

Beautiful Way 1

Introduction

Study given by W. D. Frazee - May 31, 1965

1 John 3:2. Let us read it together:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” 1 John 3:2.

When Jesus comes we will be what? Like Him, like Jesus. Could it be possible that you and I will ever be like Jesus? John says we know it. Oh, what a wonderful assurance. We are going to be like Jesus when He comes. I wonder if we will be like Him any, before He comes? You remember in Revelation 22:11, 12, the announcement is made a bit before the Saviour appears, “Behold I come quickly”:

“And he that is righteous, let him be” Revelation 22:11,

What?

“Righteous still: He that is holy let him be holy still” Revelation 22:11.

That decree marks the close of what? Probation. And at that time, God has some people who are righteous. They reflect the image of Jesus. Is that right? Yes. *Early Writings*, page 71 says that those that receive the seal and are protected in the time of trouble reflect the image of Jesus fully.

So while we look forward to the coming of Jesus as the time when we are like Him, we are to reflect His image even before He comes. Is that right? And if Jesus' coming is near, the close of probation is nearer still. Is that right? Oh, friends, I want to enter into those glorious latter rain, loud cry experiences that immediately precede the close of probation, don't you? And I want to be one of those that reflect the image of Jesus, and stand to vindicate His character during the great time of trouble, don't you? I want to look up and see Him as He comes in the sky, and see His smile of welcome. All that is for us. We shall be like Him.

Now let us see what He is like. Turn to the forty-fifth Psalm. You know this is an interesting psalm. It is a psalm of love. In fact, that is what the opening line of the psalm says, A song of loves. It is the love between Christ and His church represented in the marriage of a king with his

bride. And the same theme here is found in the Song of Solomon. The king here really is King Messiah, Jesus our Lord:

“My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips” Psalm 45:1, 2.

This is a picture, I say, of Jesus. He is the fairest One in all the world. How many hymns of praise to our Lord have been written? Some of them based on this very psalm. In our church hymnal, number 159, is one I love. Put it down in your notes:

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned
Upon the Saviour’s brow;
His head with radiant light is crowned,
His lips with grace o’erflow.

No mortal can with Him compare,
Among the sons of men;
Fairer is He than all the fair
That fill the heavenly train.

Yes, dear friends, He is the One altogether lovely. Solomon sings of Him in that wonderful Song of Songs, that song that presents love between husband and wife, bridegroom and bride, and through it all symbolizes and illustrates the wonderful love between Christ and His church. In that beautiful song the bride sings of her bridegroom, He is altogether lovely, the chiefest among ten thousand. Yes, this is Jesus the One we are looking at.

Our opening text says that we are to be what? Like Him. Well, I wonder how in the world can we ugly folks ever be that beautiful? Well, God has a plan. Now, I want you to turn over to 2 Corinthians 3:18, and we will see the plan. It is a wonderful plan, and if we will cooperate, it will work out and we shall be like Him and reflect His image fully. Now, let’s read this one together:

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Who changes us? The Spirit of the Lord. We can never make this change ourselves, dear friends. That is why all religions of human works are failures. They may produce a certain outward behavior, but they cannot change the heart. And sooner or later the inward corruption appears. Only the Holy Spirit can work this miracle and make us like Jesus.

But He does this changing as we what? As we behold. We look, and He changes. And we are

changed into what? The same image from glory to glory. Isn't that nice? Well, then, if we look at Him, we will become what? Like Him. And He is beautiful. Yes, He is this "Beautiful Way," for in John 14:6, He tells us:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" John 14:6.

He is beautiful. He is the beautiful way and if we will behold, we will become like Him.

You know, no matter how long we study these things, there are more references, more beautiful thoughts coming. Just last night, I picked this one up from the book *Education*:

"In the One 'altogether lovely' we behold Him, of whom all beauty of earth and heaven is but a dim reflection" *Education*, page 192.

Isn't that nice? I want to read that again:

"In the One 'altogether lovely'" *Education*, page 192,

(Who is that? Jesus.)

"In the One 'altogether lovely' we behold Him, of whom all beauty of earth and heaven is but a dim reflection" *Education*, page 192.

Oh, He is beauty personified. He is beautiful and we, if we will look, will become like Him.

So, dear friends, these beautiful love songs of the forty-fifth Psalm and The Song of Solomon, present not only the beauty of Jesus, but they present the beauty of His church. Turn back, please to that forty-fifth Psalm and I want you to see this. For the heart of Christ is set upon seeing in His church the reflection of Himself. Thank God, it is going to come to pass.

"Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him" Psalm 45:10, 11.

Not only the Bridegroom is beautiful, the bride is beautiful, so beautiful that it says, the king greatly desires her beauty. Oh, can it be, friends, that people from this world, ugly through generations of sin, can be so changed, so transformed that there is a beauty in their lives which makes them the object of the desire of Jesus? Isn't that wonderful? Oh, yes:

"The king's daughter is all glorious within" Psalm 45:13.

Yes, it is a beauty of character shining out. And then in the Song of Solomon, you can put down in your notes:

“As the lily among the thorns, so is my beloved among the daughters” Song of Solomon 2:2.

This world is a bramble patch, friends, but the church appears to Jesus as a lily among all those thorns:

“Who is this that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun” Song of Solomon 6:10.

That is the picture of the church (so applied in *Testimonies to the Church*, Volume 5, page 81) in her closing work of revealing Jesus during the glorious loud cry and latter rain days. I want a part in that demonstration. What do you say?

This is the beautiful life of Jesus and it is to be revealed in His people. I would like to think this morning of some of the ways in which that beauty is revealed. First of all, as just suggested, beautiful characters. I am going to give you ten points now and you may number them if you wish.

The first is beautiful characters. In the book *Education*, I read:

“It is right to love beauty and to desire it; but God desires us to love and to seek first the highest beauty -- that which is imperishable ... that beauty of character which in His sight is of ‘great price’” *Education*, page 249.

Is it right to love beauty? Yes, and not only to admire it, but to desire it. You know, everybody, dear friends, longs to be accepted. Children, there is something in a little child, he appreciates being noticed, doesn't he? Of course, the devil takes advantage of that and gets people into all sorts of trouble. We will notice some of that as we go ahead from morning to morning. But my point is this, friends, it is right to love beauty and to desire it. And when I think of all the efforts that the world is making to be beautiful, poor souls, and what they come up with, it is pitiful, isn't it? But the basic desire to love beauty and to desire it, is all right. It is the perversion of it, the misapplication of it, that brings these monstrosities. But it is right to love beauty and to desire it. But we need to start where Jesus tells us to start and that is inside - beauty of character. Oh, I want that. What do you say?

Now, if we have that beauty of character, then it is to shine out in the countenance, and that is number two; beautiful countenances. Someone has said that the eyes are the windows of the soul. And isn't it nice to have clear, beautiful windows for the light of love to shine through? Yes. I saw somebody yesterday washing windows. And it is nice to keep our windows clear, isn't it, so we can see the beauty? Ah, friends, God desires that these faces of ours shall be the windows through which the beautiful light of love shines out from the inner heart.

That brings us to some things about health, doesn't it? Because to have the faces that God wants us to have we need a bloodstream that feeds those tissues with health-giving, life-giving elements. Health and the beautiful way belong together.

Here in *Prophets and Kings*, we have a wonderful picture of Daniel and his three friends as they walk through the courts of Babylon. Among all those that were there at the great court of the great king, it says the Hebrew youth were without a peer. Now listen to this:

“In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainment, they stood unrivaled. The erect form, the firm, elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breath--all were so many certificates of good habits, insignia of the nobility with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws” *Prophets and Kings*, page 485.

Were they beautiful? Yes. Handsome young men. And all Babylon recognized it, my friends. Is anything like that going to happen again? Oh, yes:

“Many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings” *Education*, page 262.

Yes, there are Daniels and Esthers in training this morning. Oh, I hope some of them are right here in this upper room, what do you say?

But now dear ones, when God's witnesses come in before the courts of this world, how will they come? Hobbled in? Bent over? Barely able to drag one foot after the other? Ah, I think God is going to have some witnesses like those Hebrews back there, unrivaled in their appearance. But do you think it will be because they have just had a treatment in the beauty parlor? Do you think that they will dazzle the world because they have so faithfully copied the whims of Hollywood? Why, nothing of the kind, my friends. God's beautiful way is the way of natural beauty. Nothing artificial, nothing put on about it. We will be studying more of that. And that leads me to the next point.

Beautiful clothing, beautiful garments. Put down in your notes Exodus 28:2. God told Moses to make garments for Aaron his brother “for glory and for beauty” (Exodus 28:2). And in *Messages to Young People*, this fact is set forth as an example to us:

“The dress of Christ's followers” *Messages to Young People*, page 358,

(Like Aaron's)

“Should be symbolic” *Messages to Young People*, page 358.

