

Our Place of Refuge

→ *the place where you can let the pressure off*

Psalm 27:5-6, "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock..."

Now, if you want to do right, I'm so glad to tell you that **there is a city of refuge; that's Jesus Christ**. If you don't want to do wrong, the enemy's after you, then **there's a way of escape; and that escape is Jesus Christ**. There's a place where you can come and let off the steam. **But if you love to sin and you don't want God**, then the enemy's going to overtake you somewhere. **You can't come to Christ, because you don't want to.**

Now, in the Old Testament, God seeing, in some of this trouble, was accidentally done. So, if you're innocent, and not guilty, God makes a way for you.

Now, if a man killed a man just deliberately, premeditated, he was lost. He could not come to this place. **But if he did it accidentally, he didn't mean to do it, then there was a city of refuge.** One was at Ramoth-Gilead (*Numbers 35:1-28*). Joshua placed these cities of refuge (*Joshua 20:1-9*). Now, the people could come to this city of refuge. If accidentally he done something wrong--he didn't mean to--he would come to the city of refuge and go to the gate. The gatekeeper would ask him why he's coming--what was his idea of coming. Then his case was pleaded. And when his case was pleaded at the gate and the man be found innocent, **he did it not willfully, then the man was taken into the city as a place of refuge. Then the enemy could not get him.** And if he lied and done wrong and come into the city of refuge, though he was holding to the altar of horns, his enemy had the privilege and right to drag him from that altar and kill him. Because he was guilty, premeditated, and he had to be punished (*Deut. 19:4-12*).

Now, there was something went with that. 'Course that man would be nervous, my, maybe a dozen man behind you. Somewhere, every rock, every hill, every bush, the enemy, somebody was standing ready for him. He was nervous. **And then when he once got into the city, he could let off the pressure. He was safe.** He was all right, 'cause there was a provided place made for him, God's provided way for that innocent man not to be slain, but could be exempted from the slaying, because he did it accidentally.

Now, if he meant to do it, well, he had to stand the circumstances. But there's no chance for him if he did it willfully.

And there are two classes of people today. There are men and women in the world today, that really don't want to do these things they're doing.

There are men and women in the world today **that don't want to sin**. I feel sorry for them. **They don't want to do anything wrong, but they do it. They're driven to it.** Now, **there's a place for that person that wants to do right.** There's a place to let off that pressure. It's true. But there's some that don't care.

When a man come in in the Old Testament, the first thing, he had to come upon **his own free will. And that's the way you have to come to Christ.**

Another thing, you must be satisfied while you're there. You can't hang around every day crying, "I'd like to get out of here; I'd like to get out of here." They put you out. **You must willfully want to stay. It must be that you must want to stay in that city.**

And when you come to Christ, you can't look back to the world. The Bible said, *"He that puts his hand on the plow and turns to look back's not worthy of plowing"* (Luke 9:62). Now there's where so many so-called Christians make their mistake. See, they act like they're going to plow, but the first little thing comes along, they blow up about it.

People trying to impersonate somebody's ministry that hasn't been called to it. Finally it's going to blow up. **You've got to be ordained of God.** It's got to be God, not some handshake, some sentimental story, but it's coming upon the basis of the shed Blood of Christ and **your faith in what God did for you through Jesus Christ.** If not, you're going to blow up somewhere. Somebody will step on your toes, and away you go. See, **it's a pressure building up all the time, and soon it'll blow up.**

The man must want to stay in the refuge. He can't go in there complaining. He must want to stay, no complainings about it. **Outside he dies; inside he's safe.**

Well, I want to say something to the people here if you're not a Christian. I come to this city of refuge about thirty-one years ago. And brother, I've never wanted to go out. **Oh, I come into Christ. Everything that I longed for was in here.** I don't want to go out. I pray daily, "Oh God, I'm so happy here. Just let me stay." I never want to leave, and I know He'll never leave me. I know He'll never leave you. And the pressure gets great, if it does, then He is our Outlet. So we don't have to worry about it.

If you're all pressured up, and don't know where you're going, what's going to happen to you after death--and you know you're going to die sometime, you've got it to do--then **the thing to come is come to Christ the Refuge and let off the pressure.** Settle it, once for all.

No matter what takes place, **Christ is our Refuge. And when we come to Him, we can let off the pressure.** You can quit worrying about, "Well, if I die, what's going to happen to me? What's going to happen to the wife. What's going to happen to the husband? What's going to happen to the children?" **Just come to Christ and let off the pressure. He gave us all things** (*I Cor. 3:23*).

All things are ours by Christ, so just let the pressure off, the only one way you can do it.

Somebody might give you a million dollars; it would build up pressure. You might join a church, and it'll still build up pressure, 'cause the Methodists will tell you they're right and Baptist's is wrong. And the Baptists say, "They're wrong and we're right." So it just builds up more pressure, 'cause you don't know where you're standing. **But if you ever come to Christ, you can let off the pressure.** Cause it's all over then; just settle it down.

