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Enriched in Everything

#0781

Study given by W.D. Frazee—May 26, 1967

You see, I'm going away for several weeks on a trip to hold a series of meetings out west. I've been asked to hold a series of studies in one of the schools out there, and with some other errands, we'll be gone several weeks.

Now, of course, I expect to come back. We always expect to come back, don't we. But you know, just a week ago yesterday, there was a man and his wife that were coming up from Florida, and they had heard my tape recordings for a number of years, and they had a friend at Wildwood, and they thought, wouldn't it be nice to visit Wildwood.

And so, last Friday afternoon, a week ago, they were coming along, and you remember it had been kind of rainy that day—you've heard the story, haven't you—maybe some of you haven't—just as they came through the underpass up there just the other side of the state line, on their way to Wildwood, *almost* there—just think of it, a little over a mile from Wildwood—the car in the other lane put on the brakes, so I'm told, and there on the wet pavement it locked and skidded over into the other lane and there was a head-on collision.

And this man and his wife were taken to Erlanger Hospital. The wife was dead on arrival, and I visited the husband this week there. He had a number of bad wounds, and it'll take him a while to mend, and I thought of it—just think—just a little over a mile from destination—but he'll never see his wife again in this world. He'll see her when Jesus comes, I trust.

And as I say, my point is, friend, I don't know when I go out on the highway whether I'll come back again. Can you guarantee that I will? No. Well, what should I say to you this morning, then? I ought to say to you what I would say to you if I knew this were my last time. Is that right? Shouldn't I? That's what I want to say to you.

I oughtn't to save up something especially important for some future time, thinking that I might get around to get here. I ought to give you the best that's in the kitchen this morning. Is that right? And with God's help, friends, that's what I want to do.

I'm very much impressed that the coming of Jesus is near, even at the door. There are many things that persuade me that that's true. Many of you have heard some of my recent Friday night studies up at the chapel at Wildwood, in which I've told some of the thrilling experiences of recent angel appearances in different parts of the world.

In New Guinea, in Brazil, in Germany, in other places, God has sent and is sending His angels to appear to men and women and tell them about the Sabbath, tell them about the soon coming of Jesus and tell them to get ready because Christ is about to come.

A number of these people have been people that have never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but the angel has come to them. One case down in Brazil that thrilled my soul to read about it—the angel came and gave a certain woman a dream and told her to make certain changes in her life and to go to a certain house on a certain street—she'd never been there before—and that there they would tell her what to do.

And in the city, she went to this street, found this house, knocked at the door, and who do you suppose lived there? The leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in that city. That's right.

Well, that's just like the angel telling Cornelius to send some men down to Joppa to the house of Simon, the tanner, and ask for one named Simon Peter and tell him to come and he'll tell you what to do. It happened back there in Bible times. Why shouldn't it happen today, friends? What do you say?

And all over the world, things like that are happening—never any two exactly alike. God does things like that. You can't find two trees out here exactly alike. More than that, you can't find any two leaves just exactly alike. The variety of God is wonderful—wonderful. Well, my point is, Jesus is about to come. Let's get ready. What do you say?

Now, friends, in getting ready, we ought to use all the means of grace that He has provided. Isn't that reasonable? Suppose, here's a man—he's an athlete. He's getting ready for a long-distance run against great competition.

He'd be out training, wouldn't he? More than once a month, wouldn't he? Oh, yes. And there are some things he wouldn't be doing. He wouldn't be drinking liquor. He wouldn't be smoking. Bad as this world is, the athletes know that if they want to win in the race or athletic contest, they let that stuff alone. Is that right?

But, more than that, he'd be utilizing everything he could find that would help him build up strength, increase his wind, increase his power of endurance, because he wants to what? To win. Do you want to win? Do you want to win? Do you want to win when Jesus comes? Do you want to get that crown?

Well, friends, God has made full provision that we can all win, but let's take advantage of the means of grace that He gives us. What do you say?

