

Current Trends and Purposes of Wildwood 2 of 2

#0611B

Study given by W.D. Frazee—November 25, 1975

Now, this evening as we have our little study together, I want to do something a little different. In recent studies, I have given you quite a number of references, either from the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy or both. I just want to talk with you tonight about something. We will have a reference or two perhaps. But I just want to draw on your background of knowledge, and reason with you a little.

It's possible to be right around where something is happening and not know what's going on at all. This happened during the life of Jesus—the closing scenes of His life. Very few people understood what was happening. His own disciples got a lot more out of it after Christ left the earth—went back to heaven—didn't they?

And again and again they wished that they had understood better, and appreciated more, what Christ was trying to do while He was here. And there are days coming, dear friends, when you and I will look back to some of the experiences that we are going through now, and many of us will think, "I wish I had stored up more grain during the time of plenty, so that I'd have more to share with others during the time of famine."

The text we're going to meditate on for a little while this evening is 2 Timothy 2:1-4.

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" 2 Timothy 2:1-4.

Here, Paul introduces the figure of the soldier-life—being in the army. Now there are two ways to get in the army: one is to be drafted and the other is to enlist. That's the armies of this world.

What's the plan in God's army? Any draftees? Not a one.

Another interesting thing about the armies of this world, whether a man is drafted or is enlisted, if he goes AWOL and they catch him, they put him in prison. In

wartime it might be worse than that for the fellow that has deserted. But in God's army, a man can leave anytime. Is that correct? Not right, but it's correct. It's accurate. It happens every day. Every day, men and women deserting the army of God.

But it is not that particularly that I want to study with you this evening. I'd like to talk over with you the function of Wildwood—its purpose, its objective in view of the closing conflict. We have a sanitarium here, a hospital, an institute, a school, and the objective of all of these different names is the same. To make ready a people prepared for the coming of the Lord.

You agree with me? This is it.

Now, when we use certain terms, we naturally revert to certain thought patterns. When we speak of a school, a training institution, the average person is thinking about a place where somebody comes for a certain period of time, goes to certain classes, and receives certain other training, perhaps, and is turned out with certain skills or qualifications and then goes somewhere and does certain things.

The average school today, and it's been that way for many years down through the centuries, the average school today is only in a minor way concerned with the use that the student makes of his training after he gets through his training. And this is true of good schools, as well as bad schools. It's true even of religious schools as well as secular schools.

And let me say, to get it vividly before us, Wildwood is not in that business. We're not in that business at all. This is not a school of general education, designed to prepare students for many different things in life. And, therefore, it's not to be judged against that standard or measure. Wildwood is an army, and there is one thing that an army is interested in, especially in war time. It is getting in soldiers, enlisted for the duration of the war, and training them as quickly as possible in those things which are essential to get the war fought and won. Am I right? And Wildwood must be viewed against that background. That's its purpose.

Now, there are two classes of people that come to Wildwood, and neither of them is excluded. Some of them change their classification during the time they're here. We don't have them identified by letters or numbers. In fact, I am sure that we couldn't identify all of them. But if we put all in one class on this side of the center aisle, and all in the other class on the other side of the center aisle, we might have some surprises.

We've always had, I think, or at least almost always, some in both classes. And I'm not talking about the good and the bad, the saints and the sinners. I'm not talking about that at all. I am talking about the objective. Some people are here to get a certain training, more or less defined and planned in their minds. And after they've gotten that training, they have plans, or hope to have plans, of what they will do with that somewhere else. We don't exclude that type of student. As I say we always have them.

We have other students and staff here whose primary purpose in being at Wildwood is not the training that they are receiving. It's the mission they are accomplishing in furthering this program. With the first class, the emphasis is on the education or training or development they are receiving. With the second class, the emphasis is on the mission they are performing, the work they are doing, the contribution they are making to the success of this program.

Now, I'm sure that with many of us there is a blending of these two concepts. And right now, this early in our little talk together, I'll whisper you a little secret. The second class really get more and better training than the first class do. They really do. They get more and better development. The student or the worker, who comes here hoping to absorb something from Wildwood and then go on somewhere else on his own mission, he gets something because there's something here to get.

