

Christ's Way in The Sanctuary 2 of 4

#0986

Study given by W.D. Frazee—March 23, 1968

It's always a joy to see so many interested in becoming better acquainted with our dear Savior. You'll remember we started last night in this new series on the sanctuary with two great texts. Psalm 77:13:

"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary" Psalm 77:13.

And then John 14:6, Jesus says:

"I am the way..." John 14:6.

Who is the way? [Audience response: Jesus.] And where is God's way revealed? In the sanctuary. Is Jesus in the sanctuary? Oh yes. Without Him all the rest would be just boards and furniture, wouldn't it? Yes. He's the life and the light of the sanctuary. And so we're becoming better acquainted with Jesus, the way of salvation.

Now, last night we noted our Savior's work in five aspects. And Becky has very kindly places on the blackboard for me these illustrations which will help us to visualize these five aspects of our Savior's work.

In the first place we see Him as Creator. He made this world, is that right?

"...By Him were all things created in heaven and in earth...
Colossians 1:16.

He—is—the—Creator.

Next we view Him as the revealer of the Father's character, the spokesman for God, the Word. He is the one through whom truth is revealed. That truth is summarized in the Ten Commandments. Who was it that spoke the Ten Commandments? Jesus. Who was it that wrote them on the stone? Jesus. Who was it that spoke through all the prophets, from Enoch right on down to John the Baptist and then in the New Testament? Who spoke through the prophets? The spirit of Christ was speaking in *everyone* that exercised the prophetic gift. Through Christ has come every ray of light that has ever reached this planet.

And when after 4,000 years of revealing truth through the law and the prophets, Jesus came in the flesh. It was for the purpose of revealing the Father,

revealing His way, His will, His light, His truth.

“...the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us”
John 1:14.

So we see that He is not only the Creator, but the revealer. Not only the one who *acts* for the Father, but *speaks* for the Father. Then we see Him at the close of His life of revealing God’s way here in this world, we see Him uplifted on the cross.

There He is revealed as the *sacrifice* for sin. For His life, giving us an example, could never in itself save us; it took His death upon the cross to provide the atonement for our transgression. And this was prefigured, you’ll remember, in the sanctuary service in the wilderness by the offering of the bullock, the goat, the lamb, in the court of the sanctuary. There, day by day, the sprinkled blood spoke of the coming of One upon whom would be laid the iniquities of us all.

Yes, the cross speaks of God’s great interest in man; His love for man, in that He Himself in the person of His Son will die for us.

Then we see our Savior, having given His life upon the cross, ascending to the heavenly sanctuary, there to minister for us, first in the Holy Place and then in the Most Holy Place. This ministry, too, was prefigured in the ancient sanctuary. For you’ll remember that day by day the priest ministered in the first apartment, and then at the close of the sacred cycle, he passed within the inner veil, the high priest, and there sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat in full and final atonement for the sins of Israel.

And so, Jesus, our high Priest, having died for us upon the cross, rose and ascended to heaven, and the book of Hebrews and the book of Revelation beautifully and graphically present His priestly ministry, His mediatorial work within the veil.

And finally, we see Him as coming King with the crown upon His head. John sees Him there in Revelation 14:14 seated upon the great white cloud, upon His head the golden crown and in His hand the sharp sickle. He is coming, dear ones, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And so tonight, as we begin our study, let us keep these five aspects of His work in mind. He is the Creator; He is the Word; He is the Lamb; He is the Priest; He is the King.

Now, our text this evening is Hebrews 13:8. One of those big little verses in the Bible: just a few words, but oh so much. Will you read this text with me?

“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever”
Hebrews 13:8.

And oh I trust that this evening as the Holy Spirit ministers the word to our hearts, we shall see the import of this wonderful text as never before. Jesus Christ,

the same yesterday and today and forever.

Then we must not think of Jesus as human beings are, turning from one *thing* to another, one *mission* to another, one *vocation* to another. Taking up one thing and laying down another. I say we must not think of Jesus in that way—for He is the same, yesterday, and today, and forever. He *was* the Creator, He *is* the Creator. He *was* the Word, He *is* the Word. He *was* the Lamb, He *is* the Lamb. He *was* the Mediator, He *is* the Mediator. He *was* the King, He *is* the King and He will be through all eternity.

