

# Praise—Psalm 116:12

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Study given by W.D. Frazee—November 4, 1960

This afternoon, Brother Boykin and I had occasion to visit our county judge on a matter that we wanted his advice on. And as we were visiting, the conversation turned to various subjects and finally (this was due to *his* leading, not ours), the conversation turned to world conditions and the way things were going in the world. He looked at me and he said, "Brother Frazee, what do you think the world is coming to anyway?"

"Well," I said to the man sitting at the other desk, "is there a Bible in the office?"

"Yes," he said, "there's one."

So we got the Bible out and I turned to Luke 21, and I said, "This is the answer, Judge. I showed him how the disciples were asking Jesus about the signs of His coming, when He would return, and then we read the 25<sup>th</sup> verse and the 26<sup>th</sup>:

"And there should be signs in the sun, and the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" Luke 21:25-28.

So I said, "Judge, you can see that while the outlook around us, if we just look at that, is very *discouraging*, according to this, the outlook is *encouraging*. Nineteen hundred years ago, as you know, Jesus came to this world to bring redemption, and this time He's coming *again* to bring redemption to all who have let Him get them ready. He's going to bring redemption to this whole world."

Well, his eyes, I could see, had fastened on a particular line in this verse, and so as soon as I had finished those few words, regarding where it says "men's hearts failing them for fear," he said, "Something happened down here over in the county attorney's office just an hour ago. There was a man who had gotten a letter today that disturbed him, a letter that presented some problem of some kind, and he had come into the attorney's office to talk about it.

The attorney wasn't there, but the man was standing there talking to the clerk about it, and suddenly that man just folded up and went backward, hit the back of his head there on the floor. He was gone. They got a sheet and covered him up."

And here he was, the judge, reading this verse just an hour after that. It struck him.

And it should strike us all, dear friends, that we're living in a time when all around us, it's literally true: the hearts of men are failing for what? [Audience responds: Fear.] "...For fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." And I'm impressed anew that if we look where the world looks, we'll share their fears, and *our* hearts will fail too.

But notice what Jesus says to us right here on this page: when these things begin to come to pass, then what? Look all around you and be sure to keep up with every detail of all the troubles and the crises and the scandals and the destruction in every corner of the earth: be sure to keep up with every detail of it? No. We can hear enough without much effort and see enough without going too much out of our way. The evidence is all around us.

But when these things begin to come to pass, then what? [Audience responds: Look up.] Look up. Look up. And all around us, for each one personally, there is a circle of problems, a circle of disconcerting events, a circle of distressing circumstances. But as these things press in on us, Jesus says look where? Look up and lift up your head. This is no time to go with our heads bowed down as if we were mourners. What's happening? The *King* is on the way.

Notice the eighth chapter of Isaiah, another definite and very striking reference to our own time. Isaiah, the eighth chapter, and the 11<sup>th</sup> verse, beginning:

"For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid" Isaiah 8:11-12

Don't be afraid. Don't fear their fear. Why not?

"Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread, And He shall be for a sanctuary..." Ibid., verses 13-14.

A place of retirement, retreat; a place of refuge; a place of protection.

You know, in different parts of the world today, in different parts of the country, they have a bird sanctuary, a game sanctuary. It seems as if the little birds and animals

get to know almost where the boundaries of those places are. It's a fact. They'll just come from miles around, and inside there, they are relatively tame compared with what they are other places. They know where the sanctuary is.

Friends, we have a sanctuary. We have a place of refuge. We have a retreat from the stormy blast. Thank God we do not need to fear the fears of this world. We do not need to get coronaries or high blood pressure or ulcers from the worries and distresses that are afflicting this world. In a special sense, these are the diseases of Egypt that God wants to deliver His people from. If we will listen to what He says and believe it, then, He says, "...I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee" Exodus 15:26.

