come to church to hear about politics. And I'll say: I didn't either, but we have to be able to see what God is doing.

If we compare it to four years ago: four years ago they had Lady Gaga sing at the inauguration. This year they had the Marine Choir singing The Battle Hymn of The Republic. *The Truth of God is marching on.*

I know especially for those of us who have family and friends who may not have documentation, this may be something that causes us to feel that we don't really like this. But at the end of the day, we have to look beyond what's convenient for us right now and look at the bigger picture.

The last administration was supporting that children would have procedures done on their bodies to change them from boy to girl or from girl to boy. I have to say: that is an abomination in the sight of God. So I hope we can see the difference.

Even among us, God has already moved. Yesterday I was thinking: ten or fifteen years ago, many of us did not have any kind of documentation but God has allowed that to change. Just like Brother Victor was saying: *just on time*. Trump was inaugurated on Monday and the letter came in the mail on Tuesday.

Really, the idea is: number one, this administration wants to clean up – we can say – the criminal activity. Their desire is to go after the criminals. I know sometimes there are others present who aren't criminals, but remember: there is still a process for them which many times – we hear – actually turns out being to their benefit.

Going back to the inauguration: it is true that Trump is not an angel. His life hasn't been perfect and it still isn't perfect, but he's willing to recognize God and the inauguration really brought that out.

In his speech he said: we will not forget our God. We haven't heard that kind of talk for four years.

He had Franklin Graham give one of the prayers and my wife said: who is that? She knew Billy Graham died and this man looked like Billy Graham. And to be honest, I think the prayer he prayed was probably far better than what Billy Graham would have prayed.



A lot of preachers and Message people today, when they pray, they almost always begin with: *Lord Jesus*, thinking that Jesus himself is God. And I don't know exactly what Franklin Graham thinks but this is the way he prayed the prayer.

I don't have it typed up, there are just too many words that if I put it up, you wouldn't be able to see it. But I just want to read a part of it. I'm going to read a little bit from the first part and also the very end of it.

He began:

Our Father and our God, Thou hast said: *blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*, even as the prophet Daniel prayed: *blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, for wisdom and might are His*.

He – that’s God – changes the times and the seasons. He removes Kings, He raises up Kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

Praise the Lord.

We have to be able to see God’s hand in this, with all of the forces and all of the opposition that were pushing *against* this man becoming president, even *three* attempts to kill him. You say: Brother, there were only *two*. No, there was also an Iranian, it’s just that he didn’t get far enough with his plan.

I’ll continue reading a bit:

Our Father, today as President Donald J. Trump takes the Oath of Office, once again we come to say: thank you, O Lord our God.

When Donald Trump’s enemies thought he was down and out, You and You alone saved his life and raised him up with strength and power by Your Mighty Hand.

Now like I said, I’m not going to read it all but I’m going to jump to the end.

He said:

We pray all of this in the name of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, Your Son, my Saviour and our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

That almost sounds like how Brother Branham would pray. Jesus himself said: *ask your Heavenly Father in my name*. [John 16:23] That’s very simple to explain but there are very few who actually pray that way. Praise the Lord.

I could definitely say more about it but I would just advise: if you haven’t watched it, watch it.

We also know: in Israel, four more hostages were released yesterday. We thank God for every one that gets released, and at the end of the day, they *all* need to be released. At the same time, Israel needs to retain control of Gaza.

I did see in the news this morning: President Trump said to Jordan and Egypt that they need to be accepting more of the Palestinians who have left Gaza.

We see how the world yells at Israel: you need to do *this*, you need to do *that*. But the nations that could actually do something – their neighbours – say: that’s *not convenient* for us. Well, do they think this has been *convenient* for Israel? This has absolutely been *an anguish* for Israel.

If we study where those Palestinians are really from, we see that the majority of them, their rightful land is known today as the country of Jordan. So that’s getting things on the right track: to tell Jordan that they need to accept these Palestinians.

One more thing just came to my mind concerning the new administration of President Trump. He has ordered the halt of all Federal DEI initiatives and has basically fired all of the DEI workers.