Now, with this before us, I'd like to have us turn to our text in 1 Corinthians, the first chapter—1 Corinthians 1. Here is something written to some people who are expecting Jesus to come soon. That's you and me. One wonderful thing about the Bible, though it was written two and 3,000 years ago, yet again and again we find

in it passages that are clearly focused upon our time, our generation, our experience —1 Corinthians 1, beginning with the fourth verse:

“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him...” 1 Corinthians 1:4-5.

I told you a while ago I was talking to some rich people. You didn't know all I was thinking about. I wasn't thinking about that little balance in your treasury. I was thinking of this text. Paul says:

“I thank my God...” 1 Corinthians 1:4.

...every time I think of you. Why?

“That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:5-7.

Look at that last verse first—the eighth verse. God is going to find some people when He comes that are in what condition? Blameless. What does that mean? Why, they're perfect, they're ready—nobody can blame them for anything. Did you ever get blamed for anything? Oh, I have, and friends, usually I was to blame, too.

Sometimes, we all get blamed for things that we're not to blame for, but here are some people that God and angels and the Devil himself can find nothing to blame them for. Isn't that wonderful.

When Jesus comes, He's going to find a church like that. I want to be among them. What do you say? All right.

Now, these verses show how God is going to get them ready. Let's go back —fourth verse:

“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:4.

God is giving His grace freely to all who'll take it.

“That in every thing ye are enriched by Him...”
1 Corinthians 1:5.

Who makes us rich? God makes us rich.

“...in every thing ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge” 1 Corinthians 1:5.

Now, this sixth verse:

“Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you”
1 Corinthians 1:6.

Even as—in other words, just to the extent, just to the degree, that the testimony of Christ is confirmed in you—to that extent, you are rich—to that extent, you are rich.

Suppose we had here a multimillion dollar corporation, and you owned one percent of the stock in that corporation. You’d probably be a rich man. But if you owned two percent, you’d be twice as rich. Is that right? How much stock do you own in this corporation? How much of its benefits have you received? Are you getting your dividend check regularly?

Paul says, I thank God you’re rich in everything:

“Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you”
1 Corinthians 1:6.

By the way, what is the testimony of Jesus Christ? Spirit of Prophecy. That’s what Revelation 19:10 says. That’s the truth:

“...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”
Revelation 19:10.

The testimony of somebody is what he says, and Jesus is speaking from heaven to His remnant church. You know, this Sabbath, the 20th of May, is the day selected by the general conference for all our people all over the world in all our churches to consider the Spirit of Prophecy.

I suppose you all get the *Southern Tidings*. By the way, if any of you don't, be sure to see that the clerk has your name.

Let’s see, Myrna, you’re the clerk, aren't you, following in your mother’s footsteps. That’s fine. Well, if there are any of you that aren't getting the *Southern Tidings*, it’s sent free—all of you, just be sure that your name is on the list.

Well, in the recent *Tidings*, one whole page—you probably saw it—is devoted to this Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath, and here’s a picture of Sister White and some interesting statistics about her.

And on the next column is a picture of Dr. Thrash and his wife, who is also a Dr. Thrash, right down here in Columbus, Georgia, and in recent years, these two fine physicians, specialists in their field, have accepted this message, and here is their personal testimony of what they have found in the writings of Ellen G. White that convinced them that this is the message for this hour.

The truth of the matter is, friends, the more people know about any field that Sister White has written about, the more impressed they are with the accuracy of those writings.

Now, Paul says, You're rich in everything just to the extent that this gift is confirmed in you. Let me illustrate it, friends. Many years ago, there was a woman who was quite poor, but her son was far away—far away—and this, of course, was when there wasn't as much communication as there is now, but this son—now and then, he would write to his mother. Most boys aren't too good about writing home, but this young man would write home occasionally.

But the mother was very poor, and she had a Bible but she wasn't much to read, and she'd take these letters from her boy, put them in the Bible, and thus, from time to time, the Bible became a receptacle for these letters from her boy, and that's about all she was getting out of it.

