

# God's Part and Man's Part

#0042

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 7, 1979

Before we turn to Scriptures tonight, I'd just like to talk over something with you and ask you a few questions. How many people do you suppose the Lord wants to be saved? All. Do you believe that? Does the Bible say that? Yes. God wants everyone to be saved.

Has He made provision for everyone to be saved? Yes. Do you believe that? You mean, everyone could be? Full provision made.

Well, will everyone be saved? No. Why not? Isn't God all-powerful? Do you believe He is all-powerful? Yes. And you believe that He wants everyone to be saved and that He's made full provision for everyone to be saved, yet, you tell me that not everyone will be saved. What's the matter?

Apparently, obviously, there is a part that man has that makes the difference, because no matter how all-powerful God is, when He gave man the power of choice, He gave Him the power of choice.

So while salvation is all of grace, and all the marvelous working of God, yet the decision to accept it and to enter into it is mine. Is that right?

Don't misunderstand, that doesn't mean there's some merit on my part in accepting it. Even the power to accept it comes from God. The desire to move toward God is all His implanting. But I can stop it. I can turn it off. The life preserver is thrown within my reach, and the power to reach for it is given me, but I can refuse. That's the mystery of choice, the mystery of choice.

I have been meditating on some precious things in the Scriptures on this matter of what God does for us, and what we do for God. You know, many of the same words are used to describe both. Take 2 Corinthians 6:17 to start with. We'll find a keyword in this scripture.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" 2 Corinthians 6:17.

Now notice the promise that God gives us here, that He will do what to us? He will receive us. Isn't that nice?

Now let's turn to John 1:12 and notice the same verb with a different subject and a different object. The subject becomes the object, and the object becomes the subject.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Who does the receiving here? *We* do. We receive who? God. Now, which is it, does He receive us, or do we receive Him? Which is right, Paul in 2 Corinthians, or John in his Gospel? Both.

These statements are complementary, supplementary. They belong together. Jesus receives me. I receive Him. Isn't that a beautiful combination? You can dwell on either one. Each one is true. It takes both statements to give the complete truth.

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Has Jesus received you? He says so if you'll receive *Him*. "As many as received Him."

Now let's go to Ephesians 1:6.

"To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved" Ephesians 1:6.

Does He accept us? Yes, He does. He accepts us when we accept Him, when we accept the Gospel. Don't misunderstand me, we do not earn acceptance by accepting Him. In a sense, He has accepted us long before we were born in Christ. So as we accept Jesus, we're accepted. No question about it.

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" John 15:19.

What has God done for us? He has chosen us. "I have chosen you out of the world, I have picked you out. I have selected you." Isn't that nice? Jesus has picked us out, selected us, and chosen us.

Well, now He wants us to choose Him. You remember, some nights ago, we studied that wonderful text in Joshua 24:15 where He says choose you this day whom ye will serve. He chose us, we choose Him. That's what happens in marriage; a young man chooses a young woman. It fits, and it works out provided she chooses him too. Is that right? It takes both parties. Either one can fail to choose and it's no good, but when both parties choose, then it's a success. That's the way it is in this wonderful relationship with Jesus Christ: He chooses us, and we choose Him.

Now let's turn to 1 John 4:19. Here is a wonderful verb, one of the most marvelous verbs in all the language. Here you see all in one short verse we have both sides of it.

"We love Him, because He first loved us" 1 John 4:19.

What do we do? We love Him. Why? Because He loved us. Which did it first? He loved us before we loved Him. I'm glad it's that way because if it depended on us to initiate it, nothing would ever happen. The parents love the child before the child loves the parents. We love Him because He first loved us.

May I suggest, friends, if sometimes you wish you love God more remember that the way to love Him more is to think about His love for you. You won't get more love in lamenting how little your love is. Your love may be like a teaspoon full compared with the ocean. But God's love is like the boundless sea.

It's because He loved us first that we love Him at all. The more we look at His love for us, the more our love for Him will grow. Is that right? Yes.

Somebody was telling me that there was an eclipse of the moon yesterday at six o'clock in the morning if I was correctly informed. I got to thinking about it. You know, the moon in a sense wasn't eclipsed; it was the sun that was eclipsed as far as the people on the moon are concerned. Of course, there's nobody living there, so it didn't make any difference to them. They weren't there.

