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#0803

Study given by W.D. Frazee

This afternoon I'd like to invite you to turn to Deuteronomy 6.

On this trip I just came back from, a young man was asking me if I taught a Bible class up here. Well, I said, "Just about all our classes are Bible and Spirit of Prophecy classes." I hope it will always be that way. I've invited you to always bring your Bibles to this class as well as your notebooks. And I'd like to study with you, have you study with me, some things that bear upon our responsibilities as homeheads.

"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it" Deuteronomy 6:1.

Let's stop on that for a minute. What is God's purpose in giving us these commandments? So we'll do them. The trouble with the Jewish leaders in the days of Christ was, Christ said, "They say and do not. This is the trouble with conventional education. A student is examined not in what he does but in what he remembers. You stop and think about it. What a fallacy that is.

The Lord says, "I'm telling you these commandments so that you will" what? "Do them." Now the second verse, here's the purpose of it all:

"That thou might fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged" Deuteronomy 6:2.

What does that mean, "prolonged"? So that you'll have long life. Remember that is the promise in the fifth commandment. Let's say it together:

"Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives thee" Exodus 20:12.

You will readily agree that long life is a blessing only when life is rewarding, pleasant, worthwhile. The most merciful thing that can happen to some people is for them to die.

But God's way of life is so wonderful that the longer it lasts, the better. In fact,

the fifth commandment will find its real fulfillment in the earth made new:

“...that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives thee” Exodus 20:12.

How long? Never stop, never end, always something better. And what has God given us to make this possible? What does this say? Commandments, statutes, judgments to make this possible.

“Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it...”
Deuteronomy 6:3.

Hear and what? Observe to do it.

“...that it may be well with thee...” Deuteronomy 6:3.

Now I want to ask something. This goes deep into your mind and heart, and nobody but you and God know the answer. Do you really believe that the purpose of all the commandments and regulations that God has given us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is for people’s good? If you do, it’ll show through in your attitude. And I tell you one thing, if you believe that, you’ll never be found smuggling in a lot of faddist ideas from the world, and telling Seventh-day Adventists that the world is getting ahead of us. They’re way ahead of us, but it’s another road that we’re not even traveling.

“Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” Deuteronomy 6:3-5.

Now will you read verses 6-7 with me? Together:

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sit in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou lie down, and when thou rise up” Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Wouldn’t that get rather boring? Well, it could. It certainly must have to some of the Jews. They wearied the Lord, and doubtless one reason they wearied Him was because they were wearied themselves because of the way they went at it. But the problem is not in instruction. It’s the way it was carried out.

Let’s go back now to this basic instruction:

“...these words, which I command thee this day, shall be”
[Where?] in thine heart: and thou shall teach them...”
Deuteronomy 6:6-7,

Every morning at 9:00, what does it say? All day long. When you sit in the classroom? What does it say? In thine house.

“...and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou lie down, and when thou rise up” Deuteronomy 6:7.

From the time you get up in the morning until you go to bed at night you’re to be what? Teaching. What is it you are to teach? His words.

“...these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sit in thine house...” Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Walking, lying, rising—all the time.

Does the thought occur to you as you read these words, that this is reason that God has put us together in homes so that we’ll have this opportunity? The conventional school has office hours. You come at 8:00 or 8:30 or 9:00 and stay until two or 3:00 or 2:30 or whatever the case may be. And there’s nothing wicked about that. I simply call attention to the fact that the basic pattern of education given us here is one that is broader. It begins when? Begins as soon as you get up, and it lasts when? Until you go to bed. Someone says, “That’s the trouble. It wears me out.”

Well, my dear ones, I’d like to be very practical this afternoon. God wants you and me to learn how to do this without it wearing us out. It says, so that it may be well with thee.

Tell me. Is going to bed something that will bring us blessing? Is getting up something that will bring us blessing? Is eating something that will bring us blessing? Is working something that will bring us blessing? Worship; missionary activities? All of these things are for our good.

