

How Much Light Do You Want

#0619

Study given by W. D. Frazee—November 7, 1969

We have been studying the wonderful blessings that come to us through the Sabbath. Every week we have this special time of communion.

“Moreover also I gave them My sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them” Ezekiel 20:12.

The Sabbath is a sign of sanctification. To sanctify means to set apart for a holy use. At the beginning of the world God worked six days, and when the seventh day came He sanctified that day so that you and I might know that He would sanctify us. That is what this text says.

When God sanctified the seventh day He set it apart from all the other days of the week. He made a difference between the Sabbath day and the other six days. So He intends that His people shall be set apart. He intends that they shall be different, separate. In fact, He calls them a peculiar people:

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” Titus 2:14.

Not peculiar in the sense of being odd, but peculiar in the sense of being different, special. Something different from the common herd. In fact, He says we are a royal priesthood.

I am sure that in a country where kings and queens rule that the members of the royal family are in a sense set apart from the common citizens. I am sure they are watched over in a particular way. I am sure their education is planned for in a special way.

So it is with the children of God. You and I are called to be members of the royal family. And He has given us the Sabbath as a sign that we may know He is the Lord that sanctifies us. He sets us apart for a holy use.

In order to keep the Sabbath holy we must be holy. We must be separate, distinct, set apart.

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” Proverbs 4:18.

Do we have more light today than we did a year ago? We do if we are walking in the path of the just. It is as a shining light. Notice the contrast:

“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble” Proverbs 4:19.

If we are in that path we are not getting more light.

In that first vision that came to the Lord’s messenger in December, 1844, Sister White was looking at the world and searching for the people of God. She couldn’t find them. The angel said, “Look again, and look higher.” Then she raised her eyes and saw a path cast up high above the world. On this pathway the Advent people were traveling, and they had a light set up at the beginning of the path that shown all the way to the city.

Where are we tonight? Are we in this dark world, or are we on that path of light?

The path of the just is as a shining light that shines more and more unto the perfect day. What is the perfect day? That is when everything is light and there is no darkness at all.

Solomon is telling us is that the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines gradually more and more to the perfect day of noon.

We know how it is in the early morning. We look out and the stars are still shining. Presently there is the beginning of a glow in the east. The stars begin to fade. If there are clouds, they get crimson and gold with the glory of the rising sun. Finally the orb of day appears, but even then there is still more glory as it mounts the heavens to the full glory of noontide.

This is what Solomon is talking about. The people of God are to experience this increasing glory. But notice the path of the righteous is as the path of dawn which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. In order to get that increasing glory, let’s see what we must do:

“Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth” John 12:35.

Can I be in the light and yet darkness come upon me? What is it I do that will bring that? Just do nothing. Stop where I am.

With men and with nations God presents light. If they will walk in it, He will give them more light. But if they do not walk in what He gives them, what will happen? Darkness will come.

In other words, God will not force anybody. God is very polite. If we want light, He will give it to us. And if we will walk in it, what will happen? We will get more.

I never know when I am speaking to a congregation whether it will be the last time I will have the opportunity to speak, or whether it will be the last opportunity for some of you.

I noticed in the *Review and Herald* the other day that a friend of mine was sleeping. He is at rest. If I have anything to say to him it is too late.

I want to say some things tonight not to tickle your ears, and not to entertain you. Not merely to instruct you. I want to appeal to you. How much light do you want?

“God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 187.

What a sad thing it is to see people who will come so far up the ladder, and then something is presented. They say, No, I can't do that. Then all the light that they have had and been walking in will eventually become darkness.

Do you see then, dear friends, that it is a serious thing to present light? Yes, it is. Almost every time when God presents some point of truth, some ray of light, somebody accepts it and somebody rejects it. The one who accepts it is closer to heaven and Jesus as a result. But the one who rejects it is farther than they were to start with.

So it is with fear and trembling that I present things to you which might cause some soul to turn away.

The night I was ordained, Dear Elder Fulton preached from the text, “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel” Ezekiel 3:17. And if you see the sword coming and don't blow the trumpet, and the sword comes and takes away any man in his iniquity, his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

Brothers and sisters, we are too late in the day to be dealing with ordinary things. Whenever we meet together we need to be studying not merely good things, not merely better things, but the thing for this hour. Do you desire it?

I have thought of it. Suppose there are a thousand steps that we need to take walking in the light. I don't know how many there are in your life. I don't know how many there in my own life. Only God knows the number. I hope everybody here is further ahead than you once were. I suppose we all recognize we have a way yet to go.

Now, suppose with a thousand steps to take we take one step a year. How long would it take? A thousand years. Suppose we double up and take two steps a year. How long would it take? Five hundred years. Does that satisfy you?

Let's take the other way around. We say, Time is short. We want it to be short. Jesus wants to come and we want Him to come. We want to take a new step every day. How long would it take? It would take about three years.

I couldn't even guarantee you tonight that we even have three years until the close of probation. Don't misunderstand me. I am not saying when probation will close. But can I or anyone else guarantee you that you have three more years?