But there are things that this second class get that can be gotten in no other way. No other way. And I am not seeking tonight to give you a sales talk, or an enlistment talk. You all have enlisted as volunteers here in one way or another. I'm suggesting that you talk it over with the great Captain Jesus, and find out in your own mind. I'm not asking you to report to me, or to fill out a questionnaire, or anything of that kind. I'm not going to ask for a show of hands or any response of that nature. I just want to heart to heart talk with you about the difference in these two classes.

Let's think about the work that Jesus did nearly 2,000 years ago. For nearly 30 years He spent His time in Nazareth, in the home there, in the carpenter shop, living the life of a humble peasant and showing the program of heaven in the home and in the shop. But there came a day when the summons of His Father reached His inner soul, and He laid down His hammer and saw and went to Jordan and was baptized, went to the wilderness and was tempted, came back and entered upon His mission.

How did He begin? He began by calling Andrew and Peter, and James and John, and Thomas, and Philip, and Nathaniel. Later, some others.

And what did Jesus invite them to do? Notice what He did not do for those men. He did not say, "Come, men, and I will give you a course of training so that you can go out and earn more money than you've been earning." He offered them only one thing—the opportunity of fellowship with Himself, in order that they might help Him carry on His mission. Am I correct? Is that what He did?

And that's why they came. They came to help Him do His work.

Notice another thing He did not do. He did not say to them, "Well now, look here, men. Most of you are fishermen. Matthew's been a tax collector. But none of you have had certain things. I am going to send you all, or at least some of you, down to Jerusalem and let you spend several years there with Gamaliel. And then I want you to come back and help Me in the work." Incidentally, if He had, how many of them would have come back? Not very many.

No, His great purpose in calling them, don't miss this, was not to give them a certain training. Rather, it was to get them to help Him do a certain work, and the

training was incidental to the work. The training was for the purpose of helping them help Him get His mission accomplished. Are we correct? Yes, you all recognize this. And therefore, the training was confined to that which would best fit them, and fit them most quickly, to help Him.

Now, it was what we would call an in-service type of training. They watched Him do what He wanted them to do. Then they helped Him do it. Then He sent them out on little missions to do what they had seen Him do. Then He had them come back and report, and He corrected them. And they helped Him some more. He talked with them. They listened while He talked to the multitude. They assisted in bringing the people to Him. And in this in-service training program, they were developed.

Now, it's true they all flunked their final examination, but Christ took them back for some post work. And thank God, eleven out of the twelve came through with flying colors. But not one of them ever did anything else, all the rest of their life, except that thing that they had united with Christ to do.

I wish that we could accomplish such a work as that. What do you say?

Oh, my friends, if we don't try to do a lot of other things, God will bless us in doing that. For one of the last things He told those men was:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” John 14:12.

As the prophet to the remnant explains this, it was not that their work and our work was to be more magnificent, more miraculous, more wonderful, but more extensive. His work was confined to a few square miles there in the eastern Mediterranean. The work of the disciples reached the world. The work of the remnant church is to reach every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Wildwood has not attempted to take the place of other educational institutions, many of which are planned and equipped to do certain types of training that we are not fitted to do at all. Wildwood has been called into existence for a specific purpose, to carry on medical missionary work as outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy, and to develop students and workers who will extend that work, and expand it from place to place, guided by the Holy Spirit.

That's why you've come here, isn't it, friends? Yes. And I want you to see, tonight, how wonderful it is to have a part in the program from the first day you put your feet on this campus. Some of you have heard the call of God, before you ever came here, to cast in your lot with this program, the way Matthew, and Thomas, and Peter, and John cast in their lot with Jesus.

Others of you have come more with the plan that one would have in going to a conventional school. You've come here to get certain classes, to learn certain things, because you feel that you need them to round out your education, to prepare you for something that you may have in mind to do in life. As I say, we have

something for both classes. But you know, dear ones, some of you that have come to learn a bit of hydrotherapy, or to learn some nursing, or to learn how to give Bible studies, or to learn something about gardening, some of you that have come for those different purposes, while you're here, you're going to get infected with a virus. May it please God.

You're going to be like flies that conquer the sticky paper. Have you ever seen the sticky paper and the flies buzzing around it? You know what happens to some of them? They get caught. And some of you are going to get caught. I have warned people, sometimes, about coming to Wildwood. I've warned them: Be careful, you might get caught.

And I can smile when I say it. I hope nobody will get caught, and I don't think anybody will, if God didn't intend it. But oh, friends, it's a wonderful thing to get caught up with the call of God and get involved with God in a program to finish the work. What do you say?

