

Three Books the Devil Hates

#1003

Study given by W.D. Frazee—September 12, 1981

Now, as we hear the Word of God, I invite you to turn to the Gospel of John, the 10th chapter, the 27th verse. Jesus, the Great Shepherd, is speaking. John, the 10th chapter, the 27th verse:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” John 10:27.

Will you read the text with me? [Audience joins Elder Frazee in reading.]

As various nations and ideologies struggle for the ear of millions, it has become quite a practice to beam radio programs into other territories. It has also become a practice to try to *jam* those radio broadcasts so they're not heard. The enemy seeks to jam the radio broadcast of the Good Shepherd. He seeks to so divert us or distract us or dilute the message that we fail to grasp its full import and receives it full impact. This morning, I want to study with you the great privilege that you and I have as a part of the body of Christ to receive the messages from Jesus.

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” John 10:27.

We hear the voice of Jesus speaking to us first through His law, for it is written, “And God spake all these words, saying...” (Exodus 20:1), and then followed the Ten Commandments. The Father and the Son in unison gave the Ten Commandments from the top of Mount Sinai. And so the Ten Commandments are literally the voice of the Shepherd telling us the right way, and warning us of the wrong way, to avoid it.

What is the result of listening? He says:

“O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea” Isaiah 48:18.

The Ten Commandments are God's highway of joy and satisfaction. The ‘Thou shalt not’s’ are like guardrails on either side of the road, helping us to avoid the ditch on either side. But the way is God's law. And so it is written:

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD” Psalm 119:1.

I'm thankful for the voice of Jesus *sounding* down to us through the Ten Commandments, what do you say?

Then we have also the enlargement of that in the entire Bible, for it was the Spirit of Christ, in the prophets Peter tells us, that spoke in the Old Testament times, and that's likewise true in New Testament times. Through Moses, through Samuel, through David, Daniel, Isaiah, through Peter and Paul and John, *Jesus* was speaking. And while there were many penmen, there was *one* voice, *one* inspiration all the way through. That's why we speak of the Bible as 'the Book'—it's really made up of 66 books, but it's *one* book because it has *one* inspiration. And in a wonderful mosaic, it fits together in a beautiful way.

So the child of God can kneel and open the Word of God, and whether he's reading the Old Testament or the New Testament, whether he's reading the writings of Samuel or Paul, he can say, looking past the secretary that put it down, he can address the Lord of Life and say, "...Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth..." (1 Samuel 3:9). I'm sure that those who know the Master's voice have heard it many times speaking to them through this Word.

And then throughout the entire history of the world, from time to time, God has seen fit to give specific messages for that time and situation through His chosen messengers, the prophets. He did it in Old Testament times. We have a number of prophets spoken of whose writings or speakings were not put into the Old Testament. They were none the less inspired. So in the New Testament. It mentions specifically about Agabus, but we have no book of Agabus. We have the mention of Philip's four daughters who prophesied, but we have no writings or prophesyings of theirs. We have Silas and Judas who are spoken of as prophets in Acts 15, but no record of what they wrote or what they gave.

So from time to time God has seen fit to give, along with the messages which we now have in the Bible, other messages, inspired messages, dealing with situations that were to be met at that time. In fact, *all* the writings of all the Bible writers are not in the Bible. Paul speaks, writing to the Colossians, of a letter that he wrote to the church at Laodicea, but we don't have that. He wrote it, but God did not see fit to preserve *that* letter as a part of the Bible, but doubtless, it was just as inspired as the one to the Colossians. For he said, "When you have read this letter, you at Colossae, in the Colossian church, send it home to the Laodicean church so it can be read there, and you read the one that I wrote to the Laodicean church." Wouldn't you like to read that one? Well, someday we can. But God saw fit, I repeat, to preserve and conserve certain writings to be included in this Bible, which is the test of all doctrine and the standard by which we judge all prophecy, all *claims* to prophecy, for it is written:

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

God has seen fit in this Bible to give special predictions dealing with the restoration of the prophetic gift in the remnant church. In Joel 2 and in Acts 2, we have wonderful predictions that in the time of the end, God pours out His Spirit, and both men and women will prophesy. Then in the book of Revelation, that wonderful book dealing with the *end time*, we have the clear prediction that the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy, will be manifested and loved by the remnant church.

Let's turn to Revelation, the 12th chapter and the 17th verse where we will read again this familiar text, this *wonderful* text. I love it, friends, I love it. Revelation, the 12th chapter, and the 17th verse.