If you’re wondering: what’s this DEI thing? [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] Well, most of us probably know but basically it’s just having open arms to receive every kind of perversion and putting all of these confused people in very important places. I have to say: things we would not have imagined even twenty years ago. And this has all been done in the name of *equity*. But Trump has absolutely stopped it now in the Federal Government.

He also issued an order that the Federal Government is only going to recognize two genders: male and female. To think that this even needs to be done!

I thank God that when I was a kid, we knew that before we were five years old: there are *boys* and *girls*, *men* and *women*. It’s not a deep thing. It’s one of the basic facts of all life. But things have gotten so *off base* now that we need a President to tell us that!

I thank God He knew *who* to put in that office: the personality that was needed. Again, I’m not saying this to exalt the man, it’s *God* who’s doing the work.

We’re going to go ahead and get back to our subject. We’ve been speaking on *the Antichrist*. Last Thursday I wanted us to go to the book of John chapter 8 but we didn’t have time to read.

From verse 28 all the way down to verse 50, there is so much in here that is beautiful and important, especially for our day. It’s easy to just read the words and not really think about the point, so I just pray that the Lord would help us as we would read it this morning.

It was hard to find a place to start. We really could go all the way back to verse 1 but to try and make the best use of time, we’ll start in verse 28.

John 8:28

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Praise the Lord.

This should help a lot of people better understand the Godhead because he says: *the Father taught me.* [John 8:28]

God taught His Son. Praise the Lord.

As Jesus had received the gift of the Holy Ghost without measure, the Spirit of God dwelled in him. And God was made manifest through him as he lived for God and as he fulfilled the will of God.

He manifested the Father to the people. But that doesn't take away the fact that Jesus himself was God's Son.

He says here:

John 8:29

And he that sent me is with me:

Well that's what I was just saying: he received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

John 8:29

the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Praise the Lord.

Jesus always pleased his Heavenly Father. And as our example, this should be our number-one desire as well: to please our Heavenly Father.

The problem with a lot of Christianity today is that they want the Father to please *them*. They say: I want God to bless me. I want God to fix my finances. I want God to fix my health. I want God to fix my family.

Well, that's all wonderful. I thank God that He *can* do that and He *does* do that.

The problem is: for many people, that's all they care about. That's why they supposedly – and I say *supposedly* – love the Lord: because they know that God blesses their life and that He can fix any inconvenience in their life.

I have to say: the life of Jesus was *not* convenient. He said: *the son of man has no place to lay his head.* [Matthew 8:20]

It's kind of interesting and maybe we don't think about this much, but if we use today's terms we would say: our Saviour was homeless.

But I have to say: *God* was his Heavenly Father. It doesn't get better than that!

It's like the time Brother Branham was speaking with somebody – I think the man was a Jew – and he began to make the case of Jesus Christ being the Messiah. Basically this Jew said: I can see that. Brother Branham said: well then, why don't you teach it? The Jew said: if I was to teach that, they would take away my credentials and I would lose my position.

Brother Branham said: I'd rather be in the wilderness drinking water from a creek knowing I'm at peace with my Heavenly Father than to have my name written in gold, a big paycheck, and the luxuries of this life.

I have to say: we should all be able to see that. This Christian life is not always convenient if we truly seek the will of God. But I'll say one thing that is good: when we go to sleep at night, we can be at peace, praise the Lord, knowing that our soul is secure.

There are a lot of preachers today telling many people that they are saved. I'm going to say this morning: you're *not* saved because a preacher says you're saved. You're saved if you're saved *according to this Word*. That's between *you and God*, and it has to be *according to this Word*.

Your preacher is not going to be able to come on that day and say that you are saved. But it's *your life*. You're saved if you have repented of your sins, you've made the decision that Jesus Christ is going to be your Lord, praise the Lord, you've been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and you have received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Again, there are a lot of preachers telling people that they have the Holy Ghost, but I will say: there is – we can say – *an evidence*. And unlike the Pentecostal Church – yes, *tongues* is a wonderful gift – but *the evidence*, we're actually going to read about it here in just a second.

