

Christ's Way in The Sanctuary 4 of 4

#0988

Study given by W.D. Frazee—March 30, 1968

Our text this evening is found in 1 John 4:17, the last part. And I invite you to turn to it and notice these words. The words that I wish you to notice particularly are all one syllable words, just little words, but oh, so full of meaning. 1 John 4:17.

“...as He is, so are we in this world” 1 John 4:17.

Will you say that with me?

“...as He is, so are we in this world” Ibid.

Again.

“...as He is, so are we in this world” Ibid.

Who is the “He” in this text? Jesus. Who’s the “we”? Oh, I hope it’s each one of us here tonight. Can this be true: As He is so are we in this world? That’s the message, that’s the privilege that’s offered to us. Now in our three earlier studies, we have looked at the work of Jesus as Creator, sharing the life of God with us; as the Word, sharing the truth of God with us; as the Lamb, sharing the love of God in sacrifice; as the Priest, sharing the concern of God, pleading, interceding for us in the sanctuary above; and then as the King, sharing with us the oversight, the rule, that makes this universe a safe place through all the eternity of the future.

Here we have it in brief review, as the Creator He spoke the worlds into existence, as the Word He spoke the law on Sinai, He spoke through all the prophets, and finally He came, the incarnate Word, the Word made flesh to reveal in His life that which He had spoken in the law and the prophets. And then upon the cross, the Lamb was sacrificed. God in Christ was crucified, that the sin of this world might be taken away. And then, as our great high priest He ascended to the sanctuary above, and there, for these decades and centuries, He has ministered and is ministering, first in the Holy Place and then in the Most Holy Place, that sin may be covered by the blood in forgiveness. That sin may be blotted out forever, that sin may be eradicated from the universe. And finally, we see Him with a crown upon His head coming in the clouds of heaven to gather His waiting people *home* to the Father’s house.

Oh what a wonderful story, my friends. You know I’ve thought about it. This world is full of stories, novels, romances, love stories, historical fiction and so on and on and on and on. And many people sit weeping their eyes out about things that never happened, and all the while the greatest story of the ages lays unread and

unappreciated. *Here*, my friends, is the real drama of which the others are but counterfeits. *Here* is the real true story with all the tragedies that make us weep, and with all the marvelous unexpected turn of fortune that make us rejoice, and with the happy ending that every good story ought to have. Am I right? But this is true, nothing made up about it. Why spent one minute of precious time with what never happened when we can have our hearts filled and thrilled with the most wonderful story of the ages—*His* story, the story of Jesus, as Creator, Prophet, Sacrifice, Priest, and King. He's a wonderful Savior, what do you say?

But now watch, our text tonight says, "As He is, so are we in this world." The good news is He has invited us to share with Him in every facet of His life, in every phase of His ministry. Now let me make clear before we study this, I do not mean, (may I repeat) I do not mean that man in any sense becomes God or ever will be God; I do not mean that at all. But I do mean that our heavenly Father, our loving Savior, delights to share with us as much as is possible within the limitations of our finite being, He desires to share with us everything of this wonderful ministry, always within the limitations of our humanity.

You know all through eternity, there will always be infinity ahead of us. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. And a million, million, million years from now we'll see mountain peaks to climb and when we've climbed those there will be higher ones ahead. Aren't you glad, friends? I'd hate to run out of something to do. I'd hate to run out of something to study, something to learn, people to meet. I'd hate to learn out of some new precious lesson to learn concerning the character of God. It will take an eternity of time to explore an infinity of truth.

But right here in this world, even now in our human flesh, subject to all the passions that human beings have, the weaknesses, the infirmities, it is our privilege to enter in far more than we do, into an understanding of and participation in these experiences in the life and ministry and work of Jesus.

Very well, let's note them one by one. First as Creator. "Ah", somebody says, "That's something that we could never have any share in at all." Wait a minute, let's see friends, let's go back to the first chapter of Genesis. You see when God made man, the Bible says He made him in His image. We studied that last night. And when God took the dust of the earth and made man in His image, He raised matter to the highest plane that matter could be exalted in this world, formed in the image of its Creator. But now watch: God wanted man to share in this wonderful experience of making somebody in His image. And so, the first chapter of Genesis and the 26th verse:

"...God said, Let Us make man in our image... God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth..." Genesis 1:26-28.

You see, God was giving to man, man and women together, the great privilege, the high honor, the exalted experience of being in a sense (you notice I

said in a “sense”) creators. And God gave them that commission. He wanted to share with them the blessing of parenthood. And so, as it says here in the first chapter, God created Adam in His image.

Now you turn over to Genesis 5:3. It says:

“And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image...” Genesis 5:3.