Well, all that by way of introduction. I turn now to my text for the evening's study which is the 116<sup>th</sup> Psalm, the 12<sup>th</sup> verse. As you know, I've been away quite a bit the last few weeks, holding meetings in various places. As I came home the other day and saw the beauty of the autumn colors as we passed over Cumberland Mountain and down into these beautiful valleys around us here, and then as I came back to this campus, and I thought of all the wonderful things that God has done for us, I went to bed, thankful to be home, of course.

I woke up in the middle of the night. I don't know what time it was, but this verse was deeply impressed upon my mind. I don't know when I had thought of it last, but somehow in the stillness of the night, it came with peculiar force and beauty to my soul. I want to share it with you this evening with some of the meditations.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Psalm 116:12.

Of course, obviously, there's the thought that He's done a great deal for us, and He has. But the question is: what will I give God for all He's done for me?

Suppose that your problem was to give a Christmas present to Henry Ford II up there in Detroit. Well, he's a multimillionaire. Just what would you give him? Suppose you were able to give him an automobile. Do you think that would enrich him very much? No. Suppose that by great sacrifice you get together \$100 or even \$1,000. Well, that would be (as the expression is) 'peanuts' for him, wouldn't it? Suppose that you decide (and had the power to do it) to get a nice beautiful home. Well, he probably has several houses far more palatial and extensive than any we've ever seen. Just *how* would you go about it if he had done something for you, and your problem was how to render him *something* to show your appreciation? Well, that's David's predicament, only, of course, the situation is *infinitely* greater contrast between us poor little folks down here in this world and God in heaven.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" *Ibid.*

Well, what would *you* say in answer to that question? What would *you* render to God for all His benefits? My friends, wouldn't it be too bad to even *begin* to have the idea that these little offerings, these tithes and gifts we bring to God, are in any way a return to Him for what He's done. Would it be too bad? How it would reveal an utterly inadequate conception of what He's given us and what He's done for us!

But you know, there *are* men in this world who think they've done God a favor when they give Him a little money. There are men. (I don't think there are any here tonight. I hope not, friends.) Oh, thank God, friends, we're dealing with One who is an infinite giver because He is infinite!

Now David's question: "What shall I render unto the Lord..." That is, What will I *give* to God? What will I give back to Him "...for *all* His benefits toward me?" And then he answers his own question:

"I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people" Psalm 116:13-14.

Now, you'll notice in the 18<sup>th</sup> verse he repeats it again:

"I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people" Ibid., verse 18.

And in the 17<sup>th</sup> verse he comments on that:

"I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord" Ibid., verse 17.

You'll notice there are several expressions there that indicate David's idea of what to do in recognizing all God's benefits. What are those first three words of the 13<sup>th</sup> verse? "I will take." "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take..."

"Why, David, I thought you had already had a lot."

"Yes, but I'm going to take some more. I'm going to take some more."

I want to tell you tonight, dear friends, there is nothing that you and I can do that cheers the heart of God more than to just *take* what He's offered. That's right; just to take what He's offered.

Now suppose, just for instance, you hadn't been home for a long time, and you finally got home for Christmas dinner. Father and Mother are there, and Mother has cooked a great big dinner, you know, and all the nice things that you like. And you think, "My, what in the world can I do to show Mother that I appreciate this?" Do you

suppose one way to do it would be to just eat tiny little canary bird portions? And when Mother noticed and commented on it, you'd say, "Well, Mother, you know, you've just done so much for me, I don't think I ought to eat very much. I think I ought to leave it for you and Dad." Would that be the way to show appreciation? Would it now, friends? Why, you know it wouldn't! No.

And if you want to make your heavenly Father happy, friends, take large helpings and put your plate back for a second helping. That's right. That'll make your heavenly Father happy. (Some people don't know that, but if they'd ever wake up to it, they'd lose a lot of worries and come into a world of peace and joy.)

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation..." Well, what *is* the 'cup of salvation'? Where does it come from? It comes from God. Well, then, David says, "I recognize that I haven't anything to give to God. All I can do to show Him I appreciate it is to take what He offers." Isn't that right? That's what makes Him happy. Sure it does!