So let's keep reading.

It says here:

John 8:30

As he spake these words, many believed on him.

And we say: praise the Lord. Yes that's true. But you know *who didn't* say: praise the Lord? Jesus Christ himself.

Today, people say: I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, they've made it to verse 30 because it says: *many believe on him*. Amen.

But let's go to the next verse.

John 8:31

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,

Now we might think he's going to say: blessed are you because you believed on me. But that's *not* what he says.

He says:

John 8:31

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

The fact that they were telling him they believed, well yes that was good. But he did *not* say: now you are my disciples. To paraphrase, he was saying: *time will tell*. Are you going to *continue in my Word*, one year from now? Ten years from now?

It's not just a temporary thing of today, making the statement: I believe on the Lord, and ten years from now, saying: I still believe on the Lord.

He says: *continue in my Word*.

What does that mean? It means: as the Word of the Lord is opened up, we have a *believing heart* to believe the Word of God. Praise the Lord.

That was the error of the Pharisees: they did not believe what God was doing, they did not believe His Word. They could look back but they *couldn't* see what He was doing *in their day*.

And this has been *the error*, we can say, *throughout time*. People can look back but they *can't see and believe* what God is doing *today*. [Hebrews 3:15] I'm speaking in general of what we would look at *in our day* as the so-called Christian community.

But here's the key: those who have the Holy Ghost *will be able to believe*. Those who do not have the Holy Ghost and if they never receive the Holy Ghost, then their heart is an *unbelieving heart*.

Notice: Jesus did not rebuke them. It was *a good thing* that they believed on him. I will say: it's necessary. But he told them something they needed to know. People don't want to do that today: they don't want to tell what we need to know. Why? Because somebody might get upset. They might get offended.

I have to say: there were a lot of people offended many times at what Jesus said.

If Jesus was here among us today, the Christian world would not be able to recognize him because they think he was a man who just said: oh I love you so much. They think he never said anything to make anyone feel bad. And if we do something wrong, he still love us.

Well *yes he does love us*, but there is *a standard*.

If we have children and they do something wrong, we still love them but I have to say: we are wrong if we don't discipline them, and really, that wouldn't be showing them love. We show love to our children when we teach them what's right and when we have a certain *standard* requiring that. But we're living in a day, it seems that's a very rare thing now.

He says here:

John 8:31

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

If ye continue in my Word. That is still true *today*. That still *identifies* the true believer from the unbeliever *today*.

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth,

Notice how he's putting that *in the future*. They could already see a *truth*, but there was *still more to come*.

He says:

John 8:32

and the truth shall make you free.

Well, they didn't need much time to show that they *weren't* going to continue in His Word. Remember: these were the same people of whom – *just one minute ago* – it said: *they believed on him*. [John 8:30]

What he said was true, it was beautiful, and he was not rebuking them. Nonetheless, they had already taken offence. Here they go. And I'll say: *the unbelievers*, they always have something to say.

John 8:33

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

John 8:34

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

John 8:35

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

John 8:36

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:37
I know that ye are Abraham's seed;

I like how it's worded in Spanish: *I know ye are Abraham's descendants.*

So yes, as far as according to the flesh, they could trace their lineage: *we are children of Abraham.* [John 8:33]

