

Can't Compass Everything

#0048

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 16, 1981

The text is 1 Corinthians, the 1st chapter, and the 30th verse. Will you read this verse with me, please?

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” 1 Corinthians 1:30.

Wisdom is knowing what to do. Righteousness is doing it. They're two sides of the same coin. To know God's will and to do it—this is joy. But we know in part, and our performance is in part. But this does not need to discourage us or worry us, because in Christ we have full wisdom and the benefit of it, as long as we're in Him. In Christ, we have full righteousness, and the full benefit of it, as long as we're in Him.

Take another verse, Colossians, the 2nd chapter, verses 9 and 10:

“For in Him...”

That is, in Christ.

“...dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”
Colossians 2:9.

And then, what is that next line?

“And ye are...”

What?

“...complete in Him” Colossians 2:10.

Did you notice the beautiful moon tonight? Where does it get its light? From the sun. Is it a full moon tonight? No, but it's going in that direction. Tomorrow night, it'll be more like a full moon, and so the next night, until it reaches the fullness. But that full moon reflects only a small fraction of the total radiance of the sun. Am I correct? And you and I, dear friends, are complete in Jesus, but when we reflect His image fully, there's an infinity beyond—an infinity beyond.

Let me read you another wonderful statement from that marvelous book, *Desire of Ages*, that Brother Cook was sharing with us a few moments ago. This is page 331 of *Desire of Ages*:

“As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here” *The Desire of Ages*, page 331.

Where does Heaven begin? It begins here. That is, it begins here if we enter in with Jesus into rest.

“We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal” *Ibid.*

Then comes this beautiful definition or explanation:

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ” *Ibid.*

Let me read that again, and then maybe you’d like to repeat it with me:

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ” *Ibid.*

Together:

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ” *Ibid.*

Again:

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ” *Ibid.*

What does that word “ceaseless” in there indicate? Never end. You mean we’ll never get there? We’re always there, but there’s always more beyond—always more beyond.

“Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness” *Ibid.*

“Oh, but I want to know it all right now.” Well, you can’t, any more than I can pour the ocean into a quart bucket. It just won’t hold it. And oh, I’m so glad that God is

so wonderful, so marvelous, that there's enough to learn from Him to keep me busy through eternal ages.

Let me descend from the infinite to the very finite and practical. If I really believe this, I won't try to burn the midnight oil, thinking if I'll stay up another hour, I can really compass it all, will I? No, no, any more than I'll try to eat enough at dinner time to last me for a year. Always something more to eat and enjoy. Always something more to learn and find pleasure in. But, if in any sense our goal is to compass it all this week or this year or this lifetime, then we don't understand what we're studying about tonight, do we? No.

"Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?" Job 11:7-8.

Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ! And again, I say, this is not to frustrate us. It's to keep us from frustration. It's to give us something to spur us on in the quest for light, for knowledge, for illumination, and to encourage us in putting into action that which we learn. But to remember that our completeness is not found in what we know or in what we do. It's found in what He knows and what He has done, is doing, and will do in and for and through us. Ye are what? "Complete *in Him*." Let's not forget the "in Him."

Let me read this paragraph again. It's so beautiful:

"As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness"
The Desire of Ages, page 331.

You remember John, in the book of Revelation, had that wonderful vision of the celestial beings around the throne of God. And he heard them singing, what? "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts." And he says they cease not day and night. Why? Ah friends, it's not like a record that goes round and round, not even like a chorus, a choir that's been trained to go through an anthem. It is the ever-increasing response of ever more illumined minds and appreciative hearts.

You know how it is with us when something wonderful is seen for the first time. We say, "Oh, oh, what will it be? What will it be?"

Let me take another wonderful presentation of this same truth in different words, from the book *Great Controversy*, page 677:

"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased" *Great Controversy*, page 677.

Maybe I can only hold a quart now, but I'll hold a gallon after I've been there a while. But that isn't the end of it. I'll get to two gallons, three gallons, and on and on and on. What does it say?

"Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies" *Ibid.*

Are we going to acquire knowledge there? Yes, gradually.

"The path of the righteous is as the light of dawn that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" Proverbs 4:18.

"The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized" *Great Controversy*, page 677.

But that's not the end of the sentence. That's just the middle of it. After I have reached my loftiest aspirations and realized my highest ambitions, then what?

"And still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body" *Ibid.*

Ah, folks, let's not think that we can, if we try a little harder, work on it a little longer, get it all in our little quart bucket or teacup now. What do you say? Let's get all we can, but let's not wear ourselves out at it. God desires that our seeking His wisdom, and receiving it, shall bring great joy to us; that our seeking His power to do what we learn shall bring great joy to us.