"I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord" Psalm 116:13-14,17.

Yes, to take liberal helpings of His love, His blessing, and to say, "Thank you, Lord," and tell other people how good He is and how great His faithfulness is—that's the way, friends, that we can show our appreciation. Really, I don't know any other way, do you? Because you can't get together enough property to enrich Him. You can't get together enough gold to pave one side of one of the streets up there that He has. He can create all that with a word. But there is one thing you and I can give Him, friends, that makes Him happy and that's just to notice what He does, take it, and appreciate it. That's what makes Him happy: to take what He's offered, to appreciate what He has done to make us happy, and to *be* happy. That's the thing.

Let me read it to you here in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 370. Think of all these lovely autumn colors as I read this (or some other season, we could think of some other beauties):

"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" *The Ministry of Healing*, page 370.

Now, if I understand the meaning of words, that means this, friends: when I stand on this hill and look out to these mountains and see these beautiful colors and comment on it and thank God for it, that that brings joy to the heart of my heavenly Father. Is that what it says? Isn't that wonderful?

“Well, I ought to do that at least once a year on Thanksgiving Day, then, shouldn't I?”

Ah, friends, what did our brother sing? “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” And do you know where he got that, where that song came from? Why, Jeremiah writes concerning the Lord's mercies, “They are new...” when? [Audience responds: Every morning.] “Every morning.” (See Lamentations 3:23.) Well, our appreciation should be new every morning, then, shouldn't it? Right! Our appreciation should be new every morning.

There's one thing I notice, friends (you can explain it any way you want to): I find that the more we notice these things, the more there is to notice. The more we comment on the good things of God, the more good things there are to comment on. And if you'll allow me to put it this way: if I were in God's place, I'd do just that way. If I found out that people were enjoying and appreciating what I was doing, I'd put on some more, especially since God has infinite resources; He never runs out. There's only one trouble with that program, friends: it soon fills up all the time and there's not much left for grief, complaining, criticism, or fault-finding.

Seriously, I'd like to have us think of how this matter of thanksgiving and praise affects four different classes of people. I'm going to read you some references here, and I'd like to have you notice how it affects God. I've already touched on that. I'd like to have you notice how it affects the angels; third, how it affects other people, those around us; and fourth, how it affects ourselves. Now you watch for those different points as we read some references. When you praise the Lord, when you thank Him for what He's done, when you notice His blessings and comment on it, how does that affect God? How does it affect the angels? How does it affect people around you? How does it affect *you*?

I'm going to read from *Steps to Christ*, page 119. This is the little pocket edition:

“Angels are listening to hear what kind of report you are bearing to the world about your heavenly Master. Let your conversation be of Him who liveth to make intercession for you before the Father. When you take the hand of a friend, let praise to God be on your lips and in your heart. This will attract his thoughts to Jesus” *Steps to Christ*, page 119.

Who's listening? [Audience responds: Angels.] Angels. Are the angels blessed when we praise God? Are the people around us blessed? When we take the hand of a friend, what's he liable to say? “How are you? How do you feel? How's everything going?” Every one of those questions is a wide open door if we'll press into it, an opportunity to do what? [Audience responds: Praise God.] Praise God. And not just always in the same routine way, friends, but to think of something definite that God has done that makes us happy in Him. What do you say? [Audience responds: Amen.] Why not cultivate that?

“When you take the hand of a friend, let praise to God be on your lips and in your heart. This will attract his thoughts to Jesus” *Ibid.*

I like that.

And now I'm going to read one from *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 300. It starts on page 299. It's in the chapter on the Lord's vineyard. What do you expect from a vineyard, Brother Cooper? [He responds: Fruit.] Fruit. Grapes. That's right. What does God expect from His vineyard? Fruit. Grapes. Do you know what the fruit is? Praise, friends. That's what Paul says in Hebrews 13. That's the fruit. Maybe we'd better turn and read that before we read this in *Christ's Object Lessons*. Hebrews 13:15:

“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name” Hebrews 13:15.