Now let's study it for a little. You know, if I had a globe here, you can picture the earth yonder revolving, as it's doing all the while. Suppose we were out in space like one of these astronauts, and suppose it were possible for us to be far enough away and in some way to just, as it were, stand there in space, and we see the earth revolving, revolving, revolving. We see the different continents come and go. And at the moment, we see the sunlight flashed upon North America and we say, "I know what the earth is like; see that large body there and see how it narrows to a tiny isthmus and then spreads out again. *That's* what the earth is like." But now wait a few hours and what do I see? Awe. I see a *broad* expanse of ocean. Wait a bit more and I see other land masses. Which one is the earth? Which picture properly presents what the earth is? Why my dear friend, you will answer me and rightly, "It takes all of them." And the earth is just as much Asia and Asia is just as much the earth when it's on the side of the globe that I'm not looking at, as when it's in full view. Is that correct? And so, let us use that illustration as we view the life and mission and work of our Lord.

He did not at one time exercise His work as Creator and then lay that aside and take up some other work. Oh, no. Each one of these phases of His work is *always* upon His heart, *always* in His mind.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" Hebrews 13:8.

Now, let's take this matter of Creator. We're familiar with the texts that show that Jesus made the world. But ah, in Hebrews 1:1-3 where in the second verse it tells us that it was through Christ the Son that the worlds were made. In the third verse we read that He is upholding all things by the word of His power. In other words friends, the power of the Creator is necessary not merely to start things going but to keep them going. Only the Creator can impart life, only the Creator can maintain life. And so, today, as in the original creation, we owe our life, moment by moment to *Jesus*. And so it is written:

"...He gives to all life and breath and all things...in Him we live and move and have our being" Acts 17:25-28.

Let us visualize it this way: There lies Adam in the Garden of Eden. Whose hand was it that formed him from the earth? Jesus. Who breathed into his nostrils the breath of life? Jesus. Was he dependent upon Jesus to put that breath into his nostrils? Ah,

friends, as I was mediating upon it, today I thought, isn't it wonderful that that same dear Savior is breathing into my nostrils moment by moment? And He *is*. In Him we live and move and have our being. He giveth to all life and breath and all things.

We must not conceive that the universe, simply formed and set in motion and left to run itself. Jesus the Creator, by *Him* all things consist or hold together (Colossians 1:16-17). He *was* the Creator, He *is* the Creator. And as it took creative power to make us in the beginning, it takes the power of the Life giver to maintain us. And it is that power, my friends, that is to be exercised at His second coming in bringing the *dead* from the grave. That takes creative power, doesn't it? Yes. And so He said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." He was revealing Himself to her as the Creator, the life giver. Having light in *Himself* un-borrowed, un-derived; yes, Jesus was the Creator, He is the Creator, He always will be. In him is the fountain of life.

Then as He has always been and always will be the source of life, so He always has been and always will be the source of light and truth. From eternity He has been the exponent of God's will. The One through whom the Father has revealed His will to the universe, and thus it will ever be. And so we read that matchless statement in John 1:1-3.

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with
God and the word was God" John 1:1-3.

And what is involved in that name "the Word." Oh, as the Lord's messenger puts it so beautifully in *Desire of Ages* page 19.

Jesus the Word:

"...God's thought made audible" *Desire of Ages, pages 19.*

Isn't that beautiful? "God's thought made audible." God's thinking put in a way that you and I can grasp what He wants us to know. And remember, this was not something that He took up at one time and then lay down. From eternal ages and all through eternity of the future, He was, He is, He will be the divine teacher, the divine revealer of the divine will. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.

And you know that's why that you and I rejoice in being a part of the movement that still has the same testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy, through which Jesus spoke to His people in ancient times. *He* hasn't changed; the same Lord who desired to communicate with His people in the days of Enoch and Abraham and Samuel and Daniel. And in the days of Peter and Paul and John, that same Savior, while He's ministering there for us in the sanctuary above, has desired to communicate with His people in this last hour, and so He has sent His angel to testify unto us the wonderful things found in these wonderful volumes. It's all a part of this picture that He is the same, yesterday and today and forever.

Now, what about His work as the Lamb? Ah, did that begin on Calvary? Did that begin with His incarnation? Oh no, for turning to the last book of the Bible, I read of something that took place before the dawn of time. Revelation 13:8.

Of Jesus it is written, He is:

“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” Revelation 13:8.

Watch the point then. The pain that you and I catch some idea of as He hangs there upon the cross, did not begin when the nails pierced His hands. Oh, no. When sin began, the pain began. And ah, shall we try with these little minds of ours to think back even farther than that, from all eternity, the Father and the Son looking down the ages saw that cross. And there never was a time in all the eternity of the past but what the covenant of grace was there. There never was a time when Christ was not in his deepest soul set to the task of redeeming man, if and when it should become necessary.