But if you'd been on the moon, you would have seen what? You would have seen the earth blotting out the sun. Now can you imagine that, dear friends, the earth blotting out the sun? Who is our sun of righteousness? Jesus. And the world, when it gets between the Christian and Christ, the world eclipses the sun.

And being moons, for we are not self-luminous, we are reflectors, we quit shining just the moment the world gets between Jesus and us. We quit right now. Thank the Lord, there's a way to get the world out of the way. We can cry to Jesus and choose. He's chosen us to shine on us, we choose Him to reflect that light.

He loved us, the light is love; we love Him, the light is love. Notice what He says here in the same fourth chapter in verse eleven.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" 1 John 4:11.

What do you say? The way we show our love for Him is to love those that He loves.

It's almost trite to say that we're in a time when there is a great deal of difficulty in the love relationship in the home between parents and children, between husband and wife. Too bad. Do you know what the problem is, friends? The love of God has been lost out of the life. Human beings can no more have real love in their hearts for their companions, for their children, for their parents. They can no more

do it without Jesus than that moon could keep on shining when the earth got between the sun and the moon.

Do you see?

So dear ones, if you need more love in your homes, if there is a parent here that wishes you had more love for your child, if there is a boy or girl here that knows you need more love for father and mother, if there is a husband here that senses there needs to love in his heart for his wife, or wife for husband, dear ones, parents, children, husbands, wives, the answer is in looking to Jesus. Beholding His love, and asking Him for that love.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” 1 John 4:11.

And we love because He first loved us. That’s why we love. We’re reflectors. We never come to the place where we are self-luminous, where we can originate it. No. But we can reflect the love of Jesus. He loves us, we love Him.

Do you know what love delights to do? Let’s repeat together that marvelous text, the whole Gospel in one verse, John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

God loved and He did what? Do you know how much He gave? He gave everything. Now, if we love, what’ll we give? We’ll give everything too. Of course, our everything is pretty small compared with His everything, but if it’s everything, it’s everything.

Let’s read a couple of texts. Romans 8:32, I love this verse. It goes right along with John 3:16 as you’ll see:

“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32.

Give us what? All things! Yes. He gave us everything in Christ. And so it is written:

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

The whole treasure of Heaven has been opened, and the Father has said to the Son, “Take all of this, and use it to show those people down there in this world, how much we love them.” It’s a lavish gift, like Mary’s alabaster box. The great weight, some people would say, but God thinks it worth it because He loves us so much.

He loves us and so He gives. He loves us with all His heart and so He gives everything. Now He invites us to do the same.

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” Luke 14:33.

Jesus says, “I have given everything for you, now I want you to do,” what? “Give everything for Me.” And as salvation would not have been possible unless Jesus had emptied Himself for us, so our acceptance of that salvation is impossible unless we give Him everything in return.

It’s a complete exchange—He gave all for me, I give all for Him. As I say, what we have to give isn’t very much, but if it’s all, it’s all. Would you give all? Have you given all? If you haven’t, friends, do it tonight. Do it right now, this moment. Open up the heart’s door. Say, “Yes Lord, I will.”

Now let’s turn to Galatians 2:20. And notice how this whole experience is represented in the cross. The cross is where Jesus revealed His love for me, and here is where my love responds. The cross is where He gave everything for me, emptied Himself, and the cross is where I give everything for Him.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

He loved me and gave Himself for me. I love Him, and I give myself for Him. Where was it that He revealed that love? At Calvary. Where was it that He gave everything for me? On the cross. And this is where I give everything for Him.

So as I see that cross, I think of two things. I think first of all, of His love for me, and then my love responding. Of course, it’s His love that He gives me that responds. It’s my choice that He gives me to choose.

And notice what it says: I am what? I am crucified with Christ. That means to die to sin and self. It means to give up my way, take His way. So many of our problems, dear friends, are because we want our own way. Isaiah puts it very clearly:

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:6.

Calvary testifies to the terrible cost of my having my own way. But thank God as I see what it’s cost, I want to give up my way and take His way. What do you say? But the only way I can do that is to be crucified with Him. As He gave up everything for me, I give up everything for Him.

Dear ones, listen, whether it’s in the home, or the school, or the church, or the institution, whether it’s someone really close or a neighbor that you have had a

problem with, you're *never* going to come to peace, and love, and fellowship by arguing or fighting about your own way, your own way.