Turn back to 1 Corinthians, the first chapter. I want you to notice something. We were looking at the 30th verse. Now I want to look at verses 23 and 24:

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks...”
1 Corinthians 1: 23–24.

Read with me, please, now:

“...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God”
1 Corinthians 1:24.

What is Christ? “The power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Everything we will ever learn about God and His universe is already in Christ. All the right doing that we will ever experience here, or hereafter, is already in Christ. He is illuminating. He is our example of how to carry it out. And what I am getting at is this, dear friends. I don’t have to wait until a million, million, million years from now to learn something. I can already have the benefit of that by having Jesus as my Savior, for He’s the same yesterday, and today, and forever. I’ll be wiser a million years from now, but He won’t be. And that infinite wisdom that He has is guiding me, guarding me, leading me, protecting me.

Perhaps, I should ask my next question in these words: How does God decide which part of His infinite wisdom to let me learn now? What’s the A, and what’s the B, and what’s the C?

You remember in the Lord’s prayer, He teaches us to pray, “Give us this day our,” what? “daily bread” (Matthew 6:11) He gives me today what I need today. He doesn’t allow me to be distracted or diverted by a mass even of truth and information that might tend to keep me from the particular thing He wants me to know today.

Do you know what it is He wants me to know today? What bears on what He wants me to do today?

Anybody here have a key ring with you? All of you that have key rings with you, will you hold them up, please. I want to see who the wisest man is here tonight. I wish you’d count the keys on your ring. Tell me, how many of you have five? Will you hold up your hands. All right. How many of you have at least 10? Can I see your hands? Now, several. Any of you got 15? Yes, here’s a man that’s got 15. How many do you have, brother? Fourteen. Anybody got more than that? How many do you have? Nineteen. Anybody have more than 19 here tonight? All right, how many do you have? Twenty-eight. Oh, I wish I had 28 keys. Then I could really do something! But there are only five or six keys on my key ring. Now, there isn’t much I can do, is there?

Ah friends, if I have *the* key I need to unlock *the* door or *the* car that I need to take responsibility in. That’s all I need at that moment. Is that right? And even if I had

a thousand keys, that doesn't mean that I have the one I need. I'd rather have the one key I need than the thousand I don't need. What do you say?

Popular education in many minds is supposed to give people enough keys to carry them through life. But Jesus has a far better plan. Turn to the book of Isaiah, the 50th chapter, the 4th verse. Now, listen to these beautiful words—the 50th of Isaiah, and the 4th verse:

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak a word in season to him
that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

Isn't that wonderful? This is speaking prophetically of the Messiah—the experience of Jesus when, taking our humanity, He learned as we may learn. But this verse is also presenting an experience that can be yours and mine,

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak...”

What?

“...a word” Isaiah 50:4.

Not a whole bunch of keys, but one key.

“Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without
knowledge?” Job 38:2.

The word that is needed to solve a given problem, to shed light upon a certain matter, this is what we want. Am I correct? And the reason—don't miss this!—the reason that God has reserved to a million years from now certain things that He's going to teach us in eternity—the reason He isn't teaching us those things now, is that there is something more important for me to know today. And that is that which will solve my problem and help me to solve somebody else's problem.

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak...”

What?

“...a word in season...” Isaiah 50:4,

What does “in season” mean? At the right time. The right word at the right time—this is wisdom, my friend. This is wisdom.

Our medical missionaries are quite dependent upon this great fact. I love the way it's put in Volume 5, in that chapter on the responsibilities of the physician:

"The man who is closely connected with the Great Physician of soul and body has the resources of heaven and earth at his command, and he can work with a wisdom, an unerring precision, that the godless man cannot possess"

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 448.

Why is that? Because he's a walking encyclopedia? Not necessarily. He has Jesus. He has Jesus. Oh, this doesn't mean that we're not to learn all we can, but the point is we need more than we can learn. We need Jesus. We need wisdom, not merely facts, not merely information—we need wisdom to apply the right thing to a certain situation. And if this is true in dealing with problems of health, what about problems of salvation, of victory, of Christian experience? If those who minister to the body need a wisdom beyond the human, what about all of us as we deal with the soul, the spirit?

"Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness" 1 Corinthians 1:30.

Illumination and power, "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). Oh, I'm so thankful for this!

"But, Brother Frazee," somebody says, "I'd like to believe what you're saying, but it seems to me I make so many mistakes." Yes, we're in the school of Christ. And we must not have the idea for a moment that to be in the school of Christ means that there are no mistakes. In the school of life, mistakes are made, just as in the common-day schools mistakes are made. The best speller that ever lived probably misspelled at least a few words on the way to that experience. Am I right?