What's that third word? [Audience responds: Dragon.] Do you like him? I hope not. He doesn't like *you*. What's the fifth word? [Audience responds: Wrath.] Wrath. What's that mean? [Audience responds: Angry.] He's angry. Sometimes it *blazes* out in a bold, blatant attack. At other times, it manifests itself in a cool, calm, calculating, subtle design to undermine confidence. But whether bold or subtle, whether angry in the sense of being outwardly full of wrath, or whether it's a subtle attack, it's the *same* dragon. If you have it, would you read it with me:

"And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

Does the remnant church *hear* the Shepherd's voice? It *says* so. They have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Oh friends, I'm thankful that we can listen to the voice of the True Shepherd as He speaks through the Spirit of Prophecy, for Revelation 19:10 says the testimony of Jesus is *what*? [Audience responds: The Spirit of Prophecy.] The Spirit of Prophecy.

So we have this morning to consider these three *great* channels through which the voice of Jesus has been and is being heard: first, the law; second, the Bible; and third, the modern day revelations and writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. And through them all we hear *whose* voice? The voice of the Shepherd.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27

Now, I cannot read your heart and mind, dear friends. The truth of the matter is, in a sense we do not even know our own minds. But as far as I know, I'm as settled as a man can be in all three of these. My hope is in Jesus. I have no confidence in the flesh. But of this I'm real sure, friends—I would rather die *believing* the voice of Jesus through the Ten Commandments, through the Bible, and through the Spirit of Prophecy, I'd rather die believing them than live to doubt them. I'm sure of that. I've found something that's sweet to my soul. I've found something that's sweet to my soul.

You know, God was good to me. He let me be born in a Seventh-day Adventist home. My parents accepted this message shortly before I was born, so I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home. But growing up in a Seventh-day Adventist home doesn't make a boy a Christian, friends. It gives him an opportunity to *learn* some things, but what he *does* about it must be *his choice*.

I am so thankful that my parents early led me to become acquainted with the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy as well as the Bible. This morning my mind went to some old volumes that I have in my library. I went and picked up a few of them and brought them along. The first is Volume 1. There are these old, timeworn and weather-beaten pages of Volume 1 that I began reading especially when I was 14 years old. There were three chapters in this book that especially appealed to my young heart, all addressed particularly to young people. I can look back now and see where, while many of the pages I didn't read at that time, *those* three chapters are well-penciled and well-marked. And here in Volume 1, page 511, I read this statement:

“The youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preachers, or laymen advanced in years cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 511.

That statement impressed my young heart, and I began to get other young fellows my age involved with me in prayer bands. One statement that helped me on that was this statement in Volume 5, here's my old, timeworn Volume 5, and on page 112, I read this statement:

“One person with pure motives, intent on becoming intelligent that he may make a right use of his abilities, will be a power for good in the school” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, page 112.

I was in the eighth grade when I read that statement. I went down the road to meet a fellow student of mine whose name is Robert. I quoted this little verse to him, or this little sentence, and I said, “Robert, if one of us can do that, what can two of us do together?” We started a prayer band, and we had some others join us from time to time. Those were some of my early experiences in soul winning and prayer band work, and the inspiration [for that] I got out of these pages of the *Testimonies*.

I wish I could tell you this morning that I held to this every minute of every day during my teens. I was a member of the church during all those years. Sometimes I was closer to the Lord than others, sometimes experimenting with some of the things that other young people were doing. But oh, I thank God that He never let go of me and that He helped me to come to Loma Linda when I was in my later teens, and there I became acquainted with a book called *Ministry of Healing*. It was one of the books we studied in our medical missionary course. I have the old volume that I studied there.

This book was written and printed shortly before I was born. Now this binding that you see on it here is not the original binding. This is the third binding on this book, *Ministry of Healing*. The inside is just the same as it was when I got it as a young fellow. But after I'd worn out three bindings on it, I got me another one. This is the one I have now and this is the second binding on this. Five bindings of one book! The book has never needed to be revised, just the binding needs replacing. And that is quite significant, dear friends.

This morning, if I were giving a title to my talk it would be 'Three Books the Devil Hates.' One of them is this *Ministry of Healing*. You know why? Because it tells how to live. It deals with diet, health, and all the practices that go with it. And do you know something, dear friends? The people who read that book and who have followed it, these nearly 80 years since it was written, have lived on the average *six years longer* than their non-reading counterparts have. That's a fact. The statistics show that. The new book out, *Six Extra Years*, gives you the scientific research supporting that statement. I think it's a wonderful thing not only to live six years longer by reading a book and following it, but to live *better* all the time we're living. What do you say? Why friends, it's wonderful!

But let me tell you some things about this interesting book. When I was a student at Loma Linda, I read there the statement of the author, Ellen White, that meat eating was a fruitful cause of disease, and that people are eating meat that has cancerous germs and that cancer and other diseases are thus communicated. You know, the only people that believed that statement were those that were avid readers and considered fanatical followers of the Spirit of Prophecy; because in those days, medical students were taught by science that there were two things that so far were settled in the scientific world. One was that cancer was not caused by a germ. Second, we didn't yet know what its real cause was. But now, *millions* of people know that cancer can be communicated by a virus and there's yet more research to be done.