Here's the fruit. What is it? “...Praise to God *continually*...” Thank God, here's a vineyard that bears grapes year round: God's vineyard—His church, His people—offering praise to His name every day.

*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 299 (this chapter on the Lord's vineyard):

“The people of the world are worshiping false gods. They are to be turned from their false worship, not by hearing the denunciation of their idols, but by beholding something better. God's goodness is to be made known. ‘Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.’ Isaiah 43:12.

“The Lord desires us to appreciate the great plan of redemption, to realize our high privilege as the children of God, and to walk before Him in obedience, with grateful thanksgiving. He desires us to serve Him in newness of life, with gladness every day. He longs to see gratitude welling up in our hearts because our names are written in the Lamb's book of life...” *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 299.

He longs for that. Well, if we do it, how does it make Him feel, then? Happy, glad. That's what He longs for:

“He longs to see gratitude welling up in our hearts because our names are written in the Lamb's book of life; because we may cast all our care upon Him who cares for us” *Ibid.*

Does it make God happy when we bring a big load of burdens and worries and cares and lay them down at His feet? Does that make Him glad? Why, yes; yes, it does.

“He bids us rejoice because we are the heritage of the Lord, because the righteousness of Christ is the white robe of His saints, because we have the blessed hope of the soon coming of our Saviour” *Ibid.*

Oh, I was so happy to tell that dear man down there this afternoon what these world conditions mean. I let him read it right there in the Bible. And I thought, as I was letting him read it, how wonderful it is that we don't have to show him the fulfillment of it. All we have to show him is the verse. The fulfillment of it is all around him. He's well acquainted with *that*. We have the blessed hope, the soon coming of Christ.

“To praise God in fullness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer. We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity...” *Ibid.*

Gabriel would like to know if we appreciate it. All the other angels whose names I don't know, *they'd* like to know whether we appreciate it or not. What word shall we send them? Angels are listening. Angels are listening.

[To the song leader:] We ought to sing that, Brother. [Elder Frazee begins singing and the congregation joins him]:

There are angels hovering 'round.  
They will carry tidings home.  
To the New Jerusalem.

Yes, angels are hovering 'round. They carry the tidings home to the New Jerusalem.

“We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity, and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His infinite fullness” *Ibid.*

See, the way to show that we appreciate it is to ask for more. That's it.

“Did you like that?”

“Yes, I liked it.”

“Won't you have some more?”



“Oh, no, I don’t think I’ll have any more.”

“Would you like some more?”

“Oh, yes! Give me another helping and make it larger if you have plenty.”

That shows that we *really* appreciate it, doesn’t it? (Of course, I know when we come to the table, there *is* such a thing as overeating. But listen, dear ones, there’s no danger of over eating of *this*, is there? [Audience responds: No.] No. There’s plenty, plenty, plenty.)

I remember a little girl years ago that my mother used to care for, just a little thing toddling around. She did love to eat. But she used to ask my mother (about certain things she liked very much when they were on the table), “Can we have *more* and *more* and *more*?” [Laughter.] Well, we *can* have more and more and more, and that’s what makes God happy, friends.

“We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His infinite fullness. Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience. After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children.

“These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaining, and the tempter loses ground. They cultivate those attributes of character which will fit the dwellers on earth for the heavenly mansions.

“Such a testimony will have an influence upon others. No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ” *Ibid.*, page 299-300.

This is it, friends, this is it.

Now I have a beautiful statement here in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 100. I just love this:

“Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are to witness for God

as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked with our own individuality" *The Ministry of Healing*, page 100.

If you can't say it like somebody else, then you're the one who ought to speak. If you say it just like somebody else, we can excuse you.

"God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked with our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls" *Ibid*.