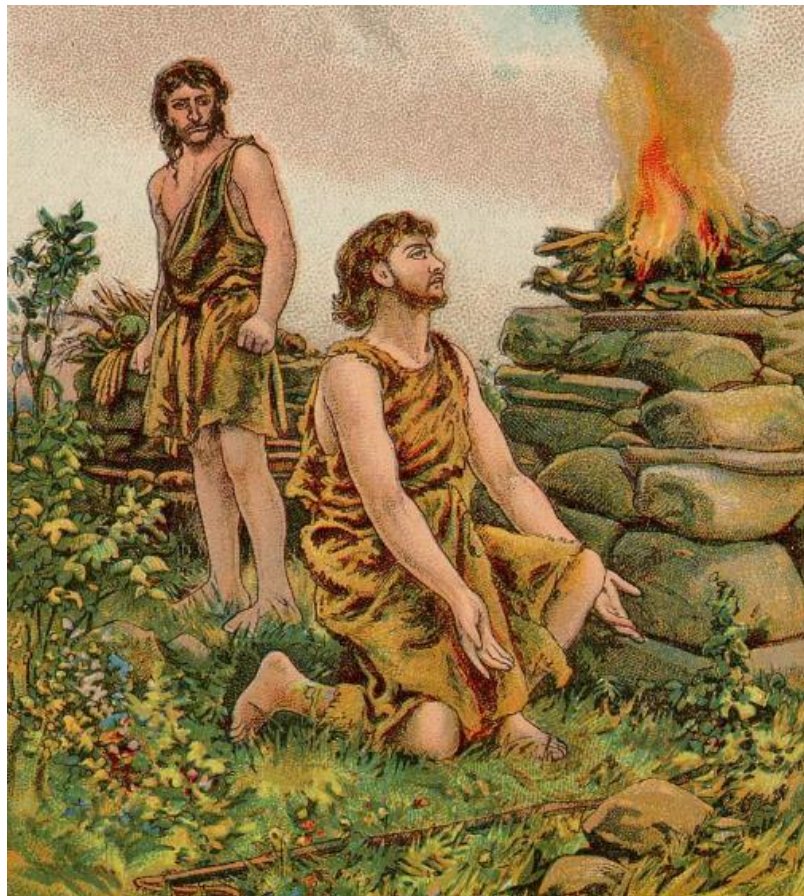
But as we've been speaking: because of what happened in the garden, we have that *struggle between good and evil* [Genesis 3:15] going on *within each one of us.*

So he says:

John 8:37
but ye seek to kill me,

Now that goes back to Cain. *Cain killed his brother.* [Genesis 4:8]

I don't know if I showed this last time. Of course, it's just an artist's depiction.



CAIN and ABEL

At this point, *before* one offering was accepted and the other wasn't, Cain and Abel *were brothers*. They were supposedly worshipping the same God, with the same spiritual understanding. I say: *supposedly*.

But there came *a time* that *identified* each one.

When God *did not accept the offering of Cain* [Genesis 4:5] there was *a choice* Cain could have made. There was still *a way* for him to come back *to being accepted*. [Genesis 4:7]

But we know in the end, *he killed his brother Abel*. [Genesis 4:8]

And here we're seeing a replay: nobody told Jesus that they wanted to kill him but *he knew it*.

He says here:

John 8:37
I know that ye are Abraham's seed;

Again, according to the flesh: *yes*.

John 8:37
but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

They were fine with the Word of Moses, *the light of another day*. They *loved* the Law of Moses, at least *from a point of confession*, even though the reality is: if they had truly believed Moses, they would have believed on Jesus as well.

As he said: *Moses spoke about me*. [John 5:46]

But they didn't want to look at *that* scripture where God said: *I will raise up a prophet like you among your brethren*. [Deuteronomy 18:18] They read right over that.

He says:

John 8:37
my word hath no place in you.

And still *today*, there are people who *reject the Word*.

They said: oh, we sat at the feet of Brother Branham, it was so wonderful! But then, along came Brother Jackson and they said: oh, we don't want anything to do with that. We can't believe that.

They couldn't believe it simply because of *who* was speaking it. But the Holy Ghost reveals the Word independently of who He is using.

Now Brother Jackson has left the scene. God has shown some beautiful things since then but they say: no, we can't see that. They don't see it. They don't understand it. If *Brother Jackson* was to preach it, they would see it. Well, not really, but they would *confess it*.

That's why even *what was preached* was really *not* a revelation to their heart, otherwise they would still have the same appetite for the Word of God and they would still be eating and feasting on the Word *today*.

He says:

John 8:38

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Well *now* he's *not* talking about Abraham.

And notice: he said *ye seek to kill me*. [John 8:37] We don't see them once saying: we do not seek to kill you. That would be the first thing out of somebody's mouth if they didn't desire him dead.