Ah, friends, the plan of salvation was not an afterthought. Not something that was entered into after sin began. This is the mystery which has been kept in silence through times eternal. And so as we look upon the Lamb of God suffering there upon the cross, let us remember that that the act of love which we can see, which we can *grasp* to some extent, is an expression of the sacrifice which has been in the heart of God from eternity that he might save everyone that would let Him do this wonderful work of salvation. For it is written,

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever”
Hebrew 13:8.

But now let's go further. For when He died upon the cross and was laid in the tomb and then rose from the dead and went back to heaven, what do we see my friends? Ah, we see Him interceding there in the sanctuary presenting that blood which was offered on Calvary, presenting that life which was sacrificed upon the cross, and then on into the future, on into the eternal days of the earth made new.

Watch: turn to Habakkuk 3 and let us see, oh let us see, my dear friends, the Lamb of God in the eternity of the future. This is wonderful. Habakkuk 3:4

“And His brightness was as the light, He had horns coming out of His hand” Habakkuk 3:4.

There was the hiding of his power. Horns, you know, are symbols of power. Now the margin gives us the thought a bit clearer: “He had bright beams coming out of His side and there was the hiding of His power.” Do you get the picture? In glory the prophet sees Him, and where is the hiding of His power? Bright beams from His hands and side, the wounded hands, the pierced side. Listen as I read it here from *Great*

Controversy, page 674. This is on into the eternal ages of the future.

“One reminder alone remains, one reminder of sin. Our redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side His hands and feet are the only traces of the cruel work which sin has wrought. Says the prophet beholding Christ in His glory: ‘He had bright beams coming out of his side: and there was the hiding of his power’. That pierced side which flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God, there is the Savior’s glory, there the hiding of His power. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor. Through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power” *Great Controversy*, page 674.

Oh, my friends, think of it. Shall I put it this way? He is the eternal Lamb, the eternal Lamb: *always* in the past, *always* in the present, *always* in the future, *dedicated* for us. He dies for us.

Now let me give you another picture of this. This I think is one of the most sublime statements in all the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. The book *Education*, page 263:

“Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ’s agony but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that from its very inception sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal brings grief to Him” *Education*, page 263.

You see, love is like that friends. Love has to suffer, when the one it loves is suffering from sickness or pain or sorrow or sin. Oh, I’m so glad that it was that kind of love that lead Jesus here, aren’t you? And do you know that this is what keeps the angels; the angels too are looking at the cross. That’s why Jesus said in John 12:32:

“And I if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all unto Me”
John 12:32.

It was the Father’s purpose that Christ, having made peace by the blood of His cross, by him should reconcile all things unto Himself. Note this wonderful comment from the Spirit of Prophecy in Book 5 of the *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, page 1132:

“Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ. The angels ascribe

honor and glory to Christ for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God" *5BC, page 1132.*

That's true now my friends, that will be true a million years from now. Oh it seems to me that I can see the host of the redeemed and the representatives from the other worlds and the angels as they stream in to fill the places of that vast throng, that great congregation on the Sabbath day; as from one Sabbath to another all flesh comes to worship before Him. And it seems to me, friends, that I can see us as we come there and we meet Jesus again, as we've met Him a million times before.

But oh, as we see that dear face and as we see upon His head, His hands, His feet, His side, the marks that tell of Calvary, how our crowns will come from our heads and be cast at His feet. How our love will go out to the One who gave everything, risked everything for eternity that we might be redeemed. Ah friends, He *always* has loved us just so. He *always* will love us that way. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.

And when He gave the Israelites that sanctuary service which was the Gospel in symbol, He tried to teach them this. Read it there in Exodus 29. He said, Moses, tell them, "Every morning, put a lamb upon the altar. And in the evening put another lamb. The next morning put another lamb on the altar. And the next evening put another lamb on the altar." This, He said, "Shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations." And every morning as that lamb was put on that altar, those who understood, those who listened to the voice of the spirit, got a glimpse of the great sacrifice and great love that prompted the sacrifice. And by faith they looked forward to the coming Lamb of God who would die upon the cross. They looked forward, we look back, but all alike must look forever at that cross where the dearest and best gave His life for us. And remember, all that He was to us upon the cross He is today. He was, He is, He will be, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.

Now we could go on tonight with the other phases, but I'll hold that for next Friday night, because friends, I want to hear from you. It seems to me that if I had been sitting here listening to God's word, I would love for an opportunity to say at least a sentence of praise and thanksgiving. To join with the angels and with the redeemed who are already there in the sanctuary above, saying, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and glory and blessing. What is your testimony tonight?

[Testimony service follows.]

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