

Without and All

#0613

Study given by W.D. Frazee—October 17, 1969

God selected a doctor to write one of His four Gospels. The apostle Paul speaks of this man as the beloved physician. It is interesting to notice that of the three men who wrote down the record of what Jesus said on the Mount of Olives, this physician, Luke, picked up some things that the others missed. And it is to these I wish to direct your attention to this morning.

Jesus was asked about the signs of His coming. He presented certain signs in the heavens and in the earth that would be tokens of His near approach.

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. 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. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man”
Luke 21:25-36.

In this galaxy of wonderful thoughts let us pick out a few of the brightest stars and take a look at them. Christ says that one of the striking signs of His coming, one of the tokens that we have reached the last generation, is men’s hearts failing them. I know He is speaking here about more than this physical organ that pumps the blood. But He is talking about a close connection between the heart here in the head and the heart here in the chest. You don’t separate the two.

I need not remind you that heart failure is the leading cause of death in America today. It surpasses all the others. I need not tell you that it has reached epidemic proportions and constitutes America's number one health problem. Jesus put His finger on it. He said that when these things happen you know that His coming is near.

Jesus didn't just point out the condition. He showed what to do about it. His purpose in revealing the number one problem of this world today is to help you and me to keep out of that problem, and to devote other people to find the cure, and to keep out of it if they are not in it.

Jesus put His finger on several, definite things that are related to this problem. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged, overburdened, worn out. What with? He mentions three things: surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life. Surfeiting is eating too much. Eating a rich diet, either in the elements that make it up or in quantity. Drunkenness. Any poison taken into the body which benumbs the sensibilities and interfere with those electric currents in the ten billion cells in the human brain. Cares of this life. The tensions of this life, the worries, the frets that are so characteristic of this generation. He puts His finger right on the problem.

I lay down this ancient Book and pick up something that is very modern. It is a special report from two of America's greatest magazines, *Time* and *Life*. This special report is dealing with America's number one problem, coronary heart attacks.

In the first photographic spread that introduces this study are four great causes represented. The first is emotional stress. The second is fat, rich diet. The third is lack of exercise. The fourth is smoking.

I ask you, does the beloved physician, Luke, writing down the words of Jesus, have anything to tell us about the problems of this generation? You see the connection, don't you?

My next question is, What are you doing about it? What are you, as a man or woman trained in the knowledge that would help people to learn how to prevent this problem, or how to deal with it if they are already in to it, doing about it? I am sure we are not here to be lulled to sleep, but to be challenged with the glorious opportunity of this hour.

I stood in Michigan a few days ago by the little house where over a hundred years ago the angel, Gabriel, came to the Lord's messenger, Ellen G. White, and opened to her in that humble farmhouse the great subject of health reform. From time to time the radio commentator, Paul Harvey, calls attention to the interesting way in which the statements of Ellen G. White are being shown true by scientific research today. One of the greatest evidences is the fact that those who have followed the light of health reform, and studied and put into practice the visions of Ellen G. White, live longer than those who haven't had that privilege. But when I look at those figures I often think how much better the figures would look had we put all the light into practice.

But I am not thinking so much about what you and I are doing about these things. I hope we are following the light. The thing I am thinking is the privilege you and I have in sharing these wonderful things with the world around us.

Just to be a physician doesn't necessarily mean solving this problem. I have a friend who is a dentist who told me that if all the dentists in the United States were paid by the federal government to spend all their time doing nothing but filling teeth, they would never catch up. The diet that American's are on, and the other lack of health practices, make up the American life. They are making holes in peoples teeth faster than all the dentists in the country could fill them. That is not very hopeful, is it?

What I have said from my dentist friend, many of you could supply other things in other areas. After all, heart transplants are hardly the answer. There are twenty-five million people in America that have already had a heart attack, or are getting ready for one. Someone suggested that the answer is in learning how to translate the heart of the pig into human beings. Quite a bright idea, isn't it? I hope none of you are thinking of going into research in that direction. What is needed? Let me read something:

"The distinction between prevention and cure has not been made sufficiently important. Teach the people that it is better to know how to keep well than how to cure disease"
Medical Ministry, page 221.

