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Closing the Sanctuary

#0995

Study Given by W.D. Frazee—June 9, 1968

I am very anxious that what we get here this week shall be merely an introduction, something preparatory. It is like eating. There is no way to eat enough in a week to last us a year. And I would like to recommend something that if you will follow it you can have a richer blessing next week than you did this week. And a still better one the week following.

The Lord has blessed this people with wonderful light on the sanctuary through the Spirit of Prophecy. Take this book *Great Controversy*. It is written to expose the snares of Satan, but with it, to reveal the plans of Jesus to perfect His people for His coming. I was so glad to see so many copies of this *Great Controversy* being bought the other evening. Did you get one? If you didn't, go to the book and Bible house today and get a copy of *Great Controversy*.

Now there are three chapters in this book, which, if you will study them, once, twice, ten times, twenty times, fifty times, a hundred times, these sanctuary truths will be riveted in your heart. Those three chapters are, *What is the Sanctuary?*, *In the Holy of Holies*, and *The Investigative Judgment*. I recommend that you study these on your knees. Don't try to race through them. Take plenty of time. If you take a week on that first chapter *What is the Sanctuary?* That will be alright.

But what God wants Seventh-day Adventists to know about the sanctuary is in those three chapters, my friends, *What is the Sanctuary?*, *In the Holy of Holies*, and the *Investigative Judgment*. And then if some theory comes along, some human speculation outside of those chapters you don't need to worry about it. Fill your mind with what the Testimony of Jesus says about the sanctuary.

There is another book I would like to recommend, *Early Writings*. And again there are three chapters that I would like to especially call attention to, *The Sanctuary*, *The Third Angel's Message*, *A Firm Platform*. If you will take those three chapters on your knees, your mind and heart will be filled to overflowing with the glorious truths of the sanctuary as they come fresh from the most holy place.

Well, friends, we are a favored people, aren't we? Amen. Now this morning in this last study on this series on the sanctuary, I would like to begin with Hebrews the

tenth chapter, the nineteenth verse. This I believe is the great mountain peak of the book of Hebrews.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” Hebrews 10:19-22.

Notice He wants us to go in. He wants us to come in with Him into the most holy place. Now this is very interesting. You remember in the ancient service only the priest could go in the holy place, only the high priest could go in the most holy. But through the sacrifice of Jesus and His work in the heavenly sanctuary, you and I are invited to enter in with Him.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” 10:19-22.

Let's go in, friends, what do you say? As He says, Let us draw near. Oh, with such an invitation why should we be diverted by anything in this world? What can some TV program offer to compare with this, my friends? What do the newspapers or the radio have to tell us? I know we want to keep in touch with the news as we see the fulfilling prophecy. That is good, up to a point. But may I tell you something, friends? Most of what is on the TV and the other media can be comprehended in three simple words. The first is trouble. Is there trouble around us? Listen, Jesus said that in these last days men's hearts would be what? Failing them for fear. And for what? For looking after those things which are coming on the earth. Was there ever a generation where it was possible to look at so much trouble by so many people? As the result literal heart failure is epidemic now. That is one of the reasons people's minds are filled with trouble. And if we look very much where they look we will be filled with their fears, their unrest, their uncertainty. Jesus says when these things begin to come to pass then do what? Look up. What do you see? The open door of the most holy place. You look into the ark and see the law, God's covenant there enshrined beneath the cherubim. You will see the sprinkled blood that offers hope and comfort. Oh, friends, let's not be diverted. What do you say?

Alright. That is one T. Trouble. Another T that is in the TV and in the radio and the newspapers is trash. There is plenty of that. Isn't there? The filthy trash. The fiction and novel and drama trash. The comedy. And all the rest of the trash. We can afford to miss that and get some manna from the ark. What do you say?

And then the last T in TV is trivia. Trouble, trash, and trivia. Trivia, just things that we won't say are bad, but they are not important enough for your ears and your

eyes. Those ears have been touched by the blood. Those eyes have been anointed with the eye salve. Oh, let us pray the prayer of David:

“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way” Psalms 119:37.

By the way, friends, will you think of that as your TV text? If you will use that text, just put it up by your TV, you will tune in only to that which isn't vanity. You will tune it, and thank God you can tune out. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity, but:

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” Psalm 119:18.

