

# Word of God in Education

Sermon # 1045

Study given by W. D. Frazee

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" Revelation 19:11-15.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Ephesians 6:17.

Christ Himself is the Word of God. He is the expression of God's thoughts. God sent His Son into the world as an expression of His thoughts.

His name is called the Word of God. In a special sense this Book, the Bible, is Himself given to us. In receiving it we receive Him. He inspired every word in it from Genesis to Revelation. He has promised for these latter days the spirit of prophecy, which is the testimony of Jesus. Are these writings that have come to us really the testimony of Jesus Christ? Do you believe it?

Here also we are healed with a sharp sword. That sword as given to us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy will do two things. It will either cut from us every sinful thing, every wicked habit, every iniquitous thought, every selfish desire, or eventually we will be pierced with that sword and lie down in silence. We can have our choice, but there are only those two alternatives. The sword will reach every man. It will prune us or we will perish by it.

I want to have it work on me now. The sword of the Spirit is sharp. I am glad it is. If you were going to have surgery done on you, wouldn't you want to have a sharp knife? It can be done more quickly. And as far as surgery can be, less painful. And since it is the sword of the Spirit newly edged with power which is to operate under the latter rain and the loud cry, we should seek to understand its workings, and become proficient in its use.

I want to study the Word in our educational work, our medical work, and all phases of life. I am persuaded that we have hardly begun to realize what God

intended in regard to the place this Book is to occupy. I am going to share with you a few thoughts I have been gleaning from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy in relation to it.

"The Bible should be the child's first textbook" *Counsels to Teachers*, page 108.

As I was looking at that I thought it is fine that God has been good enough to tell us that. But there are some people who think they are so scientific that they would tell us a child is not ready to read the Bible. In the first place there are too many big words there. In the second place the content is not what the childish mind can appreciate and get hold of.

I wonder if God didn't know all about that? And if my child is not old to read the Bible and learn what those precious words mean, then I cannot wait for awhile until it is old enough. The Bible should be the child's first textbook.

But it isn't just for children. It is for all of us. Do any of you have trouble with retaining things? Would you like to know what the matter is? I have the answer here:

"A failure to study the word of God is the great cause for mental weakness and inefficiency" *Counsels to Teachers*, page 441.

The chaff people are feeding on today will never make strong minds. The mind becomes like the character of the food it feeds upon. If we feed on the Bible we can have strong minds. But if we feed on the stuff that is peddled today in newspapers and magazines and radio and television, you will have just what this says:

"In turning from this Word to feed on the writings of uninspired men, the mind becomes dwarfed and cheapened" *Ibid*.

Lest somebody should think what is said tonight is fanatical and narrow and extreme, I want to make clear that I haven't the slightest thought that there should be no other textbooks. I understand there are to be textbooks in various scientific subjects. But my subject is the place of the Bible in educational work, medical work, and in all human experiences. My point is that the Bible is to be the great textbook, the leading textbook. And as I have said, I think there is much more in this than we have begun to plan for.

"There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility

of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times" *Ibid*, page 460.

Would you like to get something that would stabilize you? Oh, what an erratic, jumpy generation we are. But God is going to have some men and women and youth today who will be as firm as Joseph, as steady as Daniel, and as true as John the Baptist. And they are going to get it out of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Why? Because in receiving the testimony of Jesus we are receiving the very life of the Son of God. Oh friends, what a privilege to be inspired by inspired reading. What a privilege. Do you want more inspiration? Well, you will get it from the writings of inspiration. It is there.

Here is a suggestion to the medical student:

"If medical students will study the word of God diligently, they will be far better prepared to understand their other studies; for enlightenment always comes from an earnest study of the word of God. Nothing else will so help to give them a retentive memory as a study of the Scriptures" *Ibid*, page 483.

I don't know just how you would explain that scientifically, and I am not concerned. Why memorizing certain combination of words in this Book would strengthen the memory more than memorizing certain collections of words in other books could be argued. But I believe it because it says so. I also believe it because I observe it. And I thank the Lord that I know something about it in my own experience.

I am thankful for a good memory. I thank God for that. I thank my parents, because my parents drilled me in the Scriptures. It is customary for a speaker to say you will pardon a personal experience. I am trying to break myself and other people of that because the Spirit of Prophecy says to speak often of the precious chapters in our experience. So instead of asking to be pardoned for telling our experiences we should rejoice in it, and we find that other people usually enjoy hearing them.