It's God's provided Place of safety where God said,

"The Name of the Lord is a mighty tower, the righteous run into it and are safe" (Proverbs 18:10).

In a time of sickness, when sickness strikes, and the doctor says, "There's nothing else I can do about it," don't build up pressure; **let off the pressure.** Call your pastor; let him anoint you in oil and pray over you: **Prayer of faith shall save the sick** (*James 5:14-15*). Let off the pressure!

He's our Refuge. While you're in this Refuge, you've got a right to anything that's in the refuge. And **Christ is our Refuge**, and **everything you have need of is in Him.** Amen! **In sickness don't build up pressure; let off pressure.**

You say, "Well, I wonder, Brother Branham." You don't wonder, you just let the pressure off. **Commit your case to God, and go on as if it was all over.** Don't build up pressure; it lets off pressure.

"Well," you say, "I am so worried, I just don't know..." Let off the pressure! Amen! **In the city of refuge He took your worry**, so you don't have to have it. **Cast your cares on Him, for He careth for you** (*1 Peter 5:7*). **Don't you worry about your cares; that's His business.**

I met a woman here some years ago in a ten cents store. She was about sixty years old, looked about thirty years old. I said, "How do you do it, Sister?" She said, "Here is what it was. When I come to Christ when I was about twelve years old, I set down and thought about it. I studied other religions, but when I found the true one..." She said, "**I come to Christ and took my case, my soul, my all to Him, and I've never had a worry since.** Now, **He promised to take care of all my troubles.**" And said, "**If He's not big enough to do it, I know I'm not big enough to do it;** so what's the use of me worrying about it." **That's it! Christ promised that He'd take all your cares. Cast your cares on Him.** So what are you worrying about? **Worry builds up pressure; pressure blows up.** So just cast your cares on Him and quit worrying (*1 Cor. 7:32*).

"Well," you say, "how do I do it?" **Just trust His promise.** He made a promise that He would do it. Even in the time of death when the death angel comes into the room... "Oh, I know I'll be nervous." Oh, no! You're in the Refuge. You know you're going to die; you've got to go some way, so just get **into the Refuge; feel safe.** That's right! **You're safe as long as you're in the refuge.** You remember, **He died for you. He cares for you.**

Now let's take a look. You say, "Brother Branham, you mean, when the death angel is knocking at the door, you're still not to get steamed up?" No, not

a bit. "Well, how do you do that?" Come to the Refuge. That's all. "Well," you say.

Well, now wait a minute. Let's take Israel, down in Egypt. There come a time where God said, "I'm going to send the death angel through the land, and I'm going to take every one of the elders of the family, **unless there's blood on the door,**" **that great night of the passover.**

Now, here is Israel, a **promised people** going to a **promised land.** It's the night of the passover. The death angel is in the land. And we hear a scream coming from down the street. We look out. Two big, black wings are waving down the street. You think Israel was all excited? No, sir.

Death was at the door. The little boy looked out the window. He is the oldest of the family. He sees that big black angel. He looks and said, "Daddy, do you love me?" - "Sure, son, I love you." - "Well, Daddy, am I not your first born?" - "Yes, you are, son."

"Look at there, daddy. That angel got that little boy. I knew him. I played with him. Oh, daddy, here he comes, towards the house."

"But, son, you see on that doorpost?" Hallelujah!

"Daddy, will he get me?" - "No, son. He can't get you."

"Why?" - **"That's His promise. 'When I see the Blood, I'll pass over you.'** Go back and get your toys, and start playing, son. There is no need of worrying. We're in God's refuge. Let off the steam."

Israel could set back and read the Bible, while the rest of them was screaming and building up steam. Israel was relaxed. Why? Death right at the door, what difference did it make? It can't hurt them (*Exod. 12:1-36*).

So when death comes to our door, glory to God, **as long as God's requirement, the Blood, has been placed on the lintel of my heart post,** what difference does it make? It can't bother me.

The doctor says you're going to die tomorrow, what difference does it make? The Blood is on the post. You got to die, anyhow. But if that Blood has been applied, I've got a resurrection coming. Amen (*I Cor. 15:51-57*).

Israel could be calm, no building up steam for them, 'cause they knewed that the death angel couldn't strike them. They were under the blood. It was God's provided way. [1]

Oh sinner friend, let me warn you! **Flee from the wrath that is to come!** There's only one hiding place. I'm glad that God made a city of refuge: **Christ Jesus; we can run in and are safe.** [2]

Reference:

[1] "Letting Off The Pressure" (62-0513E), par. 66-71, 82-85, 91-113

[2] "Queen of Sheba" (61-0119E), par. E6

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard it.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]