Sometimes people at a distance, who don't know very much about this program, they ask questions like this, "What do your "graduates" do? Is there any place for them?"

You know what I tell people when they say that to me? I say, bless your heart; if we could turn out 10 times this many, we could place them all.

The needs on the battlefield are inexhaustible. Jesus accepts, oh so gladly, every human agency that is surrendered to Him. And, dear friends, you can see what an exhaustless program this is because it doesn't have to have money to operate.

What do we call this kind of work? Self-supporting.

Well, if you train 10 self-supporting workers, you've got 10 people that are able to do what? Support themselves. But if you can train 20, or 50, or 100, still you have what it takes to get going and keep going.

Concerning the school at Madison, and that's part of the blueprint we study as outlined by the Spirit of Prophecy, Sister White said:

"The students have been...learning to become self-supporting, and a training more important than this they could not receive"
An Appeal for the Madison School, page 1.

But the great thing that you're learning at Wildwood, if you're learning it, is to be identified with a program as real and as defined as joining the United States Army would be. I've been interested in some of the billboards and posters that the United States Army has at the present time. They're trying hard to get people to enlist, and so they're offering them all kinds of inducements. They're telling them how good the pay is. We haven't borrowed that part for our advertising.

Another thing they're doing is offering them a chance to learn a trade or a profession while they're in the Army. But all of that appeal, don't miss it, is focused on the desire of the student to do something else after gets through his army period. And if what your mind is on is something else different from Wildwood, after you are here, you will get certain things. Just like the man who goes in the army, and what he really wants is to learn electrical work, or construction work, or drafting, or wireless, or radio, or so on.

You can learn a lot of things in the United States Army. But 90 percent of the people that go in and get that training will never stay with the army. They don't plan to. But a few will get caught. A few of them will decide as they get in there, "The army is for me." They might even have some patriotic motives. Whatever their motives, they make that a career rather than as something incidental.

Do you see the difference?

Now, I cannot call you the way Jesus called Matthew, and Thomas, and Peter, and John, because I do not know your hearts the way Jesus knew the hearts of those men. But I can say to you, dear friends, if Jesus has called you to this gospel-medical-evangelistic company work, and you know it, you've found the pearl of great price. God called me to it 50 years ago this fall, and I've been following the trail of that vision for 50 years. I have no regrets. I'm a happy man.

And oh, I know that there are people here, young ones and older ones, who have caught that vision and heard that call. Some of you boys and girls, Jesus would like to have you get that vision, hear that call. What are you thinking about as you attend the elementary school, whether on campus or out in the community school, or as you go over to Stonecave or Beautiful Valley? What are your goals?

Let me tell you, if what you are in is simply incidental, if this is just a way to learn reading and writing, and arithmetic, and perhaps learn some manual skills, and even learn the Bible, you may be missing the greatest thing in life. There were other boys of 12 years of age that studied the Bible besides young Jesus at Nazareth, but Jesus and John the Baptist were peculiar boys of their time. When they studied the Bible, don't miss it, when they studied the Bible, they were finding their mission. They were studying what applied to their lives. And they were dreaming by night and by day of carrying out the mission for which they had been born.

They knew what it was.

You 10, and 12, and 14-year-old boys and girls, it's your privilege to know. Why did God bring you to Wildwood? Why did God bring your parents to Wildwood? There's 100, 1,000 other places they might have been. Oh, I hope that you will know your destiny, know your opportunity.

There's nothing glamorous about it as the world looks at it, but I want to tell you something. John the Baptist thought it was such a wonderful job that heaven had given him that he said, "This man that I am preparing the way for is so important that I am not worthy even to unloose His sandals, but here I am, I have the chance to be His forerunner." Oh, I want you, young and old, to know what God has called you

to. And if you do, you'll never be worried about all this talk, "Well, Wildwood isn't accredited." No it isn't, folks. It isn't.

And I have nothing to say to point the finger of reproach or scorn at any accredited institution. That's not our job. I just say we've been called to a different work. We've been called to a special destiny. Jesus didn't spend His time tearing down the educational systems of that age. He quietly, and kindly, and firmly went about the task of doing a medical missionary service and taking some young people with Him to help Him in the work, and thus train them to go on and do the same thing and train others to do it. Let's us do it. What do you say?