What kind of power? [Audience responds: Irresistible.] Irresistible. What is it? Simply noticing what God does for us, appreciating it, telling God so, and telling other people so. Now watch, friends. Watch what it does to us:

"It is for our own benefit to keep every gift of God fresh in our memory. By this means faith is strengthened to claim and to receive more and more. There is greater encouragement for us in the least blessing we ourselves receive from God than in all the accounts we can read of the faith and experience of others. The soul that responds to the grace of God shall be like a watered garden. His health shall spring forth speedily; his light shall rise in obscurity, and the glory of the Lord shall be seen upon him.

'What shall I render unto the Lord  
For all His benefits toward me?  
I will take the cup of salvation,  
And call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows unto the Lord,  
Yea, in the presence of all His people...'  
*Ibid*, page 100.

What do you say we do it, friends? [Audience responds: Amen.] What do you say we do it?

So it says we are to 'educate' our souls, 'educate'. That's page 253 of *The Ministry of Healing*:

"Then let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of God for His matchless love" *Ibid*, page 253.

You know, we're to learn the language of heaven. Did any of you here ever learn a foreign language? May I see your hands? Oh, yes, quite a number. What language did you learn, Sister? Japanese. Was it hard or easy? [The Sister responds: Hard.] Hard. I suppose you learned it, how many words at a time? [She responds: One.] One at a time. But you got finally so you could say fifty or a hundred words anyway, or more? That's good.

Now, friends, do you know what the language of heaven is? It's praise. That's right. That's the language of heaven, it's praise. If you look in Revelation, every time you hear the people up in heaven talking, it's praise. That's right. And we're to learn that language down here in this world. The language of earth, as a rule, doesn't have much praise in it—more complaining, more thrusts, more “gimmee, gimmee, gimmee,” more criticism, more stress, more fear, more worry, more perplexity. Isn't that what's filling the newspapers and magazines these days? Yes. But we're going to a different country, and here on earth we're learning the language of heaven and we're to educate our souls to speak that language.

They tell me that one of the best ways to learn a language is to hear it spoken and then talk back, that there's no better method than that conversational method. Well, friends, if we'll listen, God will talk to *us*. If we'll put ourselves as often as we can in the society and fellowship of God's saints on earth who are talking the language of praise, and then if we'll talk back and forth, pretty soon that language will be so familiar to us that when we get to heaven, we won't even talk with a foreign accent.

I want to sing the angel's song and join in praising the One who gave His life for me, don't you? [Audience responds: Amen.]

I wish we could sing Hymn 153:

Come, let us sing the song of songs—  
The angels first began the strain—  
The homage which to Christ belongs;  
“Worthy the Lamb, for He was slain!”

Every line of these five stanzas is beautiful. Lead us, Brother, in this beautiful hymn to our Savior.

[Congregation joins Elder Frazee in singing the hymn.]

Now friends, I know we're all happy in the Lord tonight. (I trust so.) There may be somebody here that God is speaking to especially and yet you're the very one who feels that it isn't quite for you. May I say if there be such, this message is particularly for you tonight?

A number of years ago I saw a picture that impressed me very much. It was a picture of a Thanksgiving Day evening and there was a great restaurant in one of our

big cities. And inside you could see all the people in there, you know, with the different tables heaped up with all kinds of things such as you would expect on Thanksgiving Day.

But outside on the sidewalk, with his face pressed against that plate glass window, was a poor little fellow with ragged clothes and you could see he was hungry and his face was against there and he was looking in. The poor little fellow, all he was getting, friends, was the look, that's all. That's all. Nothing for his stomach, just to look in at all those people.

And if there's anybody here tonight that's like that, ah, friend, my heart goes out to you. My heart goes out to you. If you see something of the joy and the blessing that comes to those that *know* they're God's children and *know* that all these good things are for them and their hearts are full of praise and gratitude to God, and you just *wish* it could be yours, but something, something keeps you from it, something—either because you know that you're such a sinner or because you can't be sure that your sins are forgiven or because of *something*... I care not what it is, friends, whatever the problem, it's like that plate glass window. You stand there and you look at others. "Oh, I wish it could be mine."