In fact, I'm going to try a little experiment and see this. Is there anybody here that went through the primary and the elementary grades and never made a mistake in spelling? May I see your hands? Let's try arithmetic. Are there any of you who went through the elementary, the primary grades in arithmetic, and always got the right answer? May I see your hands? Well, does this mean we don't know anything about either spelling or mathematics? Oh, no, no. Sometimes we learn by the mistakes we make. Am I correct? God is very practical. He has a long goal in sight.

I read something that encouraged me in this little book, *Welfare Ministry*, page 152, an inspired statement. How cheering it is. Listen.

"Do you make mistakes? Do not let this discourage you. The Lord may permit you to make small mistakes in order to save you from making larger mistakes" *Welfare Ministry*, page 152.

Isn't that encouraging, friends? Now, don't misunderstand. This isn't talking about deliberate sin. This isn't talking about high-handed rebellion. Oh, no. The person who is trying to misspell words all his life will never learn to be a good speller. But the person who is seeking to learn to spell, even when he makes mistakes, learns from those experiences. Am I correct? And as I've thought about it, friends, Jesus (Mark this!)—Jesus gets real pleasure out of my learning to spell, learning to figure, learning to understand His truth, learning to do it.

Several years ago, when I was a little fellow, I was learning to walk. I don't remember it, but I know I did. And my father and mother encouraged me. Now, they could have kept me from falling down by carrying me around, but somebody would still have to do that if they had. Which was better—to even let me fall when I was trying to walk or for them to keep carrying me so I wouldn't fall?

In other words, friends, I don't have to wait until I know everything I need to know for the journey. I have a guide and a guard who knows it all. Isn't that wonderful? And yet, He doesn't carry me all the way. If I get tired, He might carry me, like I used to do with my little girl. But oh, He delights to see my muscles grow, and every faculty of my being develop, by exercise. And if I fall, He's there to say, "I'll help you up. Let's go again." Isn't He wonderful, friend?

And this relates to wisdom and it relates to righteousness.

"Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness" 1 Corinthians 1:30.

"Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"
1 Corinthians 1:24.

You see, in the plan of salvation, Jesus is everything. He took our place and showed us how to live. He took our place on the cross and died the death we deserve to die. He's taking our place in the sanctuary above, tonight. As our forerunner, He's entered there for us. He holds up those wounded hands with the marks of Calvary, and intercedes on our behalf. And He is accepted in our stead, and we are treated as He deserves. And we get the benefit, I repeat, of His wisdom and His righteousness all the way along.

This will keep us from being frustrated. Some people spend too much time trying to learn everything. Some people spend too much time trying to do everything. And when the sun goes down or when the midnight hour is told and another day is gone, they're so sorry because they haven't learned it all or gotten it all done.

There was a man once who was the president of the General Conference, who had some problems like these. And there in Battle Creek, he received a letter from the

Lord's messenger written way over in Australia. You will find it on the last page of *Volume 7*:

"Let no one overtax his God-given powers in an effort to advance the Lord's work more rapidly. The power of man cannot hasten the work" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 298.

"The power of man cannot hasten the work." Ah, dear ones, if you and I would get a rope that was long enough to go all the way from here over to Lookout Mountain, the other side of the college, and we'd pull on it all night, we'd finally get the sun up tomorrow morning a little after eight, wouldn't we? But oh, how tired we would be pulling at it all night.

"The power of man cannot hasten the work" *Ibid.*

The illustration, you say, is absurd. What it's illustrating is absurd, too, my friends—to think that we can exhaust an infinity of truth by intemperance in study, or that we can consummate an infinity of plan and purpose and action by overworking.

"Let no one overtax his God-given powers in an effort to advance the Lord's work more rapidly. The power of man cannot hasten the work. Then let our zeal and labor be tempered with reason; let us cease our efforts to do that which the Lord alone can accomplish" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 298.

But never think that this means laziness. Never think that this means always limiting our work to an eight-hour system. Jesus is our example. And He toiled to meet the needs of men. But He went off and left this world when it looked like failure and said, "Father, I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do." He left it with men that looked like failures, but under the Spirit's power, having learned these precious lessons of the all-sufficiency of Christ, they carried the Gospel to all the world in one generation.

Shall we learn it, so we get our job done? Oh, that Jesus may fill us and thrill us with the assurance that He knows everything we need to know, and will let us know what we need to know in order to do what we need to do. Let's do our best, and trust in His all-sufficient righteousness.

And then, this wonderful provision that's been made, as found in the book, *Selected Messages, Book 1*, page 382:

"When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the

deficiency with His own divine merit" *Selected Messages*,
Book 1, page 382.

Then I am complete, how? In Him. But I'm not complete in Him if I just lie there and make no effort. Oh, no.

I was thinking of it like the little eagle—the little eagle, you know, up there in the nest. He thinks, "This is wonderful." Papa and mama are both out there gathering food for him, and all he has to do is sit there and take it. And then one day the nest gets stirred up, and what happens? Ah, the little eagle is just about to be dashed to pieces on the rocks beneath.

