

Are You in God's Place?

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—November 5,

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:1-3.

There is a special place prepared for you and me. I wonder why? He told us that in His Father's house are many mansions. But God knows it takes a special place for you, because you are different from everybody else.

They were telling me that up in New York City, in the Bronx, there is a square block where 60,000 people live in four apartment houses. Each one has 15,000 people in it.

But it is nothing like that in heaven. There are many mansions, but Jesus is preparing a special place for you. I thank God for that wonderful hope. What do you say?

There is something else that thrills my heart, for I have read an inspired page that says:

“Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God”
Christ's Object Lessons, page 327.

Are you in the place where you know God has put you? If you are, you are a happy man, a happy woman, a happy girl, a happy boy. The greatest happiness in all the world is to be where you belong. Nobody can scare you out of it, and nobody can bribe you out of it. There is no call that can come over the telephone or in a letter that will upset you or worry you or concern you. Like Nehemiah you can say, I am doing a great work, and I can't come down. Why should the work cease?

If there is someone here who doesn't know where God has put you, do not rest satisfied until you know for sure, because that is joy. There are people who never have that satisfaction all their lives. I feel so sorry for them. There is no way that the world can satisfy that longing that God has put into the human heart to be where you belong. There is no fun that can satisfy it. There is no money that can satisfy it. There is no promotion or position that can satisfy it. But just to know that you are where God has put you can.

Just as God chooses places for individuals, He chooses places for His work to be carried on. There was a little city in the Old Testament called Shiloh. The tabernacle was there. It was the headquarters for God's spiritual work for years. Did it stay there? No. Eli and his sons led in an apostasy, and God said, I am through with Shiloh. He chose Jerusalem.

There on Mount Moriah, the beautiful temple was built by Solomon, King David's son. God manifested His presence in that wonderful temple copied after the one in heaven. Is it there now? No. For centuries that has all been gone. Why? The people that God had put there to carry on His work missed it all. They nailed to the cross the One that the temple was to represent.

So God has places, but He doesn't consider them permanent unless the people that are there keep the vision. It has been so in the history of this church. How many of you ever heard of Paris, Maine. It was at one time a place where the streams of light shone out as the little paper *Present Truth* was published. But Paris, Maine missed the opportunity, and the pillar of cloud moved on to Rochester, New York. That was where our first denominational-owned press was set up. A company of workers, under the leadership of James and Ellen White, lived there, worked there, prayed together, and suffered poverty to carry on the publishing and evangelistic work.

The people in the church in that area became critical. God moved again to Battle Creek. For decades Battle Creek became synonymous with Seventh-day Adventist. The Adventist health work, publishing work, educational work, and the headquarters of the church were all right there in Battle Creek. Is Battle Creek synonymous today with the work? No, the cloud has moved.

My point is that God loves the place He has established, but He won't tarry there forever unless the program is carried on to His planning.

You have heard of a place called Wildwood, haven't you? But the thing that makes Wildwood is not geography. It is not the beautiful hills and valleys, trees and flowers, and buildings. It is the program that makes the place. And unless we keep the vision of the program, this place can become like Shiloh or like Rochester, like Jerusalem, or like Battle Creek. God forbid that we should lose the vision, and that the program should be lost sight of. What do you say?

Every individual has a special place. Your special place may not be on this campus. But wherever your place is, everything I am saying is right on the point. There is no place in this world so sacred that just being in the place is going to save you. There is no place in this work so important that just being there means you are accomplishing what you ought. There must be a program, whether in the individual home, an institution, a church, a school, a publishing house, or a sanitarium. The place is important because the program is carried on there.

Just as the program makes the place, there is something that makes the program. Without it the program can degenerate and become just a lot of activity and turning of wheels. It is principles.

What is the difference between principles and programs? Principles are the guidelines for the programs. Years ago a friend of mine was teaching in an institution in the far north. He wrote something that was very interesting. There were teachers and students in that school who decided they wanted to follow the blueprint. They searched the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to find out what they should do about various things.

Among the subjects they studied was the subject of recreation and amusements. They decided that they wanted their recreation and amusements to be just what God wanted, so they studied all they could find on baseball. Everything they could find about baseball was unfavorable, so they decided they wouldn't have baseball. They look for what they could find about basketball. There wasn't anything on basketball, so they played basketball instead of baseball. Can you see what they were missing? They were interested in following a program that was right, but not looking back of the program to get the principles. They simply substituted one competitive game that was mentioned for another that was not mentioned.

What is the principle that seeks us to find something better than baseball? It is the principle of rivalry and competition. It is the principle, which says, I want to beat you so I can win.

I thank God for the principle of love. I find out that the more I love someone the less interested I am in beating him. It works that way.

Why do we have sanitariums? Because the Lord gave us that as a part of His program. But does it make any difference what we do in a sanitarium, and why we do it? Yes it does. So with the school and the farm and all the rest we should seek the principles.

Back of every health habit is a principle. Study the principles, not just the habit. Why do we drink water? Why do we not eat between meals? Why is it we eat certain foods and don't eat certain other foods? Some people are good at reciting a chapter and verse in the Bible or a page in the Spirit of Prophecy that tells us about those things. This is good. It is the program. But friends, we need to understand the principles. A knowledge and of physiology and hygiene should be the basis of all educational effort.

It is a wonderful thing when a child is asked to eat something between meals to say, No thank you. I don't eat between meals.

Why don't you eat between meals?

If all he knows is that *Ministry of Healing* says not to, that is good, but there is a better way. It is to be able to explain in a simple way that the stomach, like the rest of the body, works on a regular order, and it needs time to digest its food and get ready for the next meal. If we love our Creator, we want to take care of the body He has given us on a regular basis.

So let us encourage in our own hearts and in the hearts of others a study not merely of the details of the program, but of the principles. This is one of the greatest safeguards against fanaticism and extreme ideas.

A friend of mine was telling an experience that happened a number years ago at one of our schools. A young student had to go home for some reason. He had one of these trunks that was so loaded with things that it took two people to carry it. He asked his roommate to assist him to take the trunk down to the bus stop at the foot of the hill.

His roommate said, "I will just as soon as I finish my devotion. Just as soon as I finish my time for Bible study and prayer I will go with you."

But that would make the young man too late to catch the bus. His roommate's program was correct, but what was the purpose of devotion? Was it just to carry out a ritual, or was it to get the power and love to help others?

Your life can be sweet if you focus on the principles instead of just thinking about the program all the time. But if the principles are more important than the program, there is something far more important than the principles. It is Jesus.

Jesus is the One who give the principles that are back of the program that makes a place important. Happy is the man who knows he is in the place where Jesus has put him, following the program that Jesus has planned, and understands the principles the Jesus has revealed. The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. Jesus spoke through Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Peter, and Paul. From the beginning to the end this Bible is the testimony of Jesus. And as to the writings of the modern messenger to the remnant, how beautiful it is to get acquainted with Jesus as He speaks to us through those pages. So in the words of the ancient poetic words of Job:

"Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee" Job 22:21.

What a joy it is to see the program in a place as a revelation of a person, Jesus. Why am I here? Because I love Jesus. Why am I doing a particular work? Because I love Jesus. This is the real key to happiness. No place can make you happy. No program can make you happy. No principles of themselves can make you happy. They never were intended to. It is Jesus that makes you happy. To have fellowship with Him is joy, and you know it is true.

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W.D. Frazee Sermons
P.O. Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org