My dear friend, I want to tell you, this meeting is for *you*. This meeting is for you. The purpose of this meeting of course, is to help the people that are sitting at the table to be happy and still happier than they were, but oh, the purpose of this meeting is especially to help somebody that hasn't yet known the fullness of joy that comes from fullness of trust, fullness of acceptance. And let me tell you something: there's somebody like that here tonight, what I'm trying to help you to do (now watch this, for it's very practical), it isn't to just get you to look around you at all these beautiful things in nature and say, "Oh, yes, that's wonderful. Thank the Lord." It isn't just to get you to begin to count your blessings and say, "Yes, I have good health" or "I have a good husband or a good wife or a good father or good mother or good children or good friend." You may have all those, but I want to tell you something: you can take an hour counting over those material blessings and if there's a vacant place in your heart that nothing but Jesus can fill, and the acceptance and fullness of His love, if where that ought to be, there's a vacancy, then counting over all these material things won't help you very much. They may help you to, shall I say, grin, but not really smile. You know the difference, don't you?

And there are plenty of people in this world and some in the church that more or less push themselves to smile because they think they ought to or because they think it's good policy or for some reason. What I'm talking to you tonight is not a matter of just counting up all the material and financial and health blessings that God has given you. That's fine. What I'm talking about to you tonight is the wonderful joy that floods the heart of the man that *knows* that he's God's child and that he belongs right at the King's table and that it's all for him and he can have all he wants. And I just want everybody in it. I just want everybody in it.

Now we should be thinking about that. Right now I'm going to call for some testimonies from people that know what we're talking about tonight and their hearts are overflowing with love and joy and gratitude to God, not because of what *they* are but because of what *God* is; not because of what they've done for God but because of what God has done for them. I want to hear that right now. And then later, I'll come to somebody that's looking in. I'll come to you. All right, dear ones...

[Testimony service follows.]

...that he would be with Jesus in the kingdom? One man that stands out—who was it? [Audience responds: The thief on the cross.] The thief on the cross. Did he *know* that he was going to be there? Who told him so? [Audience responds: Jesus.] Jesus. Did He make it emphatic? "...Verily I say unto thee, To day thou shalt be with Me in paradise" Luke 23:43.

Now I want to ask you another question. Had that man ever done anything wrong? He's called a what? A thief. And if there's any sin that calls for confession and restitution, that's it. Is that right? Did Jesus say to him when he urged his plea, did He say to him, "Well, man, if some way you can get down from that cross and run back where you stole those things and confess them and pay them back, then I'll forgive you and take you to heaven." Did He say that? Why didn't He? My dear friends, that is not what salvation rests upon.

Now don't misunderstand me. If that man had gotten down from the cross, what would he have done? Not to *get* salvation, not to get salvation. Salvation is a free gift. We don't earn it by our works in the future, and we don't earn it by our works in confession. Confession is not some act of merit which we perform in order to deserve forgiveness. Nothing of the kind, is it? No.

So tonight I'm glad to encourage every soul: rest in that assurance that Jesus gave that man. Throw yourself, sinful and unworthy, on the dying lamb as that dying man did. And take from Jesus the assurance, "Verily I say unto thee, To day thou shalt be with Me in paradise."

Now, if there's something you can do to make right anything, God helping you, you'll want to do it. But don't wait, my friends, for years or months or weeks or days or hours or minutes until you can see somebody or write some letter to rest in the arms of Jesus. Don't do it, friends. Don't do that at all. Right now, take the cup of salvation. Take the cup of salvation.

...We all need help, but what I mean is, you need some help to get into this. If you've come here to this meeting tonight burdened, worried, under a cloud—either because some sin is pressing its weight upon your soul or because you haven't had the faith to reach up your hand and grasp the promise of God—and you want some help, well, friends, I want to be very practical tonight and I want to tell you something. (I think I'll be very specific.) I don't think when we make calls like this that people ought to

come just over and over and over and over again just because they get in a groove like a phonograph needle and go round and round. I don't think so. I'll be honest with you. I don't think so. Do you understand what I mean when I say that? I think it's our privilege to go to Jesus and get some help and *know* that He's done something for us.