As God had formed Adam in His image, so Adam and Eve produced a son made in *their* image. Yes, parenthood, my dear friends, is a wonderful gift in which men and women *share* with the Creator.

This has its great spiritual blessings. Take Genesis 5:21-24. Here we have the experience of Enoch. He lived 65 years before his first child was born. And it says that after he begat Methuselah he walked with God 300 years. We’re told, friends, that he had had an experience with God before, but when that first born son was laid in his arms and when he began to feel the throbbing of a father’s heart toward that little bundle of humanity, he understood God, he was sharing with God as he never had before. Do you see? And then as he took the little fellow walking as he began to grow, Enoch and little Methuselah. You know, most people think of Methuselah as an old man with a long beard. He was eventually, but there was a time when Methuselah was Enoch’s little boy. Enoch was the one that had the beard. And there you see Enoch walking along and who is walking by his side? Methuselah, little Methuselah. And Enoch and Methuselah walked together and as they do, Enoch senses a sharing with the Creator. He enters into the experience of fatherhood. Friends, isn’t it too bad that every child born into the world isn’t the fruit of love as the first creation was? Isn’t that too bad? Isn’t it a tragedy?

You know the Devil has taken this high and holy gift of reproduction and the marriage relation in which only God intended it should be entered into; the Devil has taken this and has degraded it right down into the gutter and into the pit. He did it before the flood, that’s why the flood had to come. He did it in Sodom and Gomorrah, that’s why the fire had to fall. And as a prominent woman said not long ago: “Unless Jesus comes pretty soon and does something with *this* generation, He’s going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

This is a terrible time, my friends, but God wants men and women and young people and children who understand that the gift of sex is a holy gift. One in which we share as in no other physical experience, a kinship with the Creator. The great word today in the world in connection with sex is fun. Oh what a pity my friends, that men’s conceptions are so low, they don’t aim very high.

Why, my friends, God gave this wonderful gift in order that men might know the holy experience of fellowship with the Creator in this gift of procreation, of reproduction. And as I say, He intended that it should be exercised only in the home, in the marriage relation. Jesus made that plain in Matthew 19 you will remember. He said no divorce

except when the marriage vow is broken. That breaks things up.

From the beginning God made them male and female and said, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they two, not they three or half a dozen, they two shall be one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Oh, I wish we had an hour just on this, but do you see my friends the wonderful privilege that human beings have?

And this also has its spiritual applications, because as this world was to be peopled, if sin had never entered, through this process of physical reproduction, so when sin entered and God had to say, "I'll greatly multiply thy conception" because He knew that myriads would reject the offer of salvation. Then it became necessary for men to born again in order to enter the kingdom of light and love. And God is looking for *spiritual* fathers and mothers; fathers and mothers in Israel who will go through the experiences in working with human souls that will bring many sons unto glory. You'll remember the Apostle Paul in writing to his converts said, "Though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, you don't have very many fathers. But I through the Gospel have begotten you." Ah, friends, it's a wonderful thing to be a spiritual father, a spiritual mother, and share with God in His wonderful creative experiences. Well, I leave those thoughts with you.

One other thought too on this matter in sharing in the creating, the creative power, and the creator's experience. Remember when we studied this, I showed you from the word that the Creator's power is manifested not only in giving us life in the beginning, but maintaining our life. And this is a phase of it in which He desires the participating and cooperation of all of us.

If I understand the Bible, I know that this life I'm living now in this body is given me through the Creator's life. It *is* the Creator's life, is that right? Now listen, if I'm worshiping Him as Creator, if I'm sharing with Him, will I tear down what He's building up? Will I destroy what He's trying to keep alive? What a foolish thing. Do you see how this would settle the whole question of alcohol, tobacco and a thousand other poisons that people are putting into their bodies, if they just understood that we're sharing with the Creator in His life? And He has invited us to participate with Him in maintaining this.

And so you see the matter of fresh air and sunshine and exercise and rest, proper diet and the use of water and trust in God. These wonderful agencies that God has given us, they are not merely that we may escape lung cancer and ulcer of the stomach, high blood pressure and coronary attacks. Oh no, friends, all of these become a part of our reasonable service as the servants of the living God for we are the caretakers of the temple. We are the stewards of the Creator's life and as Jesus is working to build up, to restore, let's work with Him, what do you say?

Do you see also that this leads directly to the service of the medical missionary? Do you see why that the inspired messenger says, "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work"? (see *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 7, page 62.) Every one of us is to be sharing with

the Creator in keeping our own health and life at the optimum level and then helping our families, our neighbors, our friends, everybody, we're sharing in the Creator's life. Let's enter in, what do you say, friends?

