

True and the False

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—May 3,

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:13-14.

Paul had an objective, a mark that he was reaching to obtain. It was so important in his mind that he left everything else aside. That is what it takes to reach an objective. Live for a purpose, and keep that purpose in view.

Half the wrecks that strew life's ocean,
If some star had been their guide,
Might have reached at last the harbor,
But they drifted with the tide.

Oh, what a world of drifters there are today. How few have an objective, and how few that have them have an objective worth attaining. It is amazing how little it takes to divert the minds of many people. It takes a real objective to urge people on.

Tuesday I was flying over the Atlantic ocean. As we flew over the Bahamas I asked the steward if he would point out for me the little island where Columbus landed many years ago. Looking out the window I looked down at that little spot surrounded by all those thousands of square miles of water. It was there that Columbus found the object of his quest on that October day in 1492.

The dream of sailing west in order to reach the East had filled Columbus' mind. He planned and talked with the King and Queen of Spain. At last the day came when he set out from Spain with three vessels. They journeyed on day after day, night after night, sailing west. Many of those sailors grew discontented. If they had any faith in the man or his program they lost it as days lengthened into weeks. They thought he must be mad. But somehow in the providence of God he continued on his way.

“Behind him lay the gray Azores,
Behind the gates of Hercules;

Before him not the ghost of shores,
Before him only shoreless seas.

The good mate said, ‘What shall I say
If we sight not but seas at dawn?’

‘Why, you shall say at break of day,
Sail on, Sail on. Sail on and on.’“

It is an interesting thing that Columbus had studied the prophecies. He considered himself an instrument of Providence. And he was.

My point is that there was something that filled his mind, and everything else was bent to the accomplishment of that object. Sail on and on toward that one goal.

Do you have an objective? Do you have a mark you are seeking to reach? The Lord's messenger says to young people:

“You may every one of you make your mark” *Messages to Young People*, page 36.

Isn't that wonderful? The pitiful thing is how little people would have if they made their mark. They are not aiming at anything high, and if they hit it, it would be nothing to rejoice over. Oh, live for something. Have a purpose, and keep that purpose in view. Aim high.

Someone has said that the average man builds a castle when he is twenty, and builds a doghouse when he is forty. But the Christian doesn't need to be in that program. Not at all. If he will take Paul's mark, and Paul's program in reaching the mark, like Paul he can say at the close of his life, I have finished my course. I have arrived at the objective, thank the Lord. Like Jesus he can say, I have finished the work Thou gavest Me to do.

I am so anxious that every one of you have an objective that is worth reaching, and by God's grace your soul is filled with the assurance that you can reach it. God is going to help you. There is no question about it.

But don't forget to aim high. Rise up. Oh, men of God, have done with lesser things. One reason God does not answer our prayers sometimes is that we are not asking for enough. He wants us to expect more and attempt more. He wants us to undertake more for Him. It takes great objectives to challenge men to put forth their best.

Did you read that editorial in the *Review and Herald* a few weeks ago? It is the story that comes down from the time of Alexander. A chieftain, wishing to please Alexander, gave him three dogs that he said were very successful in hunting. They were hounds that could bring down their prey.

After the chieftain left Alexander wanted to try them out. He had a stag brought in, but the dogs paid no attention. He had several other animals brought in, but the dogs looked at them and paid no attention. Alexander said he had no use for those dogs, so he had them taken out and put to sleep.

Some weeks later the chieftain arrived on a visit and inquired about the dogs. He said, “Alexander, you are a great king, but you are a very foolish man. You

turned a stag loose before my dogs. But if you had turned loose a lion or a tiger you would have seen what my dogs could do.”

I wonder if in our contact with others we sometimes are afraid to set before them the highest standard and the strictest reforms and the greatest sacrifices for fear it will discourage them. What they need is something that will challenge the soul. The instruction is aim high.

If we will lower the standard in order to get people to come along with us, we compromise and lose the power of God that makes it possible to reach objectives. But when we aim high where God tells us to aim, thank God, we are going to reach it. Paul says, I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

“Success in any line demands a definite aim” *Education*, page 262.

It is a shame to aim at nothing and hit it. That is not success.

“Such an aim is set before the youth today. The heaven appointed purpose of giving the gospel to the world in this generation is the noblest that can appeal to any human being” *Ibid*.