Or is it? Where is the money. Does the man who wants to make money go into prevention? Not by a long shot. No, he goes into patching up the pieces in one way or another. Dealing with the results.

This is seen also in the time and effort that is being devoted. Take America's health dollar. How is it being spent? The federal government, the state government, universities, and the American public generally take every dollar that is spent dealing with the health problem. And how much of it is going into preventing these conditions? It is preciously little.

We are interested in dealing with symptoms and results rather than dealing with causes? Do you know why? Well, it is much more glamorous to open up a man's chest and put in an organ from a dead individual. It is much more glamorous than to teach people patiently, lovingly, earnestly, over a period of years, how to eat and drink and exercise and live so as to prevent that heart attack.

Also the American public is not willing to spend very much money in having someone teach them how to quit doing the things they want to do.

One of our young men was taking a residency with a top flight surgeon whose specialty is stomach surgery. The question came up that one of the main causes of the stomach surgery he was performing on many people was tobacco. It is not the only cause, but one of the big causes. But the surgeon was a smoker himself. Our young friend raised the question about it.

That surgeon said, "I would rather give up my stomach than to give up my tobacco."

You can see what we are up against. Too many people have the attitude that they are going to die someday of something. They had just as well enjoy life while they are at it. And if enjoy life means to fill up on all kinds of artificial sweets, what does it mean? If to enjoy life means to eat and eat and eat until the bloodstream is filled with cholesterol and the deposits begin to form in the arteries, what does it mean? And if to enjoy life means to smoke two or three packs a day, what does it mean?

I repeat, it means that the physician who is going to carry out God's glorious program in these days will have an uphill business. This is not the way to make money. This is not the way to be famous. But this is the way to make the Master happy, who is coming soon to find a people made ready for His coming.

Back to Doctor Luke:

“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.

Emotional stress is listed here as one of the great causes of this terrific problem. But it isn't just coronary heart attacks that come from stress. The mind filled with worry, fear, anxiety, has precious time or energy to deal with the great spiritual experiences that get a people ready for the coming of Jesus.

I would like to raise a question. Why did God put the medical work in the third angel's message? Have you stopped to think that this denomination is quite unique in its relation to health? I know that there are some movements, like Christian Science, that deal with health, but from an utterly unscientific standpoint. We have the Pentecostal faith healers who bring them in by the hundreds, pass them along laying their hands upon them.

But the approach of the Seventh-day Adventist movement is quite different. Here is a movement small in its membership, but devoting millions of dollars every year dealing with the health problem. Why? And why is it done in a scientific way? Why do we train doctors and nurses and other medical personnel? Because we believe that the laws of nature are the laws of God, and that the rules God has written on the liver and lungs, the heart and brain, are as truly divine as the ten commandments. We also believe that when Jesus comes those who are translated will be found in full conformity and full harmony with all His laws, both moral and physical. For it is written:

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

It is going to be a wonderful thing as the world gets more and more enmeshed and involved in the problems that is created through disobedience to find a people more and more emerging who reveal in their lives full obedience to all the laws of

God, and stand before the world as exponents of that program, showing the results of harmony with God.

This is why Jesus died. This is why He lived here. This is why He sent the Spirit from the sanctuary upon His people. This is why He gave us the gift of prophecy in these last days. To lead our minds back to full understanding of His total way of life, and full obedience to His total way of life.

“Our physicians should be wise as educators, warning all against self-indulgence, showing that abstinence from the things that God has prohibited is the only way to prevent ruin of body and mind” *Medical Ministry*, page 221.

I challenge you who are physicians, or who are getting ready to be physicians, with that statement. What will you devote your life to? Moody once said, “Some people seem to think that this world is a ship that has sprung a leak here and there, and we will all get busy and patch up the places and the ship can be kept afloat. But this world is a sinking ship. And when God found me, He gave me a lifeboat and said, ‘Moody, save as many as you can off the old wreck before it goes down.’”