But where is the mother? Right there. Right there. And at the proper time, she swoops in underneath that falling eagle and bears it back to the nest. Oh, how glad it is to get home. "I'll never get out of here again!" But will he? Yes, yes, yes. And the time will come when he'll be a soaring, great eagle. Better than any of these hang gliders. Oh, what a wonderful thing to soar like an eagle.

But every eagle that soars through the sky learned it the way I'm describing—by being pushed out of the nest and fluttering, afraid of failure, but learning to exercise those muscles and to coordinate the nerves and muscles. But always (Never miss it!) protected by that parent that sees to it that at the right time there is succor, there is help, there is refuge. And the dear Lord has used, as you remember in the Bible, that wonderful figure, to show us how He deals with us.

Now, turn, please, to Matthew the 11th chapter, verses 28 to 30. Here it all is in one scripture. Matthew 11:28–30:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye
shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and
my burden is light" Matthew 11:28–30.

He's inviting us to what? Well, He's inviting us to several things. But, first of all, He's inviting us to Himself, "Come unto Me."

What's the next thing, as you look down through the verse, that He invites us to experience?

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

What's the next figure that He introduces?

"Take my yoke upon you" Matthew 11:29.

Is that a rocking chair? Is that a beauty rest mattress? What is it? An instrument of work. "Ah, but I'm already tired to death." Yes.

"Take my yoke upon you and..."

What's the next expression?

"...and learn of me" Matthew 11:29.

This is the process, you see, learning *of* Jesus, learning *from* Him, learning *with* Him, in study, in service.

"And ye shall find..."

What?

"...rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30.

So, dear friends, when I look upon the shelves filled with books or the table covered with books, I'm not going to say, "Oh my, I wonder when I can get to read all those." No. I'll ask Jesus to help me to read today the book I need today, and let the others wait. Maybe, some of them I'll never get read. If I can never get to read all the good books, I certainly haven't time to read the ones that aren't good, have I? If even the best ones, I have to take gradually, the mediocre ones maybe I'll never get to.

And as I think of all there is to do, oh, I pray, "God help me to have the wisdom to do *the* thing that You've made for me to do today, and leave the rest with You. And the things I'd like to understand, dear Lord, help me to learn today all that you want me to learn today, but help me to be willing to leave to eternity millions of things that will be clear when the eternal day begins to unfold."

"Lord, help me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour"
The Ministry of Healing, page 474.

May we bow our heads. Precious Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts for the assurance that Thou hast made, through Jesus, provision that we shall have the benefit of Thine infinite wisdom, Thy almighty power, not by becoming infinite in our wisdom, or almighty in our power, but that in Jesus we may do the deeds of omnipotence.

We thank Thee for Thy provision for our failures, as we learn in the school of Christ. Help us to turn every defeat into victory by learning the lesson and pressing on. And we thank Thee in Jesus' name, amen.

Is there somebody that got something tonight? Did you get something? Sometimes, when I'm talking to the children, I say to them, "If this were one of the weekdays and I would throw a ball to you, what would you do with it?" What would they do with it? Throw it back.

If you got something special tonight and would like to throw it back to me and to this audience and to the Lord in thanksgiving, in your own words, in your own way, come up and share. This is not an ordinary testimony meeting. This is a little time to be spent in expressing something that you got tonight in your words and letting Jesus thus multiply the blessing.

[Testimony service]

All right. Let's thank the Lord for His love. And tonight, dear ones, when we go home, let's take a little special time to just tell Jesus how much we love Him and appreciate Him, shall we? He'd be so glad to have you tell Him that, personally. Tell Him you're so glad that He uses His infinite wisdom to keep you from the snares of the enemy. Tell Him that you're thankful that He's giving you the benefit of His infinite power—all that you need. "I give unto you power... over all the power of the enemy" Luke 10:29. Tell Him that you're thankful He died for you, that He lives for you. Shall we do that?

"In the blood from the cross, I have been washed from sin
But to be free from dross, Still I would enter in.
Deeper yet, deeper yet, Into the crimson flood,
Deeper yet, deeper yet, under the precious blood."

"My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and tears dismay,
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground."

"Lord, lift me up, and I shall stand,
By faith, on heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

[A different speaker] We thank thee, our Father, for meat in due season. We have all been benefited. Heaven has come near to us. Help us to keep pressing on the upward way, forgetting those things which are behind—the mistakes, the failures—and looking unto Him who is before us, ever beckoning us onward. We thank thee for this

privilege of fellowship. Dismiss us, now, Lord, with thy blessing. Forbid that we should turn our eyes away from Jesus to the sordid things of this life. In Jesus' wonderful name, we ask it, amen.

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