My father started in drilling me in learning the Scriptures when I was very small. By the time I was ten years old I had learned all the prophetic part of the book of Daniel, chapters one, two, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, and had either read or heard read to me the comments of Uriah Smith on them. We went on into Revelation. I learned the entire book of Revelation by the time I was twelve years old. During the time I was ten, eleven, twelve years old my brother was learning the book of Matthew. He was a little younger than I was.

My father was quite ingenious. He would have my brother listen to me say Daniel and Revelation, and I would have to listen to him say Matthew. When I was repeating my chapters my brother would sit there with the Bible and see whether I said it straight. When he said his chapters I would sit and watch the Bible. As the

months went by I heard my brother repeat so many times Matthew chapters five through ten that I learned them all without even trying.

That is the way you learn most anything. People have said to me that they had such a poor memory. They study but they do not retain it. It discourages them to try learning anything from the Bible because they do not remember it.

Then I test them. I ask them if they remember their name. They say, But that is different. Sure I know my name.

No, it is not different at all. The first time you heard your name it didn't mean a thing to you. But you heard it so many times that it made an impression.

There are a few people in the world who are afflicted with amnesia, but I don't think there is anyone like that here. The truth of the matter is, if we will accept what this says and go over and over the Word of God, meanwhile meditating on it, it will not only be retained in our mind but it will expand our minds and enable us to retain far more.

I thank the Lord for parents who kept after me and insisted that I get the Word of God in my mind and heart.

As I grew older I came to choose for myself to study certain Scriptures. I have had the privilege of learning most of the book of Hebrews. I think it is a wonderful book. I am especially thrilled with chapters eight, nine, and ten. I love to repeat those verse after verse.

Several years ago I was leading a group of young people in San Francisco. We decided we would learn the book of James. We took anywhere from five to ten verses a week, and pretty soon we had committed to memory the whole book. We also learned hundreds of other texts on the second coming of Christ, the state of the dead, the Sabbath, and so forth.

As I was learning those texts as a boy I didn't know I would ever be a preacher. My parents didn't know it. The Lord was good to get those things in my mind. They came in handy when I started to preach. It is a great joy when preaching from the pulpit or ministering in the homes of the people to be able to turn to this text or that text, or repeat it from memory.

All of you are invited by the One who wrote this Book to fill the mind with the words of God. Somehow, as I have thought of this meeting tonight, there has come into my soul a holy ambition that we should be stirred up to learn far more of the Bible than many of us have ever imagined could or should be done. I desire that every one of you shall become a man of the Book, a woman of the Book, a child of the Book. This was the power of the life of Jesus and John the Baptist. It will be the power of those who finish this work.

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the

whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments:  
for this is the whole duty of man" Ecclesiastes 12:12.

There are several things about that text I want you to notice. First it was written by a man who was called the wisest man who ever lived. He had studied into all the areas of human knowledge and human research. He said at the last, Dear folks, it wears you out. Now he had all the glory that goes with that, and people came from all around to hear him tell the things he had found. But he said that most of it was a lot of weariness. And the conclusion of the whole matter is to find out what God says and do it.

Another thing I would like to have you notice is that when Solomon wrote these words the only way to get these books was by copying them out by hand. What would he say today if he could come back and see the printing presses pouring them forth by the millions of pages every day?

We tend to boast of that as proof of civilization. While there is wisdom in many pages, the great danger of it is that it shall eclipse the light of the world. There is not time enough to read all the good books that are being written, let alone to waste time with the chaff. And certainly no time for the filthy, pagan, infidel, and evolutionary things filling the world. No time to keep up with them all.

There is a comment on what Solomon has written relating to the medical work:

"The one book that is essential for all to study is the Bible. Many of the books piled up in the great libraries of earth confuse the mind more than they aid the understanding, yet men spend large sums of money in the purchase of such books. And years in their study, when they have within their reach a book containing the words of Him who is the Alpha and Omega wisdom, the time spent in these great libraries might better be spent in gaining a knowledge of Him whom to know aright is life eternal. Study the Bible more and the theories of the medical fraternity less and you will have greater spiritual health. Your mind will be clearer and more vigorous. Those who take a medical training spend a great deal of time in learning that which is worthless. These things God has been opening before me for many years" *Counsels on Health*, page 369.

Here is a Book that has from A to Z in it. Here is a Book that God says will do something to the minds of those who study it. It will expand and develop and give a more retentive memory. There are other books that have much rubbish, and will injure the mind. The same type used to print, the same letters, and in many cases the same words. But One is inspired and the other is not. There is a mystery we would do well to ponder and experience. It is the mystery of Godliness, God manifest in the flesh.