Yet if you only took one step a day, you can see what it would take. Do you see what I am thinking about? I am wondering if we can dare think about taking steps more rapidly.

I wonder if there are any of you who came into the message through a series of meetings in a tent or tabernacle. Tell me, did you take one step, and wait a year, and then take another step?

It is interesting. We members of the church pitch a tent and present the message, and we expect people to hear the message and take steps fast, don't we? We expect them to change the day they keep, put away alcohol and tobacco, and some other things. We go on and within a very short time we expect people to make tremendous changes. And by the grace of God some of them do.

Then they are baptized. That means we are all safe in the kingdom except for a little polishing.

Is that true? No. Is baptizing the end of the work? No. Baptizing means that we have heard enough of the message that we believe it is God's truth, and we are now ready to enter into a lifetime program of being changed to become like Jesus.

Let me challenge you. How many changes have you made since you were baptized? Is that a fair question? Yes, it is right on the point.

"I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them." Make them holy. Set them apart. Make them distinct. And this path of light shines more and more provided we walk in it. If we don't, what happens? We get in darkness.

If the path of light is getting lighter all the time, and the darkness of this world is getting darker all the time, can a person become more and more like Jesus and more and more like the world at the same time?

Then if He is more and more like Jesus, he is less and less like the world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" 1 John 2:15-16.

Everything that is in the world is not of the Father. It didn't come from God, and it doesn't lead to God. It is summed up here under three heads.

The first one is lust of the flesh. The second is the lust of the eyes. The third is the pride of life. And is that all there is to the world? Yes, that's it. That is all there is. And it is all not of the Father, but of the world.

Then is it light or darkness? Darkness. The lust of the flesh is darkness. The lust of the eyes is darkness. The pride of life is darkness.

Do you believe that? Do you really? Then how much of that do you want to get rid of?

Let me tell you what the Devil's game is. I would like to make it as clear as the noon day sun. When the Devil sees you giving up something that comes from the lust of the flesh or the eyes, or pride of life, he will argue with you and do anything he can to keep you from giving it up. But if he sees that you are giving it up, he will hurry to introduce something else that will accomplish exactly the same result.

I can illustrate it in a simple way. Most of us are familiar with the fact that coffee has caffeine in it. If the only way in the world to get caffeine was to drink coffee, then the only thing you would have to do to keep from getting caffeine would be to quit drinking coffee. Is that right? Is there anything else that has caffeine in it? You don't have to tell me the long list.

What I am getting at is that the great enemy has devised more than one way to get caffeine. He knows what it does to the heart and the brain and the stomach and the nervous system. So when a coffee addict hears a health lecture and for health reasons or for Gospel reasons decide to give up that poison, the Devil will try to find some way to get them to take something else that will have the same thing in it.

I am using this just as an illustration. My subject is not caffeine. My subject is these three things that we must get further and further away from if we are walking in the light. The first is the lust of the flesh. The second is the lust of the eyes. The third is the pride of life. And that is all that is in the world. If we can get away from those three things we have gotten away from the world, period.

The only way to do it is to come to Jesus and let Him take us along the path of light. It is light that takes us away from darkness.

Let me use another illustration. I am taking this from the *Review and Herald* of August 7, 1969, just a few weeks ago. You would all agree with me that alcohol is a poison, and certainly a Christian would not want to put whiskey or rum or wine or beer into his stomach. But there are people in some churches who think it is very bad to drink whiskey, but they think it is all right to drink wine or beer.

It just happens that the thing that makes people drunk when they drink whiskey is in wine and beer too. It is alcohol.

But suppose the enemy should find some way to do the same thing to the brain that alcohol does, but do it under some other name. Does it make any difference to the Devil what dulls my brain, just so it gets dulled? No, it doesn't make any difference to him.

This article is entitled *Are Morals Old Fashioned?* In the article the author says:

"It may broaden the moral concepts of some to find addiction to tranquilizing drugs placed in a moral category. Yet one of the contributing editors to morals quotes the Reverend George Christian Anderson, founder of the academy of religion and mental health as stating that one of the serious problems of the middle age, and one of the serious moral problems of our time is addiction to tranquilizing drugs of all kinds. They help to decrease anxiety, and in doing so they decrease feelings of guilt and responsibility. This weakens moral fiber. I consider this just as serious as alcoholism. This is a product of our age and is rapidly increasing. It is estimated that more than seventy-five percent of the middle age population of the United States are depending on tranquilizers, on the use of chemicals for maintenance and survival. Yes, survival."

This author says the effect of these chemicals is like alcohol. It decreases the feeling of guilt and responsibility. So, just as the man who feels worried and bothered and guilty likes to take some whiskey or beer, so with these many other things.

This is not my subject. Again I am using it as an illustration. Here is somebody who has come along the pathway of light, and they see that they ought to give up whiskey and beer and gin and rum and wine. The enemy will fight hard to keep them in that pathway. But if he can't, then he will try to get them to take something else which is more respectable than getting drunk with whiskey, but which will have a similar numbing effect upon these cells in the forebrain.