Someone says, “Oh, there are so many things to do.” Precisely. That’s to keep things from getting unbalanced. This is the very fact and factor that keeps things from being boring. Before sleep gets too much you can do what? Get up. And before you eat too much you’re to get up. And before you have worked too much you’re to sit down, or lie down. So instead of the variety of things we have to do being something to mourn about, this is of the essence of the divine plan. And we are to be so filled with that concept and so satisfied with it that we communicate it to our students.

Most of the people who come to this place have come out of the rat race. Now I don’t know if a Seventh-day Adventist rat race is particularly holy. It’s still a rat

race, isn't it? And as a friend of mine says, "Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat." Well, who wants to be a rat?

Most people who are in the rat race at least think they'd like to get out of it. But my dear friends, the answer is found only in God and in His instructions. He says if we'll listen to His words and observe to do them and teach them diligently to those in our homes, and talk of them waking, rising, sitting, walking, resting, working, it will have this result. It will bring life and health and joy and blessing. Oh, dear friends, thank God it works. Of course, the more we work it, the better it works.

We're acquainted with the fact that a public health investigation made in the state of California shows that a Seventh-day Adventist man in middle life lives five to six years longer than his non Seventh-day Adventist neighbor. That's statistically, of course. And if all of us were following the total program, I think it would be at least twice that. But it isn't just length of life. Life has other dimensions besides length.

Some years ago there were still some turtles living over on St. Helena's Island that had been there when Napoleon was a prisoner there. But I'd rather live one day as a man than a hundred years as a turtle. Wouldn't you? And I'd rather live one day as a Seventh-day Adventist that knows the Lord than any number of years you want to name out in the rat race of this world. I'd say, "Quick, give me that one day. Let me have it. And that's it."

But thank God, we can have both. We can have length of life and breadth and height and depth, nothing shallow about it, nothing restrictive. And it all depends on what? On hearing His word and obeying it and teaching it. When? All the time.

Now let me reason with you. Wouldn't it be a reasonable thing if the One that made the universe, and made us, would be the One to tell us how to run things? Why should some PHD in Harvard or Columbia University know more about how to run a home, or about nutrition, or about child training or any other subject than the God of heaven? Why should it be? The wisdom of this world is what? Foolishness with God. Do you believe that? The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

Now will you read verses 6-7 with me again? All together:

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sit in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou lie down, and when thou rise up" Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Get them in your mind and communicate them to the minds of the people that you are associating with, your sons, your daughters, your visitors, everybody. Talk of them. Do you see how different this is from a life in which religion is confined to the Sunday school or Sabbath school; confined to the service of worship in the church? Do you also see how different this is from the life in which religion is largely a matter of family worship once or twice a day in the home? Here God is telling us to learn

His way and talk of it when? All day long.

And you may say, "Brother Frazee you made that point five minutes ago."

I want to reiterate, because, on too many campuses this is not done; in too many homes this is not done. Very few are the homes where the Lord's instructions form the subject of conversation and the rule of action from day to day and from hour to hour.

But there's one thing worse than not doing this, friends; and that which is worse is doing it as the Jews finally got to doing it, so ritualistically, so routinely, so mechanically that they made a heavy burden out of it all. They lost the joy of it. God forbid that our children and youth should lose the joy.

Don't misunderstand me. I don't mean the fact that someone says, "Well, I just got religioned to death." One-third of the angels said that about God in heaven. You remember that. They were just ruled to death. Sister White says until Lucifer came along with His temptations, most of them had never even thought about there being a law they were so happy over it. But Lucifer said, "You can't do everything you want, can you? You're under law. You have to do what you're told." And it hadn't occurred to them that there was anything strange or unpleasant about that. And it wasn't there until they got that rebel spirit in their hearts. And then nothing could suit them. And we will never find, this side of heaven, a program that satisfies everybody.

But back to my main point, we can have a program that satisfies those whose hearts are longing for the real thing, the true thing. It is found by obeying God's instructions. And first we must learn them.

Reading on:

"And thou shall bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shall write them upon the posts of thine house, and on thy gates" Deuteronomy 6:8-9.