But here we have this *religious element* and that's what *Cain represented*.

He was religious too. He had his offering. To the carnal mind and to the carnal eye, it was a beautiful, wonderful offering. I'll say: to the *carnal mind* it was *better* than the offering of Abel because he had all these beautiful fruits and vegetables.

I remember – I don't know how old I was, maybe six or seven years old – we were in Indiana and my dad had a garden. He went out one day with a basket and if I remember right, there was some corn, some kind of squash, and two or three other things. He brought that in the kitchen and the smell – I'm old now and I still remember that – oh, it made an impression on me. It was a wonderful smell!

I'm sure what Cain brought was even better than that.

And what did Abel do? He *killed an innocent lamb*, an animal that had no malice, hadn't done anything wrong.

What *guilt* did the little lamb have? None. He killed it, shed its blood, and offered it up as a sacrifice. There was *blood shed*. There was *death*. But *God honored the sacrifice of Abel*. [Genesis 4:4]

Jesus says:

John 8:38

ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Again, he's not talking about Abraham. But they still want to hold on to Abraham.

John 8:39

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Amen?

That's what we read last time in First John 3:12 where John said: *the works of Cain were evil*. Amen. But *his brother's were righteous*.

So again, this show *who* the father of Cain was: it was *not* Adam. If it had been, he would've done the *works* of Adam. He would've been in Adam's likeness and in his image.

But Cain's works were *evil*: he did the works of *his father*. And Abel did the works of *his father*, who was *Adam*.

Here he says it again:

John 8:40

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

John 8:41

Ye do the deeds

In other words: *the works*

John 8:41

of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

John 8:42

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me:

Let's remember *who* he's arguing with. These are the same people of whom – *three minutes ago* – it said: *they believed on the Lord Jesus*. [John 8:30]

He says here:

John 8:42

neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:43

Why do ye not understand my speech?

He was speaking to them but *they could not understand*.

The same thing is happening *today*. The true ministry speaks *the truth* – what God has shown them – and yet, what's the response of many? They say: I can't believe that. I can't understand that. I can't see it.

Why not?

He says:

John 8:43
because ye cannot hear my word.

They couldn't hear His Word.

They could hear that he was speaking. They could hear the actual words he spoke. But the *spiritual understanding* was not there. It couldn't go beyond the veil of their unbelieving heart.

He tells them:

John 8:44
Ye are of your father the devil,

Again, that's why I say: if Jesus Christ was to come on earth today, the majority of Christianity would not be able to identify him.

Imagine if a man was to tell somebody who claims to be a Christian, imagine if he was to tell them: *you are of your father the devil*. Just imagine it *today*. Oh, the people would be all upset! And not only the person to whom it would be spoken, but anyone else hearing it would say: that man is wrong. They would say: he has the wrong attitude, he has the wrong spirit. He should never have said something like that!

They say: the Lord Jesus, oh, he loves us *all*. It doesn't matter whether we make mistakes, errors, or whatever, he loves us.

I'll say: *yes he does*, but he still has a *standard* to be able to say: that's wrong.

Remember the woman they wanted to kill because of adultery? [John 8:3] A lot of people just remember that Jesus saved her from death. But what was the last thing he told her? He said: *go and sin no more*. [John 8:11] Right?

We don't hear that kind of a message anymore. *Sin no more*. All we hear is: well if we sin, if we do *this*, if we do *that*, he *loves us*.

He *does*, but they've basically turned it into a gospel of live-life-however-you-want and even-if-you-do-wrong-he-still-loves-you. That's the way it is.

In other words, there is no requirement for them to get their life right, their doctrine right, nor to believe the truth. Amen. But they just say: he loves us *all*.

I didn't get to this part yet but I'm going to jump there. Do you know *who* could convince people? The Pope. If somebody was to say: that man is like Jesus, the people would say: oh you know, that's right!

The Pope doesn't care about the way they paint the Lord Jesus today. How many can understand what I'm saying?