Christ set it before us in those often quoted words:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” Matthew 24:14.

Can you and I bring the end more quickly? The end of sin and sorrow and pain and woe? Yes, we can if we will accept as our aim God's aim, reaching this world with His message of salvation. If we will give our lives to that and let nothing divert us, thank God, we have an aim worthy of the children of the King.

Ministry of Healing, page 456, says that we must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention. That is why Paul said this one thing I do. Oh, how many things there are to divert the attention of the child of God from the one thing.

The man in *Pilgrim's Progress* Bunyan pictures as putting his fingers in his ears as he runs saying, “Life, life, life that will not end.” He did not want to be diverted. He did not want to hear the voices that called him from here and there. He wanted to press on to the mark.

I am coming now to the most important point in our study. It isn't enough to strive. It isn't enough to run. It isn't enough to press forward to the objective. Paul says:

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully” 2 Timothy 2:5.

Paul is taking his illustration from the Greek games. From time to time they had those contests of strength and skill. For weeks and weeks men would train and put forth all their effort to reach the objective. For their reward they got a crown of laurel and the honor that went with it.

Paul said he had something better to strive for. So do you and I. But my point is that in those contests the man could not get the crown, no matter how much he strived, unless he strived how? Lawfully.

I read this text from Waymouth's translation:

“If anyone take part in an athletic contest, he gets no prize unless he obeys the rules.”

Do you know what the rules are in this race we are engaged in? There are ten of them. God thought them so important that He wrote them on stones. There are two of them I want you to particularly look at as they bear directly on this matter of reaching our objective. They are the Eighth Commandment and the ninth commandment. They deal with honesty, which is very old fashioned, out of date. Men in business, and even in government, look at a lie as something to be used if it is useful. In fact, we have come to the time when it is expected that people will lie if they think it is for their advantage or the cause they represent. If we are not careful, some of that will rub off on us. We are liable to think that since the great thing is to reach the objective, any way to get there is ok.

No. No matter how much a man strives, unless he strives lawfully he can't have the crown.

What does the Eighth Commandment say? “Thou shalt not steal.” Even though you have grabbed something that is not yours, the judge is going to take it away from you and say, No, this is not yours.

Oh, but I have it. I tried to hard to get it.

Yes, but it isn't yours. All your effort is lost because you stole it.

What is the next commandment? “Thou shalt not bear false witness.” That has to do with honesty in what we say. Oh, I trust that the Holy Spirit will speak to our hearts, and that we will get down to business in this matter of honesty.

“Everything that Christians do should be as transparent as sunlight” *Mount of Blessing*, page 105.

That means no deceit, no pretence. Some investigations have been conducted in the universities and high schools of America. What do you suppose they find out? The percentage of students who are cheating in their test papers and examinations is alarming. Even some professors are more or less taking it for granted. And the pitiful thing is that is the way they got where they are.

What does it profit a student to cheat in an examination and thereby get a grade or credit? How has it helped him? How has it helped anyone? Sooner or later the mask is torn away and the lie is revealed, the cheat is exposed. Moses spoke a universal truth when he said to the sons of Ruben and Gad, "Be sure your sin will find you out" Numbers 32:23.

Why will students write down something they have copied from someone else and turn it in as their own? Because they want a credit. They want approbation. They want acceptance. But if they get it through cheating, what value is it? It shows that there is a screw loose in their thinking. They have not learned that pretence is one of the Devil's methods, and that the only value that is real is that which comes from honesty. And that any credit, any grade, any acceptance which is based on pretence and deceit is worse than nothing.

It is like counterfeit money. What good is it? It is not worth the paper it is written on. And the credit purchased through deceit is not worth anything. It may get by for a time. Men may be fooled. It has been done down through the history of the world. But sooner or later God's word comes to pass, Be sure your sin will find you out.

If you have chosen an objective that is worth something, how would you dare to use a dishonest method to try to obtain it? Do you suppose that when we present our papers of transfer to the school above that they will be recognized if those credits have been obtained deceitfully? It doesn't mean a thing.