Every day with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy we can have a telecast from the most holy place. Let's tune in. What do you say?

Now if we will follow this program, friends, Jesus guarantees to get us ready. I trust that this morning we shall enter fully into this experience of Hebrews 10:22.

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” Hebrews 10:22.

That means the full assurance that comes from faith, through faith, by means of faith. The reason that Jesus has made this all visual, put it out before us in three dimension in the ancient sanctuary is so that by studying these details heaven may become very real to us and our faith may grasp the reality of the closing work of the atonement that is going on there. And this is to bring us, you will notice, to full assurance. Assurance is good. This is full assurance. Thank God, and watch the point, we do not need to go along jittery, uncertain, with our heads bowed down watching and thinking, “Oh, I wonder if I will make it?” Why, no, friends, it is written:

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6.

The margin says He will finish it. Put that text down in your notes. Cling to it, my friends. Who began the work? Jesus did. He dies for us down here in this court of the world. He has carried on the work all these two thousand years first in the holy place, and now in the most holy place. What is it all for? For us. And He guarantees to get you through. There is no question about it.

Oh, you say, “How do you know?” Well, I want to give you two texts this morning that thrill my soul and give me confidence. The first is Daniel 8:14 and the next is Leviticus 16:30. My, it must have been wonderful to hear dear old Father William Miller back there in 1844 as again and again he would read this text.

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

Now why does this text give me courage? Because, my dear friend, the cleansing of the sanctuary is the closing work of the service. And it indicates and involves a completed job. A finished work. Now you will see that as we look at the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus and the thirtieth verse. This is the typical service. And you will remember we have seen, Paul makes it very plain in Hebrews, that the priest back there served unto the example and shadow of heavenly things. And so as Great Controversy says what is done in type in the ancient sanctuary is done in reality in the heavenly sanctuary.

“For on that day...”

(the Day of Atonement, the day of the cleansing of the sanctuary)

“...shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD” Leviticus 16:30.

Will it get done? Why yes. Back there in the ancient service when the work in the most holy place was over and the sun set, God had a clean sanctuary, a clean congregation, a clean people. Everything was clean. That is what this says. Now the pitiful thing is that the next morning they opened up shop and started all over again. Why? Paul tells us very plainly in Hebrews 10 why.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” Hebrews 10:4.

The next day they brought their offerings again, and the next week, and the next week. I wonder, friends, if we know anything about that. I wonder if any of us have come to camp meeting year after year and gotten a wonderful experience and then have gone home and gone into the same program of sinning and failing and falling? Do any of us know anything about that? Is that going to go on forever? Let me read you something from *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pages 343 and 344. When I read this it gave me a view of things, friends, that made me want to quit breaking Jesus' heart. Listen.

“As you come with humble heart, you find pardon, for Christ Jesus is represented as continually standing at the altar, momentarily offering up the sacrifice for the sins of the world” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pages 343-344.

Where is He? How is He represented? He is standing there in the sanctuary

momentarily offering up the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Now watch. Listen.

“The typical shadows of the Jewish tabernacle no longer possess any virtue. A daily and yearly typical atonement is no longer to be made, but the atoning sacrifice through a mediator is essential because of the constant commission of sin” *Ibid*.

Why does He have to keep standing there holding up His wounded hands? Because of the constant commission of sins. Does it hurt Him any? Oh yes, friends.

“By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh” *Desire of Ages*, page 300.

Paul puts it this way in Hebrews 6:6 about people that keep on sinning when they know better.

“They crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh” Hebrews 6:6.

I was holding a week of prayer in one of our academies and two girls came to me one morning. They said, “Brother Frazee, we would like to talk with you. See if you can help us with something. We seem to fail again and again and again. We decide that we are going to do better and then we fall again.”

I asked the Lord to help me help them. And I said this. I said, “Suppose the next time you are tempted to do this thing that is so hard for you to resist the temptation, suppose someone should step up to you and say, ‘Very well, you may do that. But first you must drive a nail in your mother’s hand.’ Would you do it?”

“Oh no,” they said.

Well I said, “Would it be easy or hard to keep from doing it? Would it be hard to keep from doing it?”

“No.”