"*The Pope loves you.*" I'm putting that in quotes. If anybody is just hearing my voice, I don't mean it literally but I'm putting it in quotes. You can be Muslim, "*the Pope loves you.*" You can live a perverted lifestyle, "*the Pope loves you.*" How many can see the point?

If somebody is going to convince Christianity today that they are Jesus Christ or a representation of Christ, *that Pope* is the one who can do it because he's *not* going to say something like: *you're of your father the devil*.

He says:

John 8:44
and the lusts of your father ye will do.

Do you know what this means?

When he says: *they are of their father the devil*, it means: *they are children of the devil*. Amen.

But what do we hear *today*? We hear: we are *all* children of God.

No, we are *not all* children of God. Paul said: *if you walk in the Spirit – if you walk – ye are children of God*. [Romans 8] Praise the Lord.

But today they say: we are *all* children of God. It doesn't matter: sinner, church goer, whatever, we are *all* children of God. That is *a lie of the devil*.

John 8:44
He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The devil doesn't stay quiet. It would be one thing if he heard the truth and said: I don't want anything to do with that, and he just left. But that's not the devil. He comes back and he has an argument because he wants to affect the mind of *each and every one*. He wants *them* to be – we can say – *cut off* from the truth as well.

So he makes *an imitation*, just as with these Pharisees. They were *an imitation* of the true godly lifestyle.

He has an imitation *today*. If he can't keep you out in the world and you say: I'm going to church, he'll try to get you into *an imitation doctrine*. To the natural eye, it looks like Christianity. To the natural eye, yes it's still a church. There are friendly people. In fact, the devil will even tell you: they are friendlier than that place over there where they teach the truth.

I have to say: if we have a problem with *friendly*, the Lord will fix it. And yes, we should be able to have the right attitude toward people. The Lord is going to require that.

But far greater than that is *the love for the truth*. If we have *that*, God will deal with the rest and bring into subjection where we are wrong. He will deal with it.

Now I'll jump down to verse 47. I'll probably go ahead and close with this.

He says:

John 8:47
He that is of God

What is he talking about here?

He's speaking of *he who is a child of God*.

Again, the only way we can be a child of God is: first of all, we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. But as Jesus himself said: *we continue in His Word*. [John 8:31] And we are baptized as He said to be baptized.

I have to say: every point along that journey, the devil has *a counterfeit*. He has a false baptism and he tells many: you don't even need to be baptized, just confess that you believe on the Lord.

I have to say: that's *not* what Peter said. Those men said: *what must we do?* [Acts 2:37] It wasn't just: well Peter, what do you think would be good?

In Acts chapter 19, we read where Paul was speaking with believers. They had even *been* baptized. Paul said: *but what baptism?* Amen. And they said: *the baptism of John*. [Acts 19:3] Then Paul explained: *what John had was good, but now you need to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ*. [Acts 19:4] Praise the Lord.

Peter preached to some Gentiles and *they received the Holy Ghost*. [Acts 10:45] That's the *seal*, that's *eternal life!* And still it says: *he commanded them*. [Acts 10:48]

Peter didn't say: well you know, since others have done it, it would probably be good if you did it too. It says: *he commanded them that they be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Praise the Lord.

I have to say: that has *not* changed.

Every point along the way, the devil has a *counterfeit*. But if our heart is sincere with the Lord, He knows it.

I'm not saying this to scare anybody. In fact, I'll say this: the unbeliever *doesn't* get scared.

Remember when Jesus said: *one of you is going to betray me*, and they began to say: *is it me, Lord? Is it me?* [Matthew 26:22] What was that? They knew their own weaknesses and frailties as men, and they were worried: *is it I?*

I can tell you – I can practically guarantee you – there was *one* who *didn't* ask that. Actually, I will say: he did *not* ask that. And that was Judas Iscariot. He *wasn't* asking: is it me?

The unbelievers are not worried about being unbelievers. They are *certain* that they are believers. They have been *deceived*. The enemy is just using them *in his imitation* so there can be a *counterfeit*. But it is *false*.

And what does that? It's *the spirit of antichrist*. That's what does it.

I'm going to go ahead and close this morning.