Now the Jews, by the time that Christ was born in Bethlehem over a thousand years later, they had come to take these figures of speech and apply them very literally. So they actually copied text out of the law and tied them on their wrists and wore them on their garments, and they actually wrote them on the posts of the houses. If you asked them, they would say, "Sure, don't you remember what it says there in Deuteronomy?"

They were not in the heart; they were on the wrist, on the doorposts. Well, what did Jesus mean with it? What was God talking about? He was talking about everything in the life telling the story of God's blueprint. Our houses are to show God's will and way. Our tables are to show God's will and way. Our clothes are to show God's will and way, the way we run our home. For example, Counsels on Health, page 101:

“Order is heaven’s first law...” Counsels on Health,
page 101.

What is the first then? Order.

“Order is heaven’s first law and the Lord desires His
people to give in their homes a representation of the
order and harmony that pervade the heavenly courts”
Ibid.

That’s quite a standard, isn’t it? And that doesn’t mean that we take this
reference and use it as a club to get people to conform, not the students or the
members of our family. It does not mean that the wife shouts to the husband if he
comes in late for worship, “Don’t you know, John, that order is heaven’s first law?”
That wouldn’t be order, would it? No. But it does mean that you and I in our homes
are accepting heaven’s law as our rule. And the first law is what? Order.

Now it is amazing, and even if you’ve studied along this line for 50 years, it’s
still amazing how many detailed statements there are in the Bible and the Spirit of
Prophecy that settle the question of what to do about this or that or something else.

A few lessons back somebody was bringing up the question about the
temperature. You got that statement in Vol. 1 didn’t you? What’s the recommended
temperature? Not over 65.

You are acquainted with the statement that says what time the lights are to be
out in our schools. When is that? 9:30. That has been very interesting to me
through the years. She could have said nine. She could have said ten, but when
she said nine thirty it showed she was not thinking in round numbers. Was she?
Now, I don’t know all the reasons. I don’t know that she did. But do you know, you’d
have to hunt a long time today to find a campus where the lights in schools go out at
9:30. You’d have to hunt a long time. I heard about one the other day where there
was evening worship at ten minutes to ten. And, of course, there may have been
circumstances that I know nothing about. That’s not for me to judge. I’m just saying
in many ways, on many points we’ve come a long, long distance from following. Do
you know why? Well, let me read that:

“But there are not many of you who really know what is
contained in the testimonies” Testimonies for the
Church, Vol. 5, page 665.

And do you know when Sister White wrote that she hadn’t written half of what
she later wrote? And even at that relatively early date, not many of our people knew
what? What was in the Testimonies?

“Many are going directly contrary to the light which God
has given to His people, because they do not read the
books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions,

reproofs, and warnings" Ibid., page 681.

They're going which way? Directly contrary. God said go north and people go south. He said go west and they go east. That's directly contrary. And many, it says, are going directly contrary because of what? Because they don't read the books. It isn't necessarily that they say, "Yes I know what it says, but I'm not going to do it." They don't even know. And one of the great reasons God brings young people and older ones to this campus is to learn the way of the Lord.

But my dear, dear brothers and sisters, if you and I are merely repeating what we heard somebody else say, or mouthing our own ideas of what is proper and improper, what good will it do for the Lord to send people here to this campus? They can get that most anywhere. They do not have to go across the continent to get that, do they? No, no.

Today, it's very popular to get a consensus on this or that or the other thing. "What do you think about this?" And so groups get together and in some places, I'm sorry to say, Sabbath School time has been turned into a discussion period in which people discuss the affairs of the church, and what's right to do about this and that. "Brother So and So, or Mr. So and So, more likely, what do you think? Mrs. So and So, what do you think?" And somebody says, "Well, that sounds like a good idea." And when we get through, zero plus zero plus zero plus zero equals? Zero. Oh, let us not go that road.

The words of God are to be in our hearts, our minds, and we're to teach them diligently. That word diligently is interesting. It means over and over, really get down to business, nothing superficial, nothing shallow about it.

"Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings. The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country. ... Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel" Ibid.

What if I'd take a big basket and just cover up these books right here? That's the picture. But what is shining from these books? Light. But can I cover it up? Sure. It's done.

"Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel. God will make His people responsible for this neglect" Ibid.

Oh, I hope this campus will become increasingly, not decreasingly, a place where people study and learn and practice and teach and talk about what is in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

If people call us fanatics, ok. We don't need to be fanatics, but I'm not afraid of being called one. Are you? Paul was. Jesus was. Jeremiah was. And the remnant will be. But thank the Lord; this is all so that it will be well with us, good for us, better nutrition, better health, better happiness, better rest and peace of mind, better joy in the Lord.

Now back to Deuteronomy 6

"And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which He swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not"
Deuteronomy 6:10-11.

They moved in and found the food jars filled with food right on the shelves, didn't they?

"...and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards, and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shall have eaten and be full; Then beware lest you forget the Lord..." Deuteronomy 6:11-12.

Prosperity brings what? Danger; danger of what? Forgetting. The very prosperity which obedience to God brings has peril. It was in the days of Solomon, in the glorious reign of the world's most wonderful king that Israel forgot God. And my dear friends, we are riding a wave of popularity as a church today. We are riding a wave of popularity as an institution. The name of Seventh-day Adventist was never as well thought of as it is right today. The name of Wildwood was never so well thought of as it is right today. And neither one of those are going to last.

But our peril denominationally and institutionally and individually is not the greatest in the days of persecution filled with trouble. What does Deuteronomy 6 say? Be careful when you get everything filled up, your shelves, your cellars, your pantries, you have everything, be careful then lest you what? Forget what God said, and the way He has led you.

Different people have different ways of studying. I hope each of you has an individual notebook. For years when I was a teenager I had a little notebook about so big. I still have that notebook up at my house. It's a notebook I started when I was 16. I copied out hundreds of quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy and imprinted them. They were a blessing to me then. They still are. Now and then I think of some reference I want to look up, and I think, "That's under such and such a subject in my old, old notebook." So I go and look it up.

Then I got a bigger one, and I have had others since. If you do not have a notebook I suggest you get one, and start making a list of references—Your list, not somebody else's.

Years ago a friend said to me, "Well, you know, Brother Frazee, I wish that somebody would just go through the Testimonies and just make a compilation of all the gems and get them in one book so we could have them." But the greatest list you'll ever find is the list you make yourself. It's in the very act of searching for, finding, and filing those gems that your mind develops and that the principles get from the pages of the book into your life. Then you have something to share with your students, not merely notebook material but life experience.

Now, from time to time those students are going to raise questions. They do raise questions. "Why do we do this? Why don't we do that?" And this is good. If you read the first five books of the Bible you see how again and again the Lord purposely arranged that people would ask questions. In some cases He put up memorials so that the children as they grew up would say, "What does this pillar mean here?" And that would give the parents a chance to tell the story of the Passover or the passing over Jordan or whatever. So God intends that as students come on these grounds they will ask, "What about this? What about that?"

Let me suggest a few questions: "You seem to have a lot of fruit here." I hope your students notice that. "Is there any reason for that?" Well, let's see if we can find a reason. There's this book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*. It's not a club. This is a marvelous, marvelous compilation of precious counsels from the Lord. I'm so thankful that when Adam lost his Eden home the Lord did not cut off the supply of fruit.

"A plain, simple, but liberal supply of fruit is the best food that can be placed before those who are preparing for the work of God" *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 310.

"Fruit we would especially recommend as a health giving agency. It would be well for us to do less cooking and to eat more fruit in its natural state. Let us teach the people to eat freely of the fresh grapes, apples, peaches, pears, berries, and all other kinds of fruit that can be obtained. Let these be prepared for winter use by canning, using glass as far as possible instead of tin" *Ibid.*, page 309.

You notice the details here? Even certain kinds of fruit mentioned, of course, there by way of illustration. You notice the emphasis on what kind of fruit that is in what state? Fresh fruit.

