

Greatest Incentives

#0070

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 11, 1971

The *only* reason anything moves is that there is some force that moves it. When we see an automobile going down the road we don't ask, "Well, I wonder what makes that thing move?" We all know there is an engine in there and it's burning gas. When I was a boy, there were Stanley Steamers. There were also electric cars. I see they have some plans to bring back some automobiles that run on electricity. But man has not yet devised any automobile that runs without fuel of some sort. Whenever you see something moving, something is moving it. Is that right?

So it is with you and me, dear friends. Sometimes we indulge in very impractical dreams about our religious experience. We hope that something, sometime, somehow, someday will move us. It's like a man sitting in a car *wishing* that car would move. Well, the car will move if the proper procedure is gone through. But sitting there wishing, and may I say reverently, even praying, isn't the answer. It's all right to pray for it, but there's something to do to help answer our prayer. So I want to study with you why we do things, and why we *ought* to do things.

Suppose I had a magnet here and some nails. I bring that magnet close to the nails. What happens? They move. In what direction do they move? They move toward the magnet. Suppose I bring near these nails a larger magnet with greater power. What will the nails do? They will leave the smaller magnet and turn toward the greater magnet. Why will they do that? Because there's more power there. Things move because of power. It is possible to cause things to move in the opposite direction by applying greater power.

"Flee from the wrath to come" Matthew 3:7.

Does that have to do with motion? Oh, yes. What kind of motion? Fast motion. It is possible for motion to be the result of something causing us to run away rather than to run toward.

The magnet attracts, but it can repel. Here is something that motion comes from being repelled. *Flee* from the wrath to come.

Somebody says, "Oh, but I'm not afraid."

I tell you that there is nobody in this world but what is afraid some time of some thing. Sometimes the frights are imaginary.

We might run from an angry lion. We might run from an enraged man. But John the Baptist is talking here about something far worse than anything that a lion or a man can do. "Flee from the wrath to come." Now, there's only one person in the universe, so far, to have experienced that. We'll come to that later. The wrath to

come is not anything that is happening now. It's a wrath to *come*. But if we understand at least a little bit about it, it will cause us to do what? To *flee*, to run in the opposite direction.

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” Matthew 8:11–12.

Christ is describing the final judgment. Some are going to come in with God into the kingdom and sit down at that long table with Abraham and Isaac and all the rest. A wonderful reward. But others are going to be cast out into outer darkness. There's weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Suppose you were traveling along the highway at a rapid rate, and suppose I should flag you down and say, “Don't go any further. The bridge is out just around the turn. The waters are raging and have torn the bridge down. Don't go any further.” If you believe me, what would you do? Would you say, “Oh bother, I wish you hadn't stopped me. I'm in a hurry.”

Down along the Gulf coast an officer was trying to stop traffic coming along the highway. It was a night and there was a terrible rain. He was out there waving a red light trying to stop the traffic from keeping the cars from going over. But do you know they wouldn't pay any attention and one car after another just kept plunged right into that torrent? Paid no attention.

God has sent men into this world to wave the red light. Don't go any further. Flee from the wrath to come.

The wrath to come is hell. I know you understand that hell doesn't burn eternally. But just because it doesn't burn eternally doesn't mean it's not a real place. It'll be terrible. But the worse thing about it is not the fire. The worse thing about it is what Jesus is picturing here. It's being cast out into outer darkness with weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

What is this darkness? This is the darkness of separation. Man was made for fellowship with God. Just as the lungs were made to breathe air, and nothing but air can satisfy the lungs. Have you ever seen someone gasping for breath? What will it be when this planet is converted into a great burning hell, and the millions and billions of the lost are there in mental and spiritual and emotional darkness of being entirely separated from God? And why? It's their choice; they chose to be; it's the result; it's the end. It isn't a punishment that God sends upon them in the sense of trying to make them feel bad. It is the awakening of the soul to the reality of the thing they have chosen. The wages of sin is death. All sin brings its result. Sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

Here in this world we see lung cancer from smoking. We see emphysema. We see coronary attacks. We see only are the results of physical transgression. But in hell at the final judgment, every sinner will reap the crop. The final harvest has come.

And it won't be a pretty harvest. There will not be one soul in hell who will thank someone for helping him get there. Not one. There will be many a soul there who will wish there had been somebody who would have kept him from there. The children of the kingdom shall be cast out in darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There have been experiences in this world when men and women have gotten into such a scene of horror, such a terrible experience, that they've literally pulled the hair from their heads in agony. But nothing that human beings have ever experienced in this world can compare in magnitude with the awful agony that the terrors of lost souls are experiencing.

The meek and lowly Jesus loved men enough to tell them what is ahead. He tried to flag them down and keep them from going on into the darkness.

“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” Matthew 13:40–42.

If there's anybody you love, wouldn't you try to keep them from this doom? Wouldn't you try to keep them from going on in the way that has only one end? And when you are tempted with the greatest temptation of your life, think of this picture and tell me, is there not some power in sensing the reality of the end of the world? You can see what the scriptures mean when it says to flee from the wrath to come.

Somebody says, “I don't intend to go to the end of the road.”

Bless your heart, friend. Do you think that the closer you get to hell, the easier it is to turn back? Nothing of the kind. Oh, no. You do not know when your life may end. It may close today. Oh, I urge you for Christ's sake to *flee* from the wrath to come. *Flee* from the wrath to come.

Wouldn't you agree with me that this is a powerful motive if it can be brought to bear? Wouldn't it? Well, I want to give you another one. Let's turn over to Hebrews the 11th chapter. This is a lot prettier. There's nothing pretty about the one we just looked at.

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward” Hebrews 11:24–26.

Notice that expression, ‘the recompense of the reward.’ What does that mean? It means Moses knew that God was offering him something better than this world

could offer him. He had good sense enough to see it and accept it. He had *respect* unto the recompense of the reward.

If you were working for money and you were working for \$10 a day and somebody should offer you \$20 a day, what would you do? You would go to the place where they were paying \$20, wouldn't you? Why, of course. Any man with good sense would if that's what he was working for—money. Moses was in Egypt. He had a job. He was the heir apparent to the throne. They were training him to take over when the old king died. Egypt was the world's greatest monarchy at that time. But Moses turned it down and went with the race of slaves. Why? He had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

A friend of mine on the other side of the world was telling me they saw in a museum the mummy of the man who ruled in Egypt instead of Moses. Where is Moses? Well, he's in Heaven. Do you suppose he spends much time telling what a great sacrifice he made in order to follow God? Do you think the tears roll down his face as he says he gave up so much? He lost the great privilege of being a mummy in a museum. [Audience laughter.]

Moses didn't know about all that when he made his choice. What he turned down was more than any of us here this morning will ever get a chance to turn down. Nobody has ever offered *you* as much as the world offered Moses. It is impossible for you to make by any standