

Full and Final Display

#0560

Study given by W.D. Frazee—August 8, 1964

I hope you all have your Bibles this afternoon for I would like to have you notice carefully a text. Ephesians 3:8-11. Some Sabbath afternoon after we have had a good dinner, under the tree of life, I would like to sit down with Paul and have him give us a Sabbath afternoon study. What would you say to that? Wouldn't that be nice? Well, we can look forward to that. But if he were here this afternoon, it might be that he would give us just what we are going to read for this is Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. It has been recorded so that you and I can have it today:

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church..." Ephesians 3:8-10

That is through the church, by means of the church.

"...The manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" Ephesians 3:10-11.

Now I want you to notice several things that are said here. We want have time to notice all of them, of course. But Paul is rejoicing in the fact that God has given him the wonderful privilege of preaching among the gentiles God's great plan and purpose which from the beginning God has had in mind and has been worked out in the gift of Jesus. The purpose of it all, he says, to the intent, intent means purpose, goal. What is the purpose of it all? Look at that 11th verse again:

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" Ephesians 3:10.

Now let's look at that. Are there principalities and powers in the heavenly places? Yes. God has a government. It isn't just that God is the great ruler and everybody else is down here on, shall we say, the same plane. There are orders of

beings. There are those who are leaders.

Who at one time before the creation of the world was the leader of all the angels? Lucifer. He fell. Another angel took his place. There are various orders of beings and different responsibilities. Paul speaks of them as the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. Is Heaven a real place? Yes. Are there real people up there? Yes. By the way, are there some people from this world up there? Yes. Do you know the names of any of them? Enoch is there. Moses. Elijah. Are there some others whose names we don't know? Yes. They went up with Jesus at His ascension. There are quite a number of people up there from this world. And then of course there are millions of angels, and from time to time the representatives of other worlds come there before the throne. Heaven is a wonderful place.

Now watch. Paul says that God's intent, His purpose, is that those leaders in Heaven, the principalities and powers in heavenly places shall learn something about the wisdom of God through or by means of what? Is that what it says? Do you mean that something is happening in the church down here on this world that is of interest to heavenly beings? That is a lesson book to them? Is that what this says? Look at your text.

But now watch what it is that they are to learn:

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" Ephesians 3:10.

The wisdom of God is to be made known to heavenly beings by looking to the church down here in this world? That is what he says.

Now this is a stupendous thought, dear friends. I don't know whether you have meditated on this particular line before, but let's share it together this afternoon. Really, I know of nothing more thrilling in all the Book of God that what is presented in the text we have just read.

Now in order that we may catch certain facets of the meaning of Paul here, I am going to read these verses from various translations. I want you to listen to how it is worded. All of this, of course, are saying the same thing in different language.

"And to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things" Ephesians 3:10, RSV.

God has had a plan for ages. It has been hidden. But now it is going to be revealed. How?

"That through the church the manifold wisdom of God might

now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose which He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Ephesians 3:10-11, RSV.

“Do you mean that there are some things that heavenly beings have not understood about the wisdom of God until they see something worked out here in the church?”

Exactly so.

Again. This is from the New English Bible translation:

“It was hidden for long ages in God the Creator of the universe in order that now through the church the wisdom of God in all its varied forms might be made known to the rulers and authorities in the realms of heaven. This is in accord with his age long purpose which he achieved in Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:10-11, NEB.

Think of it, friends. The rulers in Heaven are watching the church down here below to learn something about the wisdom of God in all its varied forms.

Again, Phillip’s translation:

“The purpose is that all the angelic powers should now see the complex wisdom of God’s plan being worked out through the church in conformity to that timeless purpose which He centered in Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:10-11, Phillip’s Translation.

Think of it! A plan that God had in the long gone ages, far away there in the eternity of the past, that plan has never yet been demonstrated until it is demonstrated in the church here on earth. And all Heaven is watching.

Again. Goodspeed’s translation:

“Making clear how the secret purpose is to be worked out which has been hidden away for ages in God the Creator of all things. So that the many-sided wisdom of God may now, through the church, be made known to the rulers and authorities of heaven fulfilling the eternal purpose which God carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:9-11, Goodspeed’s Translation.

You notice each of these translations helps us to catch that thought of the many-sided wisdom, the varied wisdom, the King James translation is “the manifold wisdom.”

Alright. Now from Wheymouth:

“In order that the church might now be used to display to the powers and authorities in heavenly realms the innumerable aspects of God’s wisdom” Ephesians 3:10, Wheymouth Translation.

Did you know that was the assignment of this church? We think of reaching the people in Africa and India and the South Seas with this message as our task. But oh, friends, we have another task. Through God’s church is to be revealed to the on-looking universe the many-sided wisdom, the manifold wisdom, the innumerable aspects of God’s wisdom, that is to be revealed to the universe through this church. That is how you and I happen to be here.

Now I want to ask you something, friends. Do you suppose if we were all just as much alike as two peas in a pod, do you suppose we could do this? No. They do that in Detroit. They fix up some molds and start the assembly line runs and off come the Fords or the Chevrolets or something else. You can go down there to the factory and say, “I need a rear axle for a 1962 Chevrolet,” and it doesn’t make any difference which one of a thousand pieces of steel they pick up, anyone of them will fit right there. Correct?

That isn’t what this is talking about. I read on. This is from the 20th Century translation. Remember I am reading the same text just through these different translations to help us get the thought:

“I was appointed to tell the heathen the good news of the undreamt of wealth that exists in Christ. And to make clear what is God’s way of working out the secret purpose which for long ages has been lying hidden in the mind of the Creator of all things. And the object of this is that God’s many-sided wisdom should now, through the church, be made known to the angelic beings on high of every rank in accordance with the purpose which he has had in view all through the ages, and is now carried out in the person of Jesus Christ our Master” Ephesians 3:8-11, 20th Century Translation.

Isn’t that wonderful, friends?

Now from Moffit’s translation:

“And enlighten all men upon the new order of that divine secret which God the Creator of all concealed from eternity intending to let the full sweep of the divine wisdom be disclosed now by the church to the angelic Rulers and Authorities in the heavenly sphere, in terms of the eternal purpose which He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord”
Ephesians 3:9-12, Moffat’s Translation.

Well, there it is, friends. Oh, I think it is wonderful that you and I are called to this demonstration. What is it? The eternal purpose which He has purposed long before this world was made. A purpose which is now to be realized through the church that all the universe may see the manifold wisdom, the many-sided wisdom, the full sweep of the wisdom of God revealed through the church.

Now let us see what is involved in that. You see, dear friends, when God made people individuals, and yet gave them the job of working together, He posed the greatest problem of eternity. Now in order to appreciate that, all you need to do is to realize how hard it is to get even two people to work together. That is a fact. Isn’t it? Yes. It is. What are the present statistics? One out of every three marriages end up in the divorce courts. And the other two-thirds that don’t end up in the divorce courts are far from being beautiful examples of harmony. Am I correct?

Any physician and any pastor will tell you that there are very few married couples that are happily married and really matched. But that is just two people working together. God proposes to get a whole church composed of hundreds and thousands of people all working together in perfect harmony.

You remember that vision in *Early Writings* page 269, and 270, there are on the shaking, and then as the church enters into the latter rain experience, what does the servant of the Lord say?

“They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers.”
Early Writings, page 271.

That doesn’t mean, friends, they moved for the reason that a company of soldiers moved. Oh no. There wouldn’t be anything wonderful about that. You know how a company of soldiers moves? Some officer gives the order, and down the line it comes. Then some sergeant barks out the order and the men fall into line. They have been taught to do that. They know that unless they do it, something will happen, and they don’t want that something to happen so they march just like they are told.

Now there are people who have the idea that that is the way the church is to move. The leader of that concept lives in a place over in Rome. You have heard of him, haven’t you? But he is not Christ, he is antichrist. Is that what you and I believe? Yes.

Now, my dear friends, remember this. We have been studying the three-fold message and God not only tells us to worship the beast, but He tells us not to worship the beast, but He tells us not to worship his what? Image. What is an image? It is a likeness. Don't worship that beast, and don't worship anything like him.

But you know, that beast doesn't call itself the beast, it says that is blasphemy. It says it is THE church of Christ. It says it is the church that was established by Christ, and handing over to Peter to administer, and so on down through. Well, you and I don't believe that, and that is why we are here this afternoon. Am I correct?

Wouldn't it be a shame, my dear friends, to run away from the beast and fall at the feet of his image? Wouldn't it? That is not the demonstration that Paul is talking about here. Groups of people that move together because they are regimented. Oh no. There is nothing particularly marvelous for the angels to look on and see in that. Would there be? No.

But listen, when you get a group of people, not merely two or three, but hundreds, thousands of them, my friends, who move in exact order like a company of soldiers and who do it, not through fear, not through force, not through being bribed, not being paid to do it, but simply through love and intelligent cooperation, oh my friends, that is something for all the universe to stop and say, "Look! Look! It is working."

"What is?"

"The manifold wisdom of God which has purposed this plan from eternity." It is at last working."

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Try to spoil it. Try to stop it. Try to hinder it. Try to frustrate it. But listen, he is a defeated foe. Jesus is going to accomplish it. Through the church is going to be revealed the wisdom of God, the love of God, the order of God.

You know we are told in *Counsels on Health*, page 101, that order is Heaven's first law. Will there be order in the church below if the manifold wisdom of God is revealed through the church? Will there be order, or will there be one running this way, one that, one teaching this, one teaching that, just like Babylon? No. Thank God. He has called us out of Babylon into His marvelous light. Right?

Order is Heaven's first law, but, my dear friends, there is something before order because there is something before law, and that is love. Love. Law proceeds from the heart of God, and God is love. Love was not invented in order to get people to obey, love from all eternity has been primary, fundamental. But God's law was issued in order that love might find expression.

God's love found expression in telling us what to do in order to be happy, telling us how to work together. Our love for Him finds expression in doing what He says.

“If ye love Me, Keep My commandments” John 14:15.

I have wondered if hidden in that little statement of Jesus there is not something of this thought. If you love Me, keep My commandments, but if you don't love Me, never mind, never mind you don't even need to try to keep my commandments. You couldn't anyway. You never would succeed. And why undertake the bondage of keeping law without love.

“If ye love Me, Keep My commandments” John 14:15.

And so the great demonstration that God is seeking to make through the church is a group of people who love Him enough to keep His commandments, and love one another well enough to work together.

But somebody says, “Well, that is just the problem.”

Well, that is the problem. But my dear friends, wouldn't you hate to go to school and everyday have the teacher put on the blackboard, “The lesson for today, children, is $2 + 2 =$ what. Now all of you work hard on that. When you get through, you can all go out for recess.” And then the next day you come back and again the lesson is $2 + 2 =$ what. “All work hard on that today, and when you get through, we will have recess.”

Wouldn't you like to go to a school like that? Are you sure? What do you want then? Do you want problems? Do you really? All you have to do to find them is to try to participate in a group of Christians working together to accomplish the work of God. Then you will be in problems. And the angels are looking on.

Lucifer said it couldn't be done. He still says it can't be done. God undertook to make a great demonstration of this when he brought poor Israel out of Egypt, but poor hearts all along the desert way, there was murmuring, discontent, schism, dissatisfaction, rebellion. Look at Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Look at all the others. And so the Devil says, “Look at the record. It speaks for itself. It can't be done.”

The nearest that the church ever came to it was there in the book of Acts after Jesus went back to Heaven, He told them to stay right there in the upper room until they got to this point. The Holy Spirit was poured out and wonderful things happened, didn't they? And all the angels looked on.

But you look over there in the sixth chapter, and there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Oh, that sounds so human, doesn't it? Yes. Well, they had to have a counsel about it. Well, they got that solved. You go on and there is some more. Paul and Barnabas, wonderful men that they were, they got into quite a conflict over whether to take John Mark or not. They finally, the Bible tells it all, it says the contention was so sharp that Barnabas went to Cyprus with Mark, and Paul chose Silas and went on over

to Asia Minor.