Let's be sure that when we leave darkness behind we leave it behind. What do you say?

I am going to take another illustration. This is from the same article in the *Review and Herald*:

"Everyone is familiar with the new look in women's fashions. But the sad facts are that many have become so familiar with it that they have accepted it to the point where it is no longer offensive."

Then the author quotes another author, writing in the magazine, *Morals*, from an article opening with this attraction:

“Long, long ago, in 1964, in a puritan land called the United States, a fashion magazine unveiled a new design by a young Parisian, a skirt that showed almost all of the knee. Women cried, They never would wear it. Other designers thought that it was positively lewd. The new style was banned from classrooms and offices.”

This was five years ago. If the world can make changes going the downward road that fast, do you think you and I would be as interested in following Jesus as the world is in following fashion? Do you think we could get further away from the world than we are tonight?

There is a verse in the Bible that could stop all this:

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” 1 Timothy 2:9-10.

Why don't we wear jewelry? Somebody says because the Bible says not to. And that is a good reason. It is always a good reason to do what God says, isn't it? But I wonder why He said not to wear it?

We read in 1 John all that is in the world. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life. Wearing these things to attract attention ministers to pride.

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? When he sees that people are laying aside certain ways of manifesting pride, he lets them down easy and shows them how they can minister to pride in a hundred other ways.

I lay it on your hearts and consciences, what difference does it make to the Devil whether the way we doll up is this particular way or a hundred other ways? Before we get through the remnant church will be characterized by puritan plainness and simplicity. There is to be a revival of primitive Godliness such as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.

I am purposefully refraining from going into a lot of details tonight. I have no desire to get into an argument with anyone over some detail. But the most important reason is that I want each of you to have the precious experience of going to God alone on your knees, and finding out how to take these steps up the ladder quickly; how to get further away from the world and closer to heaven. How to leave the lust of the flesh and eyes, and the pride of life. And to become like Jesus in mind and character.

Let me give another illustration:

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and

cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" Luke 21:34.

Jesus mentions three things. Surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life. What about the first one, surfeiting? Can I put good food in my stomach, and eat so much or rapidly, or eat such rich food, or so many combinations, or all of it put together, that I can actually make a little brewery in my stomach? That's right. Fermentation can take place there, and the products absorbed into the bloodstream go to the brain and make it dull and stupid.

Jesus said the reason some people are not going to be ready when He comes is that their hearts and minds have become overcharged, overburdened. One thing that does it is surfeiting. Surfeiting is overeating, eating rich food. That is something to think about, isn't it?

Wouldn't it be too bad to spend our lives giving temperance lectures and then die of too much cholesterol caused by overeating? Could it happen?

I am not getting at some details tonight. It is to take a close look at everything we are doing, and why we do it. To be sure the Devil has not smuggled in some substitute for the thing we have given up.

I will give another illustration. Did you ever see people who were so careful that they wouldn't go to a motion picture show?

You say, "Oh yes, I am like that myself."

Is it all right to see a Hollywood movie provided it is shown in the right place? Will whiskey make you drunk whether you drink it in a saloon or in your own kitchen? Will these Hollywood movies that are doing all sorts of things to the people who flock to the movie houses to see them accomplish the same results if they are shown in a church auditorium or on the TV screen in your own home?

But there are many people who would not think of being seen in a theater who every night are turning the dial and Hollywood is pouring in.

Somebody here tonight has been impressed with some detail we have mentioned. If the Lord has applied it to your heart, fine. There are others here tonight that the Holy Spirit has impressed you with something that the preacher didn't say a word about. Angels of God are here going up and down these isles longing to help each one of us to walk in the light. The Sabbath is a sign of sanctification. That means to be set apart for a holy use. And if the world is getting more and more unholy, that means you and I will be getting less and less like the world.

In Jesus' name I urge you to come to the cross of Calvary. Years ago Isaac Watts wrote the immortal hymn:

"When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss,

And pour contempt on all my pride.”

Ah, dear people, when we come to the cross we will want to give up not only alcohol, but anything else that will dull the mind. We will want to give up not only the gold ornaments, but anything else that would minister to pride. We will want to give up not only the unhealthy practices that are clearly recognized as drunkenness, but all the surfeiting and other things that dull the brain.

Coming to Calvary puts the proper light on things. Have you ever noticed how things look in different light? Someone was showing me an automobile the other night. It had been painted in one place, and painted again in another place. In a certain light you could see the difference in the two.

It is the light from Calvary, the light of self-sacrificing love that will make all the vain things of this world, all the selfish things of this world, all the pride of this world look mighty cheap.

I am so glad tonight that Jesus is inviting each one personally into this experience. God leads each person in a specially arranged, privately guided tour in this matter. We are not saved in masses. If you will play fair with God, He will lead you to take steps at times that those around you may not see the importance of taking. Wait not to see what others do. If God talks to you about a change He wants to make in your life, let Him make it, and give Him the glory. Thank Him for every call that draws you nearer to Him. Thank Him for every step that leads you higher, and leaves the world further behind.

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