But one day, the neighbors asked her—she was telling them about how poor she was—they said, Doesn't your boy ever send you any money—and that was back in the days when money meant nickels and dimes and half dollars and silver dollars and five-dollar gold pieces and ten-dollar gold pieces and twenty-dollar gold pieces.

Any of you ever see one of those gold pieces? Several of you. Quite a number of you—you've never seen them. Well, I used to see them. I used to handle a few now and then. She knew what money was. She said, No, he doesn't send me any money. They were surprised, and again, they questioned her about it. Doesn't he ever send you anything?

Well, one day she said, when they asked her—she said, He sends me some pictures now and then, and they looked at the pictures. What do you suppose they were? Oh, they were pictures of Washington, and Lincoln and other presidents, and she had them there in her Bible all right.

She was rich but she didn't know it, and so she really wasn't rich at all, was she. It wasn't doing her one bit of good because she didn't know what those things were for and she wasn't using them. Do you see what I mean, friends?

We are rich in everything just to the extent that the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy, is confirmed in us. Let me give you one example of how rich we are—just one example here, for the moment.

Not long ago, I got hold of this wonderful book, put out by *Time* and *Life*, two of the largest magazines in America. This is a special report on *The Healthy Life*. This whole book is gotten out by these publishers to deal with America's number one health problem, which is heart trouble.

And, as you know, *Life Magazine* deals especially in photographs, and so, as the very first exhibit in this magazine, they brought out these photographs on what it is that's responsible for all this heart trouble, or for most of it, I should say, and there are the pictures.

Now, these articles are written by America's number one authorities in the field. They deal with such men as Dr. William Robb of the University of Vermont, Dr. Paul Dudley White, who was the personal physician to Eisenhower when he had his heart attack, Dr. Puritan up here at the University of Illinois, and others.

These are the men who are studying what it is that's causing heart disease to increase every year until today it's the greatest cause of death. Over half the people who die this year will die of some heart or blood vessel condition.

Think of it, friends. Well, what do you suppose these causes are? Well, this first one—here's this man all tense and worried. That's number one—emotional stress.

Number two, here's this lady who's surrounded with all kinds of what people call goodies, and the name of this picture is fat-rich diet—a diet that's rich in fat, rich in sugar.

And the third picture puts two of the problems in one. Can you see this fellow? He's mastered the art of mowing the lawn sitting down. He's not getting his exercise. The gasoline motor is getting it. And he's puffing at a cigarette while he's engaged in it.

There it is, friends—there is the four great causes—tension, fat-rich diet, lack of exercise and smoking.

Now, I want to show you something interesting here. This book was gotten out just last year—1966. All right. I lay down that big book, and I pick up this little black book. Here's a little black book that was published by the Steam Press of the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association in Battle Creek, Michigan, 1864—102 years before this book came out.

And every point that's in those pictures that I showed you is covered in this vision given this people 102 years ago, right there, page after page, because just a few months before this book was written, the angel of God came down to His messenger, Ellen G. White, in a little farmhouse in Otsego, Michigan, **where** I've had the privilege of standing—and there the Lord opened before His servant this great subject of health and healing.

And remember, friends, back there people didn't know as much as they know today, but among all the different fads and fancies and ideas, the Lord gave His servant a health message which has never had to be revised in 103 years. How come? How did it happen? How can we explain it?

Ah, friends, not only Seventh-day Adventists but people that aren't Seventh-day Adventists have marveled and called attention to the wonderful wisdom represented in these books dealing with health—*Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, *Medical Ministry*, *Counsels on Health*, and others. I merely call attention to that this morning, but this is what I want to ask you, friends.

Are the people rich that have known that for 102 years instead of having to wait for this book to come out last year? Are they rich? They're rich if they believe it and study it and follow it. If they don't, they're like that woman that had the pictures in the Bible—not getting very much out of it.

Oh, friends, I urge you, then, this special day, set apart by the general conference for all our churches to consider the values and the blessings of the Spirit of Prophecy—I urge you, first, get these books in your home. Second, get them in your head. **Third**, get them in your hands. What I mean by that—live them out—work—do what they say. And if you and I will do that, we will experience just what Paul says—we'll be enriched in everything—in everything.