Somebody may say, "Well, I think I ought to have my own way *part* of the time."

How long do you suppose a home could survive if a husband and a wife should agree religiously that the husband would have his way half the time, and the wife would have her way half the time? Wouldn't that be a hell on earth, friends? Yes.

If you love somebody enough, you want them to have what pleases them how much of the time? All the time. Of course, you have to love them quite a bit to want it that way. You have to love them quite a bit.

"If He would love me that way then maybe I could love Him that way."

Ah, dear one, the answer, as I said a while ago when we were talking about the moon and the eclipse, the answer is in looking to Jesus. When we see what having our own selfish way has cost in the sufferings and death of the Son of God, we want to be done with it, done with our selfishness, done with our arguing to have our way, my way.

Oh, how quickly it comes out of the little child, even the little ones, "My way! My way! I want my way!" I'm sorry to say that in this permissive age, it's becoming fashionable, customary, the thing to do to try to get people to do something that's good for them thinking it's their way without having to make any surrender.

Spinach is supposed to be dressed up so that the child doesn't know what he's getting. He gets the iron, you understand, without having to go through the problem of eating what he's asked to eat. And so in education, geography, grammar, arithmetic are all to made fun. It must be something that the student just wants to do because it's so pleasurable.

Somewhere along the line, dear ones, it's a wonderful thing to come to the place where you love God and love some human being enough that you want to do what's asked of you just because you want to please somebody else besides yourself. This is the experience that we all must have if we are ever to be happy in Heaven. Because in Heaven, *everyone* there is filled with the spirit of loving others and pleasing others.

Somebody says, "I'd like to go there."

Yes, you'd like to go there and be waited on and have everyone just running to do things for you, wouldn't you? That's why you're not there, friends, it would bore you death. God has put you here in this world where you can get a good look at yourself watching other people be selfish just like you, you understand?

He hopes that you'll get sick of it. He hopes that as you see the love of Jesus who came down here to this world and left Heaven where everyone was serving

Him, and came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many, oh, He's hoping that you'll be charmed away from your self and your selfish way, and that as He was led through love to leave everything to give Himself for you and to seek for you, so you will leave everything, your own selfish way, and give yourself to Him for Him, and spend your life in serving Him and helping others. This is the happy way.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live"  
Galatians 2:20.

You see, this is the paradox of the thing, friends; the person who spends all his life trying to please himself never even gets that done. He never gets that done. Why? Man wasn't made to work that way. We don't tick that way. The person that devotes his life to self-pleasing never reaches his goal. He's never truly happy and satisfied.

But on the other hand, the one who lays down his life with Jesus on the cross, the one who gives up his way that Jesus' love may be revealed, he finds sooner or later that he is enjoying life as nobody else could. He finds that the thing he was made for was not to be selfish, but to be loving.

It's love that makes us happy. Do you believe it? Have you found enough of it so that you want more of it? Would you want a second helping? There's plenty more in the kitchen. Let's have a second and a third helping. What do you say?

Now Galatians 6:14. The same message, little different words:

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" Galatians 6:14.

Here's another verse on this cross. What is crucified? Jesus is crucified. But here, something else is crucified. What is it? The *world* is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

You know tomorrow evening we're going to have this baptism, and a number of precious souls are going to go down into the watery grave. That means they are baptized into the death of Jesus. That means that the death of Christ stands between them and the world. Is that right?

I've thought of it sometimes as a piece of colored glass through which we look. You've all worn dark glasses or glasses of various colors for different purposes. With them, things look different when we look through those lenses. The world looks at the Christian, and the Christian looks how to him? Dead. But the Christian looks at the world through that same cross, and how does the world look to him? It looks dead.

You can tell which side you're on, my dear friends. If the world looks dead to you, you're with Jesus. If the Christian life looks dead to you, you're with the world. It's that simple. The answer is not in laboriously making yourself do a lot of hard

things, the answer is in coming to Calvary and seeking God to reveal to you the love of His Son poured out there that you might have everlasting life.

Thus as He gives Himself for me, I give my self for Him. As He is crucified for me, I am crucified with Him. As He yields all for me, I yield all for Him. And thus as He accepts me, I accept Him. As He receives me, I receive Him. As He loves me, I love Him. It's a mutual experience all the way through.

[Testimony service]

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