This is the fundamental difference between many approaches of the world’s problems and this message. Are we going to unite in an effort to keep the holes filled in the teeth, and find a way to get more dentist to fill the teeth so we can keep up with the holes the diet people are eating make? Or are we going to find in the great mass of humanity those who will listen to a sensible approach and adopt a way of life to prevent those things?

And here is the hidden value in that. The same type of mind which will accept a sensible approach to the health problem, and be willing to change the habits of life in order to have better health, is the same type of mind that will accept this message and get ready to meet Jesus.

On the other hand, if a man doesn’t care enough about his life in this world enough to change his habits of life, what good would it do to merely change his doctrine and change the day he comes to church? Not a bit, my friends.

God gave us the health message as a great sieve that coming in contact with people would give us those whose hearts who would respond to a sensible message—the combined approach to science and the Gospel. Oh, I thank the Lord for the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy guiding us through these problems.

Let’s be practical, for you men and women are practical people. Scientific training tends to make people think, Exactly how is this to be done? In the Spirit of Prophecy we do not merely have some ideals of healthful living. We have hundreds and thousands of pages devoted to the subject of how to carry on a Seventh-day Adventist health program. The whole program of the physician, the nurse, the minister, the Bible worker, the farmer, and the cook is all in these books. And if we will accept this blueprint seriously, and seek to carry out in our individual lives what we find in these books, we shall find the answers to the world’s problems in so far as they are willing to listen to them.

But one of the great things we come into as we study these books is that this program calls for teamwork. There is no man who is a whole in himself. We are like the different organs of the human body. The stomach, heart, lungs, kidneys, and even the little adrenal glands. Each organ has a team that accomplishes something. So in this program.

I haven't time to go into the details, but God's ideal program as pictured in these books is that the minister and physician, the nurse and the Bible worker, the cook and teacher should all be tied together in Gospel, medical, evangelistic teams, operating from a country base. There is an old-fashioned word that describes that country base. It is called a sanitarium. A sanitarium is located not in the city, but in the country. It is not dealing primarily with those things we associate with a hospital, although it may include a hospital. It is dealing primarily with these four great causes that this national report on America's health problem points out. It is dealing with changing the habits of the people through education and treatment.

Some of you are acquainted that in Europe governments, insurance companies, and business executives have joined together in some very interesting programs of reconditioning. Thousands of men in factories and offices are interviewed and examined. Those who are coronary prone, or have problems that are going to eventuate in a heart attack, are found and sent to these health conditioning centers. They are getting down to business dealing with this problem.

What do these people do in these health conditioning centers? They are given instructions on a diet which will reduce the danger of a heart attack. They are given various hydrotherapy treatments. But most of all they are given exercise. Not primarily in gymnasiums, but out hiking up mountains. And they go every day they are there, sunshine or rain. Literally thousands of people are participating in these health conditioning centers.

Doctor Paul Dudley White and other physicians are crying earnestly that America shall do something similar. But because of the lack of glamour and financial remuneration associated with prevention, the people who are going to do much about it are going to have a genuine love for humanity, and will be moved in their lives by the example of Jesus. If Seventh-day Adventist will arise to the challenge of the hour and come back, not merely to the way of living that is represented in these inspired books, but to the program of medical work that is outlined in these books, we can reach every honest heart with a message that makes sense.

The great thing is devoting our lives to helping people change their life's habits so they will be ready for the coming of Jesus. This is more than a public health program. It is a soul winning program. If you love a man enough to add ten years to his life, what would you do if you could add a million years to his life? And that is just the start. His life would go on and on through eternal ages. That is what soul winning means. And the medical work is the right arm. It is the arm to get around the man who is going down. Down from tobacco, liquor, overeating and overweight, home problems, business stress, and from all kinds of confusion. It means to get that arm around him and lift him up.

There are men and women here who, if you will get the vision and devote your life one hundred percent to letting Jesus use you, you can win hundreds of souls between now and the time Jesus comes. Let me read a very interesting statement:

“I have been surprised that being asked by physicians if I did not think it would be more pleasing to God for them to give up their medical practice and enter the ministry. I am prepared to answer such an inquire. If you are a Christian and a competent physician you are qualified to do ten-fold more good than a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the Word” *Counsels on Health*, page 503.