Take another example. Here's this little book, *Child Guidance*. This is a book which was compiled and gotten out, let's see, about 13 years ago. It was the year that my wife and I were, in the providence of God, given the great privilege of adopting a little girl. She was eight years old turning nine at the time, and she had just learned to read a little. Some of the big words she wasn't able to get hold of.

And one day after she'd been with us not too long, I was sitting in my room and she came in and I was reading this book—it had just come out—*Child Guidance*. She said, Daddy, what does that say? I said, *Child Guidance*. She said, You want to find out how to guide me, don't you. I said, That's it, darling.

And I've always thought it was more than a coincidence—I thought it was a providence—that that book came out the very year I needed it. Well, of course, I think the Lord had in mind a lot of other people besides me, and oh, happy is the parent that has this book, and blessed is the child whose parents have this book and study it and follow it.

Rich? Why, my friend, the greatest experts in child training in this world don't know half what's in this book. This is God, the Creator of the universe, sending by His angel Gabriel, down to this world to His chosen messenger light from heaven on how to train children. Marvelous—marvelous.

And I'm rich if it's confirmed in me. Otherwise, it's just so many pictures of Washington and Lincoln. Do you see what I mean? Ah, the only way we can get the riches is to *get* them.

Take another example. Here's this wonderful book, *Early Writings*, and much of it expanded in this later book, *Great Controversy*. Now, you know, the great purpose of God in giving us this book *Great Controversy* and *Early Writings* is to expose the plans of Satan to defeat God's work in the world.

And over a hundred years ago, dear friends, the Spirit of Prophecy brought to us clear light based on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation but making the application down to our generation that two of the greatest movements in these latter days would be Roman Catholicism and spiritualism.

But I want to call your attention to something. When those wonderful predictions came out in this book *Early Writings*, spiritualism was just a tiny little

thing up in New York state called the Rochester knockings. Something that they thought was a ghost was knocking like that and giving answers by so many knocks for “yes” and so many for “no.”

But the prophet of God said that Jesus had revealed to her through His angel that that was spiritualism like the ancient necromancy of the Bible and that it would sweep the world and enter all the popular churches. That was over a hundred years ago that those predictions were made. You can read it in this book, *Early Writings*, expanded later in this book, *Great Controversy*. It was written before anybody here was born. Listen, friends, what has time shown? The fulfillment of those predictions.

Let me give you an example or two. Many of you have heard of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, New York clergyman, one of America’s greatest Protestant ministers. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale publicly proclaims his belief in the existence of people after death and communication with them—communication with the spirits.

Ah, friends, spiritualism is sweeping the world. It numbers its adherents by the millions. God save this movement from ever being deceived by that sort of thing. But my point is when we were given the vision, it didn’t look like spiritualism was any more than some sort of little magic out here in the corner. Time has proved the fulfillment.

Again, Roman Catholicism—when this message started out, friends, the Roman church was at its low point. In 1798, shortly before Miller started to give his message, the pope had been imprisoned by Berthier, carried into captivity, died in exile, and for two years, there was no pope, and as one Jesuit writer says, half Europe thought that with the pope the papacy was dead.

We come down a little farther to 1870. This, you see, was 25 years after this message started, and our people were teaching with the Bible teaches and what the Spirit of Prophecy told us about the part that the papacy would play in the closing work.

But in that year, the papacy suffered another terrible defeat and its temporal power was all taken away, and the pope became, as he called himself, the prisoner of the Vatican. He lost all temporal power whatsoever.

But as time has gone on, what do we see? Ah, I don’t need to remind you about that recent visit of the pope to the United Nations, when the representatives of all the world ooh’d and aah’d, as Pope Paul gave his message on peace.

The papacy today has more influence than it has ever had in all the history of the ages, friends, and God warned us about this. Open this book *Great Controversy*. Read this chapter on “The Aims of the Papacy,” and the amazing thing that here was clearly revealed to us the importance of what we now call the modern ecumenical movement in which the Protestants would get together, try to come close to one another, and then join hands with the papacy. It’s all revealed here, before anybody here in this room was born—it’s being fulfilled before our eyes.