Now take this next point, the matter of Christ as the Word, the revealer of the Father's will, through the law and through the prophets. Ah, friends, He's given us a similar work. We are to reflect the light of His truth. We are to testify to others concerning the value of His commandments and the power and strength and help that we find in His testimonies. You know the 119th Psalm is the largest chapter in the Bible. Practically every verse in it deals with the law, the testimonies, the statutes, the judgments, the precepts of God. And it in David is telling us how wonderful God is, how wonderful God's law is, how wonderful His testimonies are. And each one of us is to share with Jesus in revealing that law, this word, to those around us. As He is, so are we in this world.

Now watch. As in Christ incarnate, the Word was made flesh, so in our lives this word is to find expression, not merely in our repetition of what we read here, but in our living out of the truth we find here. It was necessary that Jesus should not only *speak* the law but *live* the law. Do you know what God is waiting for in this last generation? He's waiting for a group of people whose lives shall fully demonstrate this law, this way. And when He gets it, do you know what He is going to say? Revelation 14:12.

Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that wish they could keep, that try to keep but never quit do it, that hope that someday when they get to heaven they will keep. Is that what it says, any of those? Oh, no. You were saying it with me, you said it right. Now I'll say it right with you. Altogether:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

Do you have that faith? Ah, friends, it'll take the faith of Jesus to live the life of Jesus. But as He is, so are we in this world. In every one of His followers, Jesus sends a letter to the world. The people that live in your house, on your street, in your neighborhood, whether you know it or not, whether they realize it or not, are being influence by your life. *You* are to be in this world what Jesus was to the people of His generation, the *light* of the world. His life was the light of men; His life in you is to be the light of men. Isn't it a wonderful privilege, friends?

Now let's take that next one, the Lamb upon the cross. Do we share that? Oh yes, He says, behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Oh, can we follow Him this far or will we draw back as we approach Calvary? Peter was willing to follow Jesus as a teacher, as the revealer of truth. But when he saw the cross he said, "Oh, no Lord, pity thyself this shall not be to thee." No cross, dear Savior, no cross. There are multitudes today that are glad to hear the *word* of Christ, but they cannot take the *cross* of Christ.

Satan's great attempt with Jesus, was to try to show him, through Peter, how to do medical missionary work without the cross, how to accomplish His mission without sacrifice. I fear he has succeeded with many today far better than he did with our Lord. But I tell you, friends, true medical missionary work has just as much sacrifice in it today as it did when Jesus spoke those words.

“...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” Matthew 16:24.

And if you have a brand of medical missionary work that doesn't have the cross on it, be afraid of it. If you have a Christian experience which isn't *full* of the spirit of sacrifice, you'd better be afraid of it. Can you say what Paul said in Galatians 2:20?

“I am crucified with Christ...” Galatians 2:20.

What do you mean Paul? Oh, he says, I die daily, I die daily. Every day we're told, Paul's natural inclinations conflicted with duty and the will of God. But instead of following his inclinations and desires and human impulses, he did what Jesus said and crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. And watch this next point: As the cross is central in all that Jesus does *for* us, so the cross is central in all that we share with Him. As everything else He has done for us would be loss unless He had died for us upon the cross, so everything that we talk about and enter into in Christian experience will be loss and valueless unless we share with Jesus the death of the cross; unless we sacrifice ourselves and all we have. Let's do it friends, what do you say?

Oh, Jesus for the joy that was set before Him chose the cross, endured the cross. They didn't have to drag Him there and God will never drag *you* there. Like Jesus, it must come from your free voluntary choice. It's a wonderful thing to love Jesus enough to want to share with Him in His suffering and sacrifice, what do you say friends? When this spirit fills our hearts we'll be like those early believers at Pentecost. There was no strife among them there as to who would be the greatest. There was no concern about who was going to get the biggest piece of pie, or the biggest loaf of bread, or the biggest salary. Oh no, friends. *Willingly* they became poor.

Nicodemus, one of the richest men in Jerusalem, poured his wealth into the expanding work of the church until he himself became poor. The apostle Paul had a similar experience. It was the vision of the cross, the experience of the cross that produced that. Oh, friends, without the cross where Jesus died for us, we would have no hope. And without that cross becoming a part of our experience, the central feature of our experience, we do not understand Jesus and His love. Come, let's enter in, what do you say?

And now His next work, that of Priest. Do we share that too? Oh yes, 1 Peter 2:9.

“...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood... [to] show

forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” 1 Peter 2:9.

You will remember that when the apostle John saw the heavenly sanctuary in Revelation 4 and 5, he saw not only the seven lamps of fire and the golden altars mentioned in Revelation 8, he saw the throne. And there where those golden candlesticks shed their light, where the golden altar of incense sends up its perfume, fragranced with the prayers, he saw around about the throne four and twenty other thrones, or seats. And sitting on each seat, he saw an elder—24 elders in all. I wonder who they are. Around about them, spreading through that vast sanctuary, that great temple, he saw the millions of angels. But when you study those 24 elders, you find them singing a song in Revelation 5; and they sing like this to Jesus the Lamb:

“Thou art worthy to take the book, and open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us, unto God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” Revelation 5:9-10.