That is the key, dear friends, the reason we sin is that we do not sense that by every sin Jesus is wounded afresh. DO you see? Therefore do you see this next point that if the sanctuary is going to close and Jesus no longer stands there to minister His blood, something must happen to dry up that stream of sin that has been flowing into the sanctuary lo these centuries and millenniums.

This is a tremendous fact. This is the great focal point of the third angel’s message. And only Seventh-day Adventists understand this as it has been presented in the Bible. You and I believe that some little time before the coming of Jesus this sanctuary is going to close and Jesus is going to step forth and say:

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” Revelation 22:11-12.

But listen, friends, before He comes, comes this announcement. Before the twelfth verse “Behold, I come quickly” is that eleventh verse “He that is ...” let him be through all eternity. The sanctuary is going to close some time before Jesus comes. And down here in this world the people of God are going to demonstrate that by His grace His law can be kept. Do you believe that? Oh, won’t that be wonderful, friends? My soul leaps forward to the hour when before this universe Jesus will be vindicated.

You see, now, Satan and his angels reproach Jesus. They make fun of the Gospel. They say, “Oh, you talk about what can be done in saving people but so far about all you get is people crying after they fall and then going home and falling all over again.” That is what the Devil tells Jesus and the angels. But, oh, there is coming a day when as the sanctuary is closed Jesus is going to point to His people down here in this world and say, “Here they are.”

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

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it, friends? Wouldn’t you try to keep people from entering into the experience that will get them to that place? Ah, this is so important.

I was talking yesterday about the sanctuary being God’s laundry. This helps me to understand it. The first job is to get the sins in, the second is to get them out. The first job is to get them covered; the second is to get them blotted out. But let me ask you something. Suppose that next Monday morning when you take your soiled clothes to the laundry you see a big sign “This laundry will soon close forever.” And suppose, for we are just supposing, suppose it were the only laundry in this state, the only laundry there in the world. You have been bringing your clothes there for years. Every week, maybe more than once a week, you bring the dirty clothes to be washed.

What do you suppose people would say? “Oh, my, the laundry is going to close? What are we going to do?” Would that be a good question? A very practical one. And suppose that were the only way and the only place to get clothes washed. Is this the only place to get the robes of character washed, friends? There is no other. Is it really going to close? Is the sign up? Does it say “This laundry is soon to close forever.”? And the place where people have been washing their robes for centuries and millenniums is no longer going to operate?

Now tell me, friends, and you will have to think one of two ways on this. You will either have to think that there is a date established and somehow arbitrarily God is just going to say, "Well, I have waited long enough. We are going to close the door now and if anybody is even five minutes late it is just too bad." You either have to look at it that way or else you have to look at it this way. Something is going to take place in the experience of God's people so that they no longer have to be sending sins in there all the time.

Friends, it is the later. Jesus is not going to close the sanctuary as long as one contrite sinner is on his way into the court bringing his offering. Never think He will. The reason I know that is because if that was the way His mind worked He would have closed it long ago. He is waiting for you and me.

But now back to our sign on the laundry—"This laundry will soon close forever." What are we going to do? I see another sign there on that laundry. "Classes are now being held daily on how to keep your clothes clean so you won't need a laundry." Would you attend? You would if you believed the laundry was really going to close, wouldn't you? Unless you were content to wear dirty clothes all your life. There are people like that. And concerning them, it will be soon be said, "He that is filthy, let him be filthy still."

In other words, friends, when the laundry closes, the heavenly laundry, either the clothes will be all in and washed and people know how to keep clean, or else they will be filthy and stay filthy forever. Oh, what a solemn moment!

I want to read you something interesting from James White. After quoting this Revelation 22:11-12:

“What a thought! Probation closed. The priestly work of Christ forever ended. The mass of the people think that if a person is prepared to die, he is prepared for the coming of the Lord. But they do not consider the difference between dying and standing alive to meet the Lord at His appearing. It is quite a different thing to stand in the time of trouble after Jesus has ceased to plead in man’s behalf, after His priesthood is closed. Those who now realize these things will bless heaven that means has been devised in the mercy of God for the perfecting of the saints”

What do you say? Oh, thank God, friends! God is getting people down here today ready not just to die and be saved like the thief on the cross was. His sins were covered. He will be there. But, oh, God is getting a whole generation of people ready to stand on this earth and demonstrate that by His grace they can keep His law without having to send sins into the sanctuary every day. Shall we join in that blessed work?

Now lest I be misunderstood, and in order that we may be saved from some of the offshoot teachings that are around today, I want to make a certain point crystal clear, friends, that is this. What Jesus is doing for this generation He has wanted to do all down through the history of the world and the plan of salvation has been abundantly able to do it. Let me make that crystal clear. What I am studying with you this morning from the most holy place is not some new strange mysterious experience which suddenly descends upon the remnant and lifts them to an experience which nobody else ever had and nobody else ever could have. Not so, brethren! This is something which God has offered to human beings ever since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden.

Now I want to prove that for this is a very important point. If you get hold of this, it will save you from what the offshoot teaches. I make that very clear. This is the servant of God, Sister White, writing in the *Review and Herald* of March 3, 1874. And of course like every other vital truth in the Spirit of Prophecy it is in principle in the Bible. But this makes it so simple that nobody can sidestep it. Listen carefully.

“Some few in every generation from Adam resisted his every artifice and stood forth as noble representatives of what it was in the power of man to do and to be—Christ working with human efforts, helping man in overcoming the power of Satan. Enoch and Elijah are the correct representatives of what the race might be through faith in Jesus Christ if they chose to be. Satan was greatly disturbed because these noble, holy men stood untainted amid the moral pollution surrounding them, perfected righteous characters...” *Review and Herald*, March 3, 1874.

Were they perfected? That is what this says. Ah, but somebody says, "How could they be before Jesus does the final work in the most holy place?" Tell me, friends, all those people that lived back there in the Old Testament times, wasn't it before Jesus even died? Wasn't it before He went in the holy place? Well if they could have their sins forgiven before He sprinkled the blood in the holy place, couldn't they be perfected before He sprinkled the blood in the most holy place?

Do you see how simple that is? The whole thing in the Old Testament times was one of anticipation through faith. By faith they looked forward to a Lamb who would die for them, to a Priest who would forgive their sins, and to a Priest who would finally blot them out. And that is the simple work of the Gospel, friends. And notice it says that Enoch and Elijah weren't exceptional. They were samples of what God wanted to do with the whole race if they just let Him.

And so today I do not point you forward to some mysterious experience that someday is to descend upon you and freeze you in a certain attitude. Oh no. Rather I ask you in the words of inspiration to come to the sanctuary and let Jesus do a work for you today. Today. Today. Today.

And what is that work? I mentioned that sign on the laundry—"Classes are now being held daily in how to keep your clothes clean so you won't need a laundry." Are you attending the classes? Did you know they were being held? It is a wonderful thing to have the Priest who gave His life for us and who is holding up His wounded hands there this morning, it is a wonderful thing to have that great High Priest have a personal appointment with each of us every day. The class room is the most holy place. You and I can get there by heaven's television, closed circuit.

There is a personal appointment with each of us. And by studying the books of Daniel and Revelation, Leviticus and Hebrews through the magnifying class of *Great Controversy* and *Early Writings*, we can see what is going on there. We can behold the judgment scene. We can watch as our High priest steps forth there and takes our name upon His lips. We can behold that law, the transcript of His character, the standard of judgment, and beholding we shall be changed.

We can behold the precious blood sprinkled for us on the mercy seat and as we realize that it tells of His great love for us, it will melt and break our hearts. But all this takes time. I wonder how we are going to get time. Don't you wish there were some way to get more hours in a day? Why should we wish it? The One who is standing in the sanctuary is the One who made the day and He put twenty-four hours in. And listen, once, just once He put nearly twice as many hours in a day. Do you remember when Joshua was fighting? Do you know why He did that? I think He did it to show us that He could do it every day if it were necessary. And He did it only once to show us that it isn't necessary. We have got enough time. The question is how we use it.

And now may I point you to something interesting in that sixteenth of Leviticus?

You can read it for yourself. It is in Leviticus 23 too. Let me show you how God arranged for people to have time on the Day of Atonement to gather at the sanctuary and unite with the Priest in this work. He said, "On that day, do no work at all. Afflict your souls." The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that that affliction of soul included repentance, heart searching, sorrow, and fasting. No eating on that day.