But what's it all for? Just so that we can "ooh" and "aah" and say, Oh, isn't that wonderful? Oh, no, friend. If we will read these books, we will understand how the Bible applies to our modern problems and how we can escape every trap of Satan. If we'll read these books and study them, we'll be saved from spiritualism, we'll be saved from Roman Catholicism and we'll be saved from a hundred other traps more subtle than those two are. I mentioned those two as examples. We need this. I need it.

Ah, but somebody says, I'm afraid of anything except the Bible. Well, dear ones, tell me something. I just want to reason with you a moment on that. Are you willing for me to preach here this morning, even though I'm not the Bible? Yes, you say, Brother Frazee, we're willing to have you preach because you preach from the Bible.

But listen. While I have read to you from the Bible this morning, most of the actual words that I have used this morning, I didn't read out of the Bible at all. Am I right? And yet, you listened to me. Listen. If you and I are willing to listen to an uninspired man preach from the Bible, why shouldn't we be willing to listen to an inspired messenger speak from the Bible?

Tell me, friend, why the prejudice. Ah, I'll tell you why. the Devil hates this gift—he hates this gift. I'll tell you why. You see, when Brother Frazee speaks or Brother Jones or Brother Smith or Brother Brown or White or any other brother, if you don't like what the preacher says, you can say, Oh, well, he's not inspired. I don't have to listen to him. And that's the truth, perhaps.

But oh, if you and I acknowledge this gift as the testimony of Jesus Christ, then we are bound to listen to it and follow it. Am I right? That's what the Devil hates. He does not want your soul to come to the place of full faith—full surrender.

Ah, you say, but isn't the Bible enough? Yes, the Bible's enough. Why, then, these gifts? Just as the preacher comes here and speaks on Sabbath to help you and me to understand the Bible, so in these modern days, God has sent His angel from heaven to preach to help us understand the Bible.

And if we'll listen to men, why not listen to angels? If we'll give attention to what human beings point out to us from the Bible, oh, how carefully we should listen to the voice from the skies. Do you see, friends? Ah, how important that is.

And never fear, for it does not happen—never fear that these books will take the place of the Bible. The truth of the matter, friends, it's impossible. Open these books where you will, and you'll not read many sentences before you find a verse of scripture, and then you'll find another one and another one and another one and another one and another one—thousands of texts of scripture over and over and over again. This is a divine commentary on the Bible.

The Bible? Oh, yes, friend—the Bible and the Bible alone—but let's have *all* the Bible and let's have *all* the help that God has made available for us to understand this book, to avoid the snares of Satan and to let Jesus get us ready for His coming.

I'm thankful this morning—I say it humbly but joyfully—I'm thankful to be a Seventh-day Adventist. I'm not proud of it because it's nothing that I've done. I'm not boasting of it because it's no accomplishment of mine. But I'm praising God for it with all my soul.

And the thing that settled my father and mother—just before I was born they came in this message—the thing that settled them that this was God's true church and that they needed to have a part in it was when they saw the gift of prophecy. When they saw that the work and writings of Ellen G. White constituted the fulfillment of the Bible prediction that in these last days He would send dreams and visions and restore this gift of prophecy in the remnant church, their hearts were convinced. That's been 62 years ago, my dear friends. Their faith in this never wavered.

My dear mother is lying sleeping up there in the cemetery at Wildwood waiting for God to come with His holy angels and call her. My father—all through these years, he's been so thankful for these precious gifts. He trained my brother and me to love these books, to commit whole pages to memory, and I thank God for that, friends. It's been a blessing to me through the years.

And today, I say to you in the words of Paul, I thank God that you are rich in every thing just to the extent that this gift is confirmed in you, and if you *do* it, he says:

“...ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:7.

What we lack will be supplied. Oh, friends, I praise God for His wonderful gift. What do you say?

Now, I wish we could improve the time here, and those of you who would like to, stand up and thank God, for He loves to hear your words of praise.

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