But my point is *this*, friends: I'm so glad that I and my parents didn't have to wait until all the research came in to let alone the stuff that would make the cancer! It's too bad to live out a lifetime and die before your time while scientific research is catching up with divine revelation. Isn't it wonderful to know the Shepherd's voice and listen to and follow it? The same with many, many other things in this wonderful book, *Ministry of Healing*. Well, that's one book the Devil hates and he's angry with those who have the testimony of Jesus on this question.

There's another book the Devil hates and I *love* it, and that's *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*. Do you know why the Devil hates this one? Because it because it rips the mask off his face and shows him for the Devil he is. This is the book that gives us the doctrines of the third angel's message in their historical and Biblical background. This is the book that tells us in clear outlines about the 2300 days, 1844, the cleansing of the sanctuary, and the investigative judgment. This is the book that goes on beyond and shows us what is yet to come: the coming crisis over the mark of the beast, the enactment of the National Sunday Law, the latter rain and the loud cry,

the close of probation, the time of trouble, and the coming of our Lord. Oh, friends, it's wonderful to read page after page of thrilling interest describing what's just ahead. No wonder the Devil hates it! No wonder that he's turned his guns against this book! But friends, those who *know* the Shepherd's voice are not going to let some other radio *jam* their message. What do you say?

And there's a third book the Devil hates. It's *The Desire of Ages*, 800 pages on the life of our Lord. Do you know why the Devil hates this one? Because it presents the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. There's no other book that's ever been written, outside of the Bible. It magnifies the life of Christ. We have in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John the Biblical record of the life of our Lord. Here we have, in these 800 pages, a *wonderful* magnifying glass, giving insights and applications that are marvelous. Oh, I'm thankful for this book. Friends, by beholding we become what? [Audience responds: Changed.] Changed.

And so when I read here that "...the dragon is wroth with the woman and goes to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ", I can understand why it is that these three books get under attack. In *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 48, I read:

"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. 'Where there is no vision the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways, and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony" *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 48.

Mark the precision of this specific prophecy:

"Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways, and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony" *Ibid*.

Why, do you know that those who in fulfillment of this prophecy are even now trying to unsettle the faith of God's people in the Spirit of Prophecy are perhaps all unconsciously to themselves, another mark of fulfillment? They're doing exactly what the dear Lord looked down the stream of time and saw that they *would* do, and in fighting the writings and visions of Ellen White, they're merely confirming her predications. I read on:

"There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic" *Ibid*.

Oh friends, do I want to listen to the dragon? No! No, I don't want to listen. From time to time, the enemy unleashes his attacks, either in books or magazines or

mimeographed releases or through word of mouth. But listen, come back to our opening text: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” You know, even if these attacks fall harmless, they at least take up the time of those who try to listen to them, don’t they? And oh, I thank God that our time, bought with the blood of Christ, is given to us for another purpose. It’s given to us to listen to Jesus. Listen to Jesus.

Will you turn back now to the 10th chapter of John, the 27th verse:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand” John 10:27-29.

Doesn’t that give us a picture of peace and assurance? You’ve all seen that picture of Jesus as the good Shepherd, carrying the little lamb while the flock follows along trustingly. I want to be Jesus’ sheep, don’t you, and follow? I want to listen. And if some wolf is baying off here, that’s just a good place to stay away from. Wolves are not my friends. What do you say?

But oh, Jesus is *my* friend. He’s the one who made me. He’s the one who died for me. He’s the one who *lives* for me, and He’s the one who’s coming for me.

Jesus, keep me near the cross;
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

Let’s sing it, page 595.

In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.
-*Near the Cross* by Frances J. Crosby

And may the God of peace and love inspire us all to fill our minds with these wonderful things—His law, His Word, His testimonies.

Before we sing, I want to give this special word. I do not know all of you. Even those that I know, I cannot read your minds and hearts. If there’s anybody here that as you hear this message this morning, it brings questions to your mind, I would appreciate an opportunity to see that you get those questions answered. If you have any question about God’s law being binding on His people today, I’d like to give you an opportunity to get that question settled. If there’s some question in your mind about the inspiration of

the Bible or any part of it, I'd love to give you an opportunity to get that question settled. And if there's anyone who has any question about the inspiration of the writings of Ellen White and their relevancy and application to our problems today, it would make me so happy to give you an opportunity to get those questions settled. I'll say this, dear friends: I know, listen carefully to my statement, I know that *anyone* with an honest mind who will listen to the evidence will be convinced of the truth and authority of all three. I have no question in my mind about that. I *know* that this is so, and everyone here can be just as certain of these things as the fact that you're alive. Jesus made you to reflect His image. He died to restore that image that sin had marred. He loves you; you can have your questions answered. You can have every doubt cleared away. You can walk in the light and the love and the joy and the peace and the good cheer that comes from knowing that Jesus is your Shepherd, that you're following Him all the way to the Kingdom.

[Tape ends with the hymn, "Near the Cross."]

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