"It would be well for us to do less cooking and to eat more fruit in its natural state" *Ibid.*

Now, if I were a raw food faddist, I would grab that like a drowning man for a straw. Say, "Sure, that is it. Ellen White recommended raw foods." Of course, the rest of the paragraph says:

"Let these be prepared for winter use by canning, using

glass as far as possible instead of tin” Ibid.

I presume they cooked it before they put the lids on. So fruit, and especially fresh fruit, is recommended again and again in the writings. And what is it for? To make us miserable? No.—To make us happy.

You know I thought about that expression in Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6 and Ministry of Healing where the prophet recommends a special treat on the Sabbath. You know what thousands of Seventh-day Adventists interpret that to mean? Pie and cake and ice cream on it. Of course, some of them are hard put to have that special because they’ve gotten it Sunday and Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday besides. So they really have to put it on.

Now let me ask you something. I just want to reason with you. If I’m a child in a home and have plain food through the week, and on Sabbath I have ice cream and cake with pie ala mode, what do I think that the special Sabbath treat is? The dessert, the rich dessert. And somewhere along the line I’m going to reason that if my folks only weren’t in self-supporting work, if they were out getting a good wage, we could have it every day.

I suggest to you to study how to make a special Sabbath treat something which is a beautiful example of health reform—A special fruit salad perhaps, or special fruit, period. Maybe you can’t afford grapes every day of the week. Most people can’t. But they can be a special Sabbath treat, can’t they? Maybe there’s some other kind of fruit which price forbids having freely Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, but it can be a special Sabbath treat.

Now, I’m introducing these different things this afternoon not particularly to cover those points, although I’m glad to cover them. I’m introducing them as little object lessons of what Deuteronomy is talking about. We are to study the Lord’s instructions and have these things in our minds so that we can teach them, not merely by word of mouth, but by example, by illustration all the time. But we’re to know why we do it. When your son asks you what the Lord says, do you know what you are to say? Oh listen:

“And when thy son asks thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you? Then thou shall say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh’s bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day” Deuteronomy 6:20-24.

God intended that the parents should be so filled with the desirability of following this way that when their sons ask them, "What do these testimonies mean anyway? The parents wouldn't have to say, "Well, it's too bad. But then we have to do it. They might put us out of the church or out of the institution if we are different. They might not think well of us."

No, no, it is all for our good. It makes us happy. So instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we feel sorry for the people who feel sorry for us. That's it.

Well, this is all the time I'm going to take today. I want to go further with this Wednesday in our last class.

Oh, I want you, dear people; I want you to be boiled in the principles of these books. I want you to have them so in your mind that you can go readily to the pages to get the answers. And if you don't know, keep asking somebody or keep looking in the index until you find the answer. If it's important, you'll find the answer. If God has never said anything about it, well that's something else. But there are literally thousands of questions concerning daily life that are answered in these books.

And if God has seen fit to speak, who am I to mouth my opinion when God has said something? Oh, I had better put my hand upon my mouth. I had better listen to what God says.

But remember, as I said, there's something worse than not reading and studying and teaching these books. It's doing it in a way that uses these things as clubs to club people into conformity. But you won't do that. Thank the Lord, you're meek and loving. And you love the Lord and you love these students. So just be sure that instead of echoing your opinion, you're echoing the words of the living God.

Just this word before I sit down. This doesn't mean that we always quote these things. There is a physiological reason why fruit is a good thing. There's nothing wrong in telling that. That's just as much a part of the law of God as the Ten Commandments, the laws of nature are.

When somebody asks you why you do not eat between meals, the answer to some people would be to read them Ministry of Healing or Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2. That would turn some people off, to use the common expression. The real reason that we do not eat between meals is that the body was not made to run the stomach all hours of the day and night. Order is heaven's first law. There's a time to work and a time to rest; a time for the stomach to work, a time for the stomach to rest. But we should have a reason from inspiration and from physiology, from revelation and from sight.

God bless you all as you continue to study and to teach.

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