On other days a man might be busy with his farming. But not that day, he came to the sanctuary. On other days a man might be busy with his shop, but not that day, everything closed up. Everything was closed. No school that day. No business. No eating. NO housework. Nothing. Just come to the sanctuary.

I wonder what that means for us. Somebody says, "Well, I know that doesn't mean us because we couldn't live without eating all the time since 1844 and we couldn't live without working." Don't be so hasty to dismiss it all, my dear friends. If it means anything, and it does, it means everything. This is what it means, friends. It means that all the work we do today should be in the framework of the Day of Atonement. There are lines of work which can help us get ready to meet our Lord. There are other lines of work which will lead us away.

My brother, are you sure that you are in the line of work that will get you ready for heaven fast? In the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy God has given us some suggestions. And the only things that are going to keep people out of heaven aren't just gambling and bootlegging, my friends. There are lines of business that may be alright for the man out here in the world that don't belong to those on whose ear, and hands, and feet the blood has been sprinkled. Go to God in prayer and find out. If you do this, there might be colporteurs enlisted. That is not the only thing God is calling men to.

But oh, friends, my point is this—be sure that the line of work you are in is something that will help you get ready for heaven. Jesus was a carpenter, but He didn't belong to the union. Jesus was faithful in the home duties, but He never allowed them to divert Him from the spiritual experience. He carried religion into the daily life. We must learn to do this.

And then this matter of fasting on the Day of Atonement, may I read you something interesting? This is from the book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 188. Oh, here is something wonderful all in one sentence.

"The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance" *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 188.

What is the true fast for this antitypical Day of Atonement? Not going completely without food, but eating in the framework of the Day of Judgment. Eating for strength and not for drunkenness. Eating for clear brains. That is why we don't use liquor. That

is why we don't use tobacco. That is why we don't use tea, and coffee, and the cola drinks. That is why God has given us a special menu of foods to eat and not to eat.

This is the Day of Atonement. The Day of Judgment. Our High Priest has gone in. We are on a fast. Not complete abstinence from food, but a particular program of diet to fit us to pass the investigative judgment. Shall we find out what the menu is and follow it, friends?

Oh, you see, this isn't righteousness by works. This isn't eating our way into heaven. Oh no, it is to help us to keep from making the mistakes that Adam and Eve made. They ate their way out of paradise. God help us to accept the true fast for the Day of Atonement.

But now watch. As we come to the sanctuary, as we make this first, day by day what are we going to see? We are going to behold that law the wise man of the Psalms wrote about in Psalm 1:1-2. We are going to meditate in the law of God how often? Day and night. Let's commit these Ten Commandments to memory and then go over them and over them and over them.

Sometimes at night when I can't sleep, I like to go over these Ten Commandments and ask Jesus to write them in my heart. And never think of them as something hard or difficult. He says:

"My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light" Matthew 11:30.

Do you see anything hard about those commandments? It is true. They are difficult, impossible, for the unconverted heart. But, oh, God has promised through the sprinkling of the blood to work the miracle in our life. And as we share in this work of the sanctuary with Jesus, the sprinkled blood will speak to our hearts here as it speaks for us there. As we see the cost of sin as day by day we gather and see the price paid for our redemption, we shall learn to love and hate what He hates.

May I give you this closing thought to carry with you? It is a wonderful thing to love somebody so much that all you want is to know what they want. Some of us have learned a bit about that in marriage. If you will pardon me I will tell you that thirty-five years ago this morning a dear girl and I stood at the altar and God in heaven united us. It has been a wonderful thirty-five years. But friends, it seems to me I love her a hundred times more this morning than I did then. And God is teaching me a little bit about what this means to love somebody so much that all you want is to know what they want. And I don't think that is hard. I think it is wonderful.

I said that to say this. Jesus wants to be married to you and you to Him. He wants this union, this atonement to be one of love. If we will gather at the sanctuary every day and spend time visiting with Him, He will write this law in our hearts, sprinkle the blood, and unite us with Him in a union that will never be dissolved.

How many of us would like to send Him the word this morning that we are heart to heart with Him to get this thing finished? Will you stand?

We thank Thee, dear Savior, for sprinkling the blood for us. We hear its message of love, of pardon, and cleansing. We hear this morning in Thy presence. We pledge to meet Thee every day at the mercy seat. We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

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W.D. Frazee Sermons
PO Box 102, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org