And let's remember what we're here for. We're not here to get certain credits. We're not here just to learn certain skills, or to amass certain knowledge. We are here, God help us to know it, to be involved in a program that calls for everything we have, and will eventually take everything we've got in the finishing of this work. Happy are those that know it.

You remember Jesus, on one occasion, turned to His disciples and said, "Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear. Verily I say unto you," He said, "many prophets and wise men have longed to see the things that you see, and to hear the things that ye hear." If the scribes and Pharisees had heard that, they would have turned with a sneer. They didn't understand. The world won't understand, and some people in the church won't understand. They will say to you that you're just wasting your life—that you will never amount to anything.

Well, dear friends, there's just one thing I want to amount to. I want to be an armor-bearer for Jesus Christ. I want to be a helper in God's army. I want to press up close to the Captain.

You know, if you and I were to go up to Jesus tonight in heaven, if we were privileged to take a space trip up there and spend a week or two just enjoying the beautiful fruit, and music, and fellowship, and all the rest, somewhere along the line gratitude might well up in our hearts so much that we might go to Jesus and say, "Dear Lord I am so thankful to be here. I want to do something to help You. Is there somebody I can carry some food to?"

What would He have to say?

"No. No, there's nobody up here hungry. They're all well-fed."

"Well, dear Lord, while I was down at Wildwood I learned a little bit about looking after sick people. I just love to show my gratitude by giving some fomentations or taking some tprs, or doing something like that."

What would Christ have to say?

"No. No, nobody here."

"Well, Lord, couldn't I visit somebody that's discouraged and read the Bible with them and have prayer?"

“No. There’s not a discouraged soul in all heaven.”

“But, Lord, I’d love to do something to show my gratitude for Your love and saving, and letting me be here in this beautiful place.”

And I fancy Jesus might turn and say, “Do you really want to? Well, I’ll tell you. If you really want to, I can send you on a mission. Come and look through the telescope. Do you see that little planet way down there? There’s some sick people down there. And there’s some discouraged people down there. And there’s some needy people down there. And if you’re willing, I’ll send you on a mission like I went on, from heaven to earth.”

Shall we be willing to go?

I’ll tell you this, dear friend, the last chance we’ll ever have is just about now. Most of the other things that people are wishing they could get enough money to do, we can do through eternity a lot better. We can travel from world to world, without danger of being caught in cross-machinegun fire in some foreign capital, or being tied up in some airport because of strikes.

Music? Oh my, what we’re going to have in heaven. And you can go on with all the things that good people are spending time and money in the endeavor to do. The very thing of education, that people are dedicating so much of their lives to these days, either in getting it, or in giving it, much of what’s good in that we can have all through eternity.

But there’s one thing that we will never get in 1,000,000, 1,000,000 years, and that’s the opportunity to help Jesus save some souls out of this dying world. Never, never, never have a chance.

And so, I invite you tonight to think as you go home, as well as here in this little chapel, out under the stars, or by your bed. Think it through, my dear brothers and sisters. Who knows but you’ve come to this campus for such a time as this? If you hear the call and answer it, it’ll cure you of itchy feet and restless mind and heart. It’ll cure you of yielding to the temptation that comes, “Well, what am I getting here anyway? What is it amount to?”

Ah, my friend, to help Jesus do His medical missionary work so that a people can be prepared for His coming, this is why I’m here. If your eyes see it, blessed are your eyes. If your heart understands it, blessed is your heart. And if your choice chooses it, thank God friend, flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto you, but the Father in heaven.

But cherish it! You can get it, you can lose it. Judas had it, but he lost it. He had his own plan. Don’t misunderstand me, I don’t mean everybody that has their own plans is like Judas, I just mean, dear friends, know what God’s call to you is. And if you are one of those that’s here just briefly, an incident fitting into your own plans, into God’s personal plans for you that do not involve this program, very well, we’ll do our best to help you get what God put you here for.

But remember, the great reason we're here is not to serve that class. No, no. The great reason we're here is to get people to join this army and stay with the army for the duration of the war. To get involved in this program, and I'm not talking just about this campus, these 600 acres, for Wildwood today has no geographical limits. You know that don't you?

Oh, to join the army and then day by day your question to God and to your fellow workers will not be, "What can I learn today that will get me ready better for what I want to do by and by tomorrow?" The question will be, "Dear Lord, and dear fellow workers, what can I do today that will best advance the program, and carry out the mission, and finish the work so Jesus can come?"

Do you see? Do you see?

Thank God!

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