"When our medical missionary work has followed this prescription, gaining from the Saviour power to reveal His characteristics, their scientific work will have greater soundness. Because the word of God has been neglected strange things have been done in the medical work of late. The Lord cannot accept the present showing" *Ibid*.

That was written fifty years ago, but it is up to date. Will we meet God's mind by learning more and more about worldly science and less and less of what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy teaches? And if, as some seem to feel, the writings of *Ministry of Healing* and *Counsels on Health* were all right for that time, but medical science has gone far beyond that poor unenlightened age, then what? I do believe that it is true that the entrance of God's Word gives light. What do you say?

"Those who place themselves under the instruction of the great Medical Missionary to be workers together with Him will have a knowledge that the world with all its traditional lure cannot supply" *Ibid*, page 371.

Medical missionaries in every line, do you want to have a knowledge beyond anything that Yale or Harvard, or any other place, can give you? Not only yesterday and today are they behind, they will still be behind tomorrow.

Somebody says, Well, that's all right in theological things. That is all right in religious things, but we have got to be scientific.

Certainly. And I read that if medical students will study the Word of God diligently they will be far better prepared to understand their other studies. I shall always remember an experience that a teacher at Loma Linda told us. He was teaching a class in hygiene. He said,

"The last year I was in my medical course I got sick, and I was out for some time. When I was convalescing the result of the sickness was such that I couldn't use my eyes very much. When I first began to use them the doctor said I could only use them one hour a day. I was behind in my lessons. Graduation was coming on with final examinations. After that state board. What should I do? I told the Lord I would give Him the first and best part of that hour. For the first twenty minutes I took my Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books and would read and study. Then for the other forty minutes I would dig into my medical books."

How did he come out? The dear Lord helped him to know what to study. The Lord helped him to retain what he did study. He said that more than once he had that experience. He was getting better and was able to go back to classes. He told how that as he would go into the coat room before going into the classroom to write an examination the thought would come to him, Have you looked up so and so? No.

I had better look it up. Standing there he would open a book and refresh his mind, go into the room, and the very question he had looked up would be on the blackboard.

He went through his medical course, graduated, went to the state board and got through. Most of the time since then he has been on the faculty of our college of medical evangelists helping to train other young people. As a boy that experience made a great impression on me. There is something about the Bible that does something for the mind, and God wants you to have it.

I read about the Bible being the child's first textbook. What is a textbook anyway? It is a book you study as a text. If you have a class you ask, What is the textbook. How many courses did you ever take where the Bible was the textbook? Our great difficulty is that we have so many books about the Bible that the Bible gets precious little use as a book itself. I heard of a man in a theological seminary who went through a theological course and graduated as a minister and never even owned a Bible. He didn't need one. There were textbooks in every subject. He studied those and didn't need a Bible. This was not a Seventh-day Adventist seminary.

What is the Bible to you? A textbook or a reference book? Is it something like a dictionary that you look things up, or is it a textbook, the thing you are studying day by day?

I must tell another experience I heard about while I was at Loma Linda. Elder G. B. Starr was one of the pioneer workers who used to work with Sister White. He spent several years with her in Australia. He was talking to us one day in the old faculty room, and told us this experience:

"When I was in Australia working as a minister Sister White was writing *The Desire of Ages*. While we were there it was finished and was published. I got a copy. As I began to read the life of Christ it made a wonderful impression on my mind. I finally went to my library and got out several books that I had on the life of Christ and took them down to the second-hand book store and sold them. I had *The Desire of Ages*.

"I told Sister White what I had done. She told me, 'Brother Starr, as we draw near the end Seventh-day Adventist will become more and more people of one book, the Bible, with the divine commentary that God has given'"

I like that, don't you? Seventh-day Adventist will become more and more people of the Bible with the divine commentary. But it is hard for the human mind to comprehend it when we are used to other things.

Let me illustrate it. Some of you have had the experience of your friends finding out that you don't eat meat and drink coffee or tea or Coca Cola. And so on

with a long list of things you don't eat and drink. They say, Well, what do you eat anyway? They do not realize what a wonderful menu there is in the divinely given food program. Plenty to keep us nourished and happy. In fact, better nutrition and more satisfaction than in any other program.

Do you think there would be enough in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy to keep a student busy for say four years? Do you think that if you were going to school for four years that it would be a good thing to have one class a week in the Bible? At least that? Would it be a good thing to have at least one class in the Spirit of Prophecy? Or would there be such a thing as actually making the Bible the great textbook, supplementing it with some scientific things as needed? Seriously getting down to the business of making the Bible the great textbook in education?