Now don't misunderstand me. There are calls sometimes given that are for everybody. If I should give a call here tonight for all that want to get closer to Jesus, how many do you think ought to respond? [Audience responds: Everybody.] Everybody. If I should give a call here tonight for those that want to re-consecrate their lives to God, how many do you think ought to respond? [Audience responds: Everybody.] Everybody. There are many calls in which everybody can respond and *should* respond.

But I want to tell you something, friends: Paul says that we shouldn't just have to be laying the foundation again over and over and over and over again. It would be too bad in that new home up there. When we went up there last spring, we saw them laying the foundation and we'd come again in three weeks and we'd see them still working on that foundation. The summer passed by and now the fall and we go up there and what are they doing? Well, they're laying blocks on the foundation. We'd say that's too bad, wouldn't we? That's too bad. And so I say to you, friends, when a call is given, let's listen to what the nature of the call is and let us not, I repeat, get like that phonograph needle that just goes round and round in the groove.

Now, having said that, I want to say something on the other side. No matter how often a call is given, if that call means me, I want to come. I want to come. I may go and get myself all washed up and clean, but if between where I live and where I come to church I fall in the ditch and get all dirty, it isn't enough for me to walk in here and say I had a bath an hour ago. No, you'd look at me and you'd say, "Well, maybe you did, Brother, but you sure don't look like it." And no matter how many times we've been to the fountain, friends, if we find ourselves bespattered and down in the mire, the thing to do is to come to God and get cleansed. Am I right? That's right.

And if that means that I look like that phonograph needle as it goes round and round, so be it, friends, so be it. I'll just have to leave that with people that look on. If I *know* that I'm out of touch with God and need to get *back* in touch with Him, then friends, let me come, whether it's the first time or the hundredth time or the thousandth time. And let me come and get back in gear with God. Is that right?

Now, having said that, let me come back to that other thing. I'll tell you, friends, somewhere along the line, we ought to have an experience that we can stand up and say, "Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me. And I've accepted it and I know He's cleansed me." It doesn't mean we've reached perfection; it doesn't mean that we've reached the place where we can say we live without sin; it just means we know that He's reached down His hand to us and we've put our hands in His, and we're walking along with Him. Praise His holy name.

Now, I ask friends: is there somebody here tonight who needs help and you need it tonight? There's a burden on your heart—either a burden of sin that hasn't been surrendered or a burden of doubt and fear that has made it impossible for you tonight to rise above that burden—and you want some prayer that God will get you in touch with Him and do it tonight, if there is, friends, come right up here and kneel down.

[Congregation joins Elder Frazee in singing *Come Every Soul by Sin Oppressed*.]

You know, the one who knows tells us that in every congregation, there are souls that are almost persuaded, almost decided, souls that are longing, it says, for a peace that they have not. Dear ones, what I'm talking to you about tonight is not a question of church membership. You might not be a member of the church but God is calling you to have peace with Him. You might be a member of the church but if you never had that peace, God has it for you. And if you had it and lost it, God has it to give to you again. He *wants* you to have it.

Oh, friends, how important it is to go out of this room tonight *knowing* that your hand is in the hand of Jesus. That's all I'm concerned about. That's all. And if it's sin that has kept the blessing, come and seek God and let us seek God in your behalf. If it's doubt and fear and a lack of assurance of your acceptance, come and let us get down with God and find our way through that cloud until the light of glory breaks over the soul. Yes, Jesus is the Truth, the Way that leads you into rest. Believe in Him without delay and you are fully blessed. Sing, and come, somebody that God calls.

[Congregation continues singing the last stanzas of the hymn with Elder Frazee.]

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