Well, God worked good out of it, but it wasn't exactly the demonstration we are reading about here, was it? It fell short of it.

Will it ever happen? Will God ever be able to get a group of people, a whole church, from center to circumference, from head to the least member, who march hand in hand and heart to heart, who see eye to eye? And don't misunderstand me. I don't mean, friends, as I said, that they are like those rear axles on the Chevrolet, that they are all just precisely alike. But will God have a group of people that move in love and order so close that there is no lack of harmony, no schism, no murmuring, no complaining, no dissatisfaction? Will He have that? Well, that is what Paul is talking about. That is the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord, and when that happens, friends, all the universe is going to thrill with joy, and Satan and all his hosts are going to be defeated.

Now I want to read you some very interesting statements from the Spirit of Prophecy along these lines. The first is from *Desire of Ages*, page 680:

“Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. ... The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display” *Desire of Ages*, page 680.

What does full mean? Well, you couldn't put any more in if it is full. Right? What does final mean? The last. And the last thing that is accomplished through the church down here in this world is the full and final display of the love of God in the church. In the church. Listen, friends, if it is a full display, will there be one discordant note to mar the harmony? Will there? No, friends! There won't be anybody saying I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas. No. No.

All will unite in exalting Christ, and in uniting in this message, the third angel's message. There won't be any pulling of here, there, and yonder. They will all be doing what the angel has said over and over again, “Press together. Press together. Press together.” And it will be done through love. Not through force. Not through pressure. Through love.

Oh, friends, I want a part in it. Don't you? And listen, all the brethren I know are going to have to have a lot of things changed about them if they ever fit with me. Could it be that I would need a few little things changed in order to fit in? Could that be possible? Would I be willing? That is the question. Well, if I know my heart, I choose to be willing to be made willing.

Now I am going to read this same thing from four different quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy. Each worded a little differently, but all with the same wonderful message. The next *Acts of the Apostles*, page 9:

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service...” *Acts of the Apostles*, page 9.

By the way, friends, you will note that this is talking about the “organized” church. And if any of you have been at any time influenced by the nebulous idea that is sometimes presented that the church is a sort of invisible thing, that it is a mystical body without form or organization as far as this world is concerned, if any of you have ever been at any time influenced by that idea, please, dear friends, help me to get that idea if it is true by bringing me some references from the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy that teach that. But if you can’t find them, then join with me in understanding the expression “the church” to be the organized church.

Now let me read again:

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency... The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10” *Ibid*.

Isn’t that wonderful, friends? Yes, through God’s organized church in this world all Heaven, all the universe is to behold the final and full display of the love of God.

Say, I would like to be around when that happens. Wouldn’t you? Better yet, I would like to apart of it. What do you say? Amen. Can it be done? Well, that is why Jesus died. And friends, He has not invested in a lost cause.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6.

Now I turn to *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 18:

“The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He

is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven. To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display” *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 18.

There it is again, the third time. In full and final display. What? The love of God. Where? In the church. What for? Ah, for all the universe to look on and see the manifold wisdom of God.

Again, page 50 of this same book:

“God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory. The prayer of Christ that His church may be one as He was one with His Father will finally be answered” *Ibid*, page 50.

Oh, friends, there it is four times, four times. Thank God, it is true every one of those times.

Shall we bow our heads?

Our loving Father, we thank Thee for the glorious privilege of being born at this particular time in the history of the world, when, through Thy church in full and final display, Thy love shall be revealed to an on-looking universe. Make us glad for every problem that prepares us for this demonstration. Make us happy for each experience no matter how difficult. That knocks off the rough corners, that planes and polishes us, that we may fit together into a temple of light and love.

Oh, bless us that we may see our glorious destiny and make the heart that was broken for us happy as we enter into the demonstration for which He died that we may all be one as Thou and Thy dear Son are one. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

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