With those questions I want to read some statements. All of them are from the little book *Counsels to Teachers*:

"This Word is to be the chief study in our schools"  
*Counsels to Teachers* page 13.

"The Bible should not be brought into our schools to be sandwiched between infidelity" *ibid* 16.

How do you make a sandwich? You know how. Suppose two books were infidel textbooks. You know what an infidel is. And most textbooks written today are written by infidels. Don't forget it. If anyone doubts that all they need to do is read a few pages properly selected. Suppose we put the Bible between those two infidel textbooks. What do we have? A sandwich.

You eat that. That is what thousands of souls are doing. No wonder they get indigestion. No wonder they become confused. God help us friends. It does not sanctify the sandwich to have the Bible in the middle. Not a minute of it. God forbid this mingling with the holy and the profane, the devilish and the divine.

"God's word must be made the groundwork and subject matter of education" *ibid* 16.

"As an educator, the Holy Scriptures are without a rival"  
*ibid* 52.

"As an educating power, the Bible is of more value than the writings of all the philosophers of all ages" *ibid* 428.

What do you think of that? These statements are not talking about the Bible as a theological textbook. No, but as a general educational textbook.

"Its teachings have a vital bearing upon our prosperity in all the relations of life. Even in our temporal affairs it will be a wiser guide than any other counselor. . . . There is no social position, no phase of human experience, for

which the study of the Bible is not an essential preparation" page 422.

If a man wants to take a business course, should the Bible be the great textbook in business? Yes. It would be worthwhile to study with a concordance everything that bears on business. It would save a lot of business failures.

So with everything we need to study. It is all right to have some reference books for certain things. I am not questioning that. I am talking about making the Bible the great textbook, the groundwork, the subject matter of education.

In *Counsels to Teachers*, pages 455, 456, and 457 we are given some specific chapters that should be especially brought into our schools for study. It mentions Isaiah 45. It mentions Psalms 27,28,29,78,81,89,91,92,93. Then it says:

"These things were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come; and should they not be studied in our schools? *Counsels to Teachers*, page 457.

I am not trying to cause us to be critical of other institutions and other things. I am trying to get us to see that right here there is a glorious opportunity for us far beyond what we have yet envisioned of becoming people of the Book, studying the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I want to do it. And with it this wonderful commentary of the Spirit of Prophecy.

"In a night vision given me some years ago I was in an assembly where our school problems were being discussed, and the question was asked, 'Why has not the word of God been extolled above every human production? Have you thought that a better knowledge of what the Lord hath said would have a deleterious effect on teachers and students?'

"There was a hush in the assembly, and conviction came to students and teachers.

"The Speaker [Jesus talking] then took from the hands of the teachers books which they had been making their study, some of which had been written by infidel authors and contained infidel sentiments, and laid them on the floor. Then He placed the Bible in their hands, saying, 'You have little knowledge of the Book'" *Ibid*, page 458.

Ah friends, I feel I need to study this Book. I have been studying it for over forty years. But tonight I wish I could take hundreds of hours that I have devoted to other reading in the past and in its place put the reading of the Bible.

Understand me right. I don't want to say anything extreme or silly. If I had my life to live over again I would study some things out of physiology books and

chemistry books, and some other books. But I say again, I would take hundreds of hours that I have devoted to other reading and focus it upon the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Tonight I choose to rededicate my life to the study of the Word of God. I find that the more I read it the more I want to read it. The more I study these Spirit of Prophecy books the more I want to study them. And this evening as I was preparing for this study my soul went out to God and I said, Dear Lord, isn't it beautiful. Oh, I thank You for these wonderful things. That's the way I feel.

Man's books with worthless chaff are stored,  
God's words doth priceless wealth afford;  
Then leave the chaff and spend your pains  
In gathering up the golden grains.

Yea, were the sun one crystal light,  
The earth a golden ball;  
And diamonds all the stars at night,  
This Book were worth them all.

Thank God it is so. Happy is the man that finds wisdom and gets understanding. Here it is. David said he had more understanding than all his teachers, for God's testimonies were his meditations. And remember, all of them is the expression of the thoughts of God; it is the transmission of the life of Christ. His name is called the Word of God. The Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. The Scriptures is the very mind of God given to us and the life of God communicated to us. He has said:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" John 6:53.

Here is the very life of Christ given us through His Word.

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