Every person who has had any kind of medical training is not to put that right arm in a sling and stand up and spend all your time preaching. Oh, no. God needs that right arm, but He needs it tied to a body of evangelism. He needs that right arm united with the ministry of the Word. He wants you who have had a training in medical lives to learn how to win souls. Not as a hobby like butterfly collecting or stamp collecting, but as the great business of life.

This is the example of the Lord Jesus. He devoted more time to healing the sick than He did to preaching. But He never forgot the winning of souls; the winning of men and women that they might be saved in His eternal kingdom.

“The greatest physician is the one who walks in the footsteps of Jesus Christ” *Ibid*, page 544.

If you will go to Jesus and say, I would like to get in on something like that, He will lead you. If you will play fair with Him, He will put you into something where you will have many stars in your crown.

Outside the Golden Gate on the twenty-fifth day of August, 1950, a young Italian fisherman was coming in. He had nearly 3,000 dollars' worth of fish in his boat. He was proceeding to harbor to sell his catch, cautiously because a heavy fog was on.

Presently he noticed men who were struggling in the water. Looking down he saw in the water beneath him the United States hospital ship, Benevolence. It had been rammed in the fog by another vessel. These men struggling in the water were the survivors.

John Napolia said, “A voice said to me, ‘You have seen this. Go to work.’”

That little fellow reached over the edge and pulled the nearest man into his boat. Another and another. But presently he had a problem. There was no more room. What to do?

Overboard went a box of fish and in came some more men. Overboard went another box of fish and in came some more men. Finally the last box of fish was at

the bottom of the ocean and that fisherman carried into port seventy men that he had pulled out of the water that foggy afternoon.

He didn't have a dollar. The things that would bring money were all in the bottom of the ocean. Was it worth it? I can tell you that it was if just one of those seventy men was someone you loved. Do you agree with me? And unless John Napolia had tumbled his last box of fish into the briny deep to save someone you love you wouldn't say to him, Well done.

We are soon to meet the One who made men in His image and gave His life to restore that image that sin had marred. It will be a wonderful thing to have Him say, Well done. Won't it? There are many good things people are doing today. But there is one thing for a blood-bought soul to do, and it is to link with Jesus in a line of work that will lift the largest number of men out of the ocean of sin and save them in the kingdom of God.

This is why God gave us the medical missionary work. This is its goal. Not patching up all the results of sin in this world, but finding individuals who will accept the saving grace of Christ, and through His power change their habits of life and get ready to meet the King and live forever. Oh, how much your talent and training means. I covet you for the Master's service. I covet you for this glorious program of medical evangelism. In Jesus' name I beseech you, have done with lesser things. Leave to the world the solving of its problems. It is soon to perish. But enter into the solving of God's problem—how to get these dying men out of the waters. Let the fish go overboard.

Tell me. Suppose you and I were to go up to heaven and spend several days enjoying that beautiful place. Eat that delicious fruit. Bask in that eternal glory. Get acquainted with the angels, Enoch and Elijah, and all the rest of the folks that are up there.

Finally we go to Jesus and say, You have been giving me such a wonderful time up here. I would like to do something for you while I am here. Have you got anyone around who is hungry that I could carry some of this delicious fruit to?

Jesus says, No, we don't have any hungry people here.

Well, do You have anyone who is sick that I can go and minister to?

Jesus says, No, we don't have any sick people here.

Well, do you have anyone I could go give a Bible study to and help win them to You?

Jesus says, No, we don't have anyone that needs that here.

There is nobody I can give a treatment to? Nobody I can win to You? No poor person I can help?

Jesus says, No, but there is a place I can send you to if you are willing to go. Do you see that little planet way down there. There are hungry people who need fed. There are sick people that need My love. There are lost souls who need the Gospel. If you are willing to leave this beautiful Heaven and go down there, you can show your love for Me.

Would you go?

The last chance we can have in all eternal ages to go on a mission like that is right now. Things are closing up fast. Right now you and I have the privilege in joining in a program that will save the last souls that will ever be saved in the universe. May God bless you as you think of why He has given you the talents and training that have fallen to your lives. Who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

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