A friend of mine, a nurse, told me that in a certain hospital where she worked nurses were called out of bed from the dormitory on certain occasions to answer the telephone. The supervisor would tell them that they had not charted such a treatment or medication for a patient. They would tell the supervisor the reason that was not charted was because the treatment was not given. The pressure of work was such that the time passed and other patients had to be cared for. The supervisor would tell them to get up and come to the hospital and write down on the chart that it was given. It was the doctor's order, and the chart must show that the patient got it.

How much was that worth? If it was a treatment or medication the patient needed, would the fact that it was written down on a chart help the patient? The answer is obvious. Would it help the doctor? Why, it would mislead him. Who would it help? Nobody. But it would be a chart that looked nice.

What a childish concept. Some children go through a stage like that. I was reading of a little girl who got into the cupboard and got down some food she liked and enjoyed herself. Before mother came home she decided she would have to cover up, so she locked the cat in the cupboard. She thought the cat would get the blame.

The mother had not been born the day before, of course, and quickly observed some things. When the mother labored with the little girl, the little girl became contrite. She asked her mother why she thought she had done it and not the cat? Her mother said, "I knew the cat would not leave a spoon in the jar."

Be sure your sin will find you out. Paul said that when he became a man he put childish things away. God help us to put away all pretence. Every bit of it.

I have several plain things to talk about. I am so anxious for you to reach your objective. When young people get into their teens and twenties from time to time they think of someone they are attracted to. A young man looks at a young woman and thinks she is fine. A young woman looks at a certain young man and admires him. There comes a time in the providence of God for courtship and marriage. But the One who knows has told us that courtship as carried on in this age is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than God.

What does a scheme of deception and hypocrisy mean? It seems that if I am a young Christian man looking for a life's companion there are two things I ought to be concerned about. One is that I am honest about myself. The second thing is that I know the truth about the individual I am thinking about. Of all times when pretence should be put aside it is then.

But the way society and education is, and the way the music and literature and advertising on the subject is, the whole tendency of the thing is for the young man to pretend to be something he is not, and for the young woman to pretend to be something she is not.

If you are going to be a real Christian and be with the hundred and forty-four thousand, you are going to have done with all that pretence. You are going to have done with all pretending to be something you are not. I leave it with you to meditate and think about.

It is too bad when the reason a girl gets up to testify and speaks in a sanctimonious way is to win the attention of some young man that is deeply spiritual.

Some young girl says, Brother Frazee, how did you know I did that?

I cannot read your mind, friends, but I have light from heaven through the Spirit of Prophecy. I know something about human nature as diagnosed by the One who made the mind and has seen it degenerate for six thousand years of sin. And I warn every young man and woman about being led astray by those of the opposite sex who put on sanctimonious spirituality.

The terrible thing about it is that it can be done so that the one who does it is deceived. In evangelistic work I always have a great big question mark when I see a young man who does not know God coming to the meeting with some young girl who has brought him there. I don't think God gave our young women the job of pulling in from the world sinning young men through sex appeal.

God did not give our young women that job at all. And many a young girl has learned by sad experience that the young man who wooed and won her, using religion as part of the experience, in later years had no love for God and lost his love for her.

That same thing can happen on a narrow stage. It can happen with the different reforms within the church. What I am trying to say, if you are loyal to these reforms, do not be loyal to them because some girl is loyal. Pay no attention to that. Be honest in your inmost soul. Girls, if you are going to adopt dress reform or any other reforms, do it before God regardless of what any young man thinks or says, or what effect it may have upon him. Put all that away as far as you can. Be honest.

The only way you can be honest is to get down before God and plead that He will send the Holy Spirit to illuminate your soul. You may be surprised and shocked at what God opens up to your mind. But if you are going to reach your objective you must understand that you must strive lawfully. You are not to bear false witness.

Take the matter of dress for men, women, everybody. What does it profit to pretend?

Let me tell you something I heard at a conference meeting just a few days ago. One of our most successful evangelists was discussing the problem of the tremendous rate we are losing people from the church. Suggestions were being made. He said, "Do not send a deaconess with hair dyed red to labor with some backsliding woman to try to get the red off her face. Don't think I am making this up. This is something I had to meet a few days ago. A young woman said to me, 'If it is on my face it is bad, but if I take it off my face and put it on my hair it is all right.'"

What is the basis of our standards? What is the basis of our thinking? What is wrong with rouge and lipstick and some of these other things? The fundamental problem is that they are deceitful. That is the basis.