His clothes, his garments, were made for glory and for beauty. And God wants His children to wear beautiful garments, appropriate, of course. We are not going to wear our Sabbath clothes out to hoe corn this morning, or to wash the dishes, probably. But neither will we wear the overalls to church. (I am talking about on Sabbath morning. When you come in here to this class, you wear whatever you are going to be wearing for the day.) Now watch:

“For Christ’s sake, whose witnesses we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance” *Messages to Young People*, page 358.

That includes our faces, our clothes, and everything. Now, some of us may not have very much to start with in the way of physical beauty, folks. God knows all about that. But I have some good news for you. If we will add, He will multiply. We may be broken down with disease. We may be decrepit through long years of transgression. But I repeat, if we will add, God will multiply.

Oh, the wonderful gospel of restoration, my friends. God is restoring in humanity the image of His Son. We are to cooperate with Him to develop these beautiful characters, these beautiful countenances. And along with it, dear friends, we want these beautiful garments, beautiful clothing.

And now number four, beautiful homes. Put down in your notes, *Ministry of Healing*, page 370:

“God loves the beautiful. He has clothed the earth and the heavens with beauty, and with a Father’s joy He watches the delight of His children in the things that He has made. He desires us to surround our homes with the beauty of natural things” *Ministry of Healing*, page 370.

Isn’t that nice? The beauty of natural things. And so here we are, thank God, out in the country in these beautiful surroundings. But now, when we go in the home of one of God’s children, should it be beautiful inside? Oh, not that we have to have gold and silver and precious stones in our dwellings. We will have those when we get over yonder. The dwelling may be simple and plain. In fact it should be. Purity, plainness, and simplicity should mark the dwellings and apparel of the children of God today, we are told. But, oh, there is something about taste, and more important than taste, cleanliness, neatness, order. Beautiful homes because we are living the beautiful life, walking the beautiful way.

And when our guests come to the table, when our children come to the table, beautiful tables. And again, I say, not the extravagance that goes with the world. We may not have any silverware that came from Tiffany’s. No. But even though the utensils cost little, they can be neatly arranged, right? And there is something that a good cook can do in taking food and

preparing it in such a way that it looks nice and tastes good as well as being good for us. Is that right? Is all this a part of the beautiful way? Indeed it is. We will study that more.

Then, beautiful manners. In our intercourse with one another, courtesy, politeness, beautiful music to listen to. Beautiful worship. Put down Psalm 96:9:

“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” Psalm 96:9.

When we come to Sabbath School and church, when we come to vespers, and when we gather around the family altar, our worship is to be beautiful. We are to make it as near like the angel’s worship as possible.

And then beautiful literature. We can select the best. We don’t have to go to the gutter.

And last, beautiful witnessing, witnessing for Jesus, telling others of His way. The most effective method of soul winning that we can use is presenting to others the joy, the beauty of life with Jesus.

Now, there is a closing point which if I left out, would make this beautiful study incomplete and unbalanced and misleading. Will you turn to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah? This is a strange note to introduce in this study, but it must be introduced. It belongs here, and it is vital that we understand it. This is speaking of Jesus when He came here to this world. And although His was the most beautiful life that was ever lived here, this text says that His own people, found in Him:

“No beauty that we should desire him” Isaiah 53:2.

You see that in the last line of the text? In the life of Jesus, no beauty? No beauty. His own people took Him and nailed Him to a cross. They saw in Him nothing desirable. And yet we have been studying this morning that He is the chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely. How does it come, my friends? Oh, the unconverted heart cannot see the beauty of the kingdom of heaven. So therefore (and get the point clear), never think, my dear friends, that we will be able to dress up Jesus in a way that all the multitudes will accept Him. Never think that we will be able to take God’s beautiful program of education, health reform, dress reform, and all the other beautiful reforms - and they are beautiful - never let us think that we can present them in such a way that the millions will embrace them with alacrity. Oh, no. The more beautiful the life of heaven is lived, the more it arouses the wrath of the dragon.

But does that mean then that we can be careless about it all? No, no! On the contrary. That very fact should stimulate us to study and to pray and practice that we may present in their most attractive way these beautiful principles.

And that is the purpose of this class - that we may learn the beauty of God’s way and the beautiful way of presenting the beautiful way. Oh, that God may lead us into this.