Is Jesus the only priest in heaven? Not so, according to this. Yes, there are some priests up there and as Jesus, in order to be a priest, was taken from the human family, so these priests who are assisting Him in the heavenly sanctuary, first in the Holy Place, and then in the Most Holy Place, these priests are taken from among men. That’s what they say; they were redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

Ah, somebody says, “I thought there was nobody in heaven now from this earth?” Oh, yes. Enoch’s there, Elijah’s there, Moses is there, and a multitude of captives were taken from their graves, when Jesus rose from the grave, and ascended with Him. Do you remember that? What are they doing? Some of them, at least, are assisting Him as priests.

But now friends, with that wonderful work of priesthood, which they share with Jesus in heaven, let us remember that you and I are invited. We read it here in 1 Peter 2:9: “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood.” How can we share in that? Well, may I suggest, friends, two ways—you can think of some others.

It’s the work of the priest to offer sacrifices. You’ll find in Hebrews 13:15, that Jesus wants you and me to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Maybe that’ll help somebody that has difficulty when testimony meeting time comes. Is it hard for you to do it? Listen friends, if you were going to offer a sacrifice there in the sanctuary, would you pick out the cheapest thing you had around the flock, and take it up? Not if you understood what it represented. And oh, my dear friends, if it’s hard for you to speak for Jesus, remember, you’re a priest, you’re to come and bring a sacrifice. If it costs something, so be it. Seek out every opportunity to witness for Jesus.

But there’s another way. You know, as we’ve seen the work of Jesus in the

heavenly sanctuary is to intercede for us; He wants us to share with Him that burden of intercession. Aaron carried the names of Israel upon his heart and upon his shoulders. So our great High Priest carries on His heart the name of every one of His children. You and I don't have hearts that big, but God is intended that every one of us shall carry *some* hearts upon our heart. Are you sharing with Jesus in His priestly intercession? Do you have a prayer list? Are there some names that every day you bear before the mercy seat, and say: Father, help this one, save that one, bring this one back, and use me to help them?

Ah, this is sharing in the priestly work of Jesus. This is sharing in His intercession. Read it in 1 John 5:16:

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life, for them that sin not unto death..." 1 John 5:16.

Jesus goes into the sanctuary, and there He pleads for you and me with the Father, and He gets help for us, and sends it down to us. He wants you to do that for somebody. We are to pray for those who have no prayers for themselves. We're to weep for those who have no tears for themselves. We are to share in the priestly work of Jesus. Let's do it, what do you say?

And now, there's just one phase left. He's coming as a king. Are we going to share that with Him? Could it be possible, friends, that the King of the universe, wants to share His throne with us? Turn to Revelation 3:21, and see one of the most marvelous promises in all the Bible. Oh, friends, it's wonderful, and it's for you. And note, that it is in the message; in fact, it is the climax of the message to the Laodicean church. That's the last church; that's the church of the judgment hour; that's this church. And what is the promise?

"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me, in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" Revelation 3:21.

Oh, friends, I can't understand a love like this, can you? But it's His love. And all that any of us know about it is the little glimpses we've gotten. But I want to tell you this: all we've ever seen, is but as a little wave that comes rolling in from the vast immensity of an infinite ocean. That's all.

And so this evening, shall we send Him the word that we want to accept His plan, and share with Him all the way through? That we want to share with Him now and forever: in time, and in eternity. Ah, if we'll settle this friend, we'll find some time to spend with Him every day, as He gives us the directions for our mission. Won't we? How many of us would like to send Him the word tonight that we appreciate this wonderful plan of love, and we choose to share with Him in every phase of His life, in every facet of His ministry? If you'd like to do that, may I see your hand? Thank God.

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live. I
surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

[Testimony service.]

Will you bow your heads with me while we pray? Now precious Lord, in a special way we bring to Thee, these who by standing, have witness their confession. Thou hast spoken, and we respond. Thou hast laid Thine hand upon us, and we bow in full submission and in glad surrender.

Take away every idol, take away every bad thing, but Lord, and take the good things too. Take us to be wholly Thine that we may share with Thee in life, in suffering, in sacrifice, in death, that we may someday share with Thee the glory of Thy resurrection, and Thy eternal throne.

Bless us all now, and dismiss us as a congregation. And keep us coming every day to Calvary that we may know Thee, and love Thee, and serve Thee for Jesus' sake, Amen.

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