If that is so, then anything else that is deceitful is in the same basket. I think the evangelist had a point.

I ask you, will you face the question about everything about yourself, Is it false or true? Is it natural or artificial? Is that the way your really are, or is it a pretence?

Are those fair questions? Yes, those are the questions we need to think through. And if we ever get those questions settled, we will not be spending time or money to doll ourselves up to look in a way that is false and deceitful.

Somebody says, Everybody does it.

Not quite everybody. Thank God, there are a few natural people left in this world.

One of the great reasons God has called us out of the cities is that life in the cities is false and artificial. City life tends to make believe. That is what the movies, advertising, fiction, TV, and all sorts of things that are false and artificial, is. Oh, let's cultivate a love for the truth and the natural.

I have spoken about being honest in our association and our dress, honest in our work as students. A word about being honest in our conversation. The commandment says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness."

"'Let your speech be yea, yea, and nay, nay, and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one.' These words condemn all those meaningless phrases and expletives that border on profanity. They condemn the deceptive compliments, the evasion of truth, the flattering phrases, the exaggerations, the misrepresentations in trade that are current in society and in the business world. They teach that no one who tries to appear what he is not can be called truthful" *Mount of Blessing*, page 105.

Then if I try to appear wise when I am ignorant, I am what? I am dishonest. If I try to cover up and pretend, whether it is by word or act, I am a living lie. That is why so many people are restless and unhappy. They worry. They are afraid the veneer is going to peel off.

Someone said that one of the best things about telling the truth is that you do not have to remember what you said. Oh, be yourself, and speak the honest truth without diverting in the least. And if it makes people think you are ignorant, find it out now. You might learn something. Let's not be afraid of being what we are.

Jesus said of Himself that He was the way, and what else? The truth and the life (John 14:6). That brings me to these closing thoughts that I trust we shall meditate on. The only way we can speak the truth is to have the truth living in our hearts. Jesus spoke the truth because He was the truth (*Education*, page 79).

Thou must be true thyself if thou the truth would teach
Thy soul must overflow if thou another soul would preach
It needs the overflow of heart to give the lips full speech.
Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh

The only thing which will cure us of lies, pretence, deception, evasion, exaggeration, make believe, false, artificial, and all phases of life, is to come to Calvary and see what these things have cost Christ. These are the things that nailed Him to the cross, and still crucify Him afresh and put Him to an open shame. It is only the life that shines from Calvary that can reveal to us how sinful hypocrisy is.

I have pointed out a number of areas in which pretense manifests itself, but the most alarming is in the field of religious experience. The One who knows says that many children are pious hypocrites. And the same children who, if they were living in a certain atmosphere, would be aping the world, under other conditions may be aping the saints. But apes don't make saints. And because your children learn to pray in public doesn't make saints out of them. Because they learn to do missionary work and testify doesn't in itself mean their hearts have been touched by the grace of God.

The Spirit of Prophecy said that not one in twenty of our youth knew what experimental religion is. That was written a hundred years ago. I wouldn't pretend to say what the statistics are today. Only heaven knows. But I warn you, do not think that because you read the Bible and study the Sabbath School lesson and come to church that you are thereby Christians. Christians will pray and study the Bible and testify. But it is possible to do all those things without being Christians at all. It is possible to do them like a parrot or a monkey, repeating what someone else has said or aping what someone else has done.

I plead with young and old, let us understand that we must have an experience with God. We must come to Calvary and have our hearts broken. We must get down to business until the false and artificial, the put on and pretence of this world, loses its glamour and tinsel. And instead of having an attraction for us, we feel too loath and abhor it, and loath ourselves for ever being attracted by it.

We can't do that for ourselves or one another. But we can get down on our knees and plead with God that the revelation of the cross of Calvary will be given to us so that from now on we will want nothing but the truth. If it is the sad truth, we want to hear it. If it is the truth that exposes our weakness or inefficiency, we will still say, Doctor, tell me the truth about myself. And when we get that view of things, then how wonderful it is when the One who is true puts His arms of love about us and says, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

That is the garment that will cover us. It is not like the sinner's garment on top of his sins. God will cleanse us and clothe us with His beautiful robe of righteousness, and we shall know we are His because the One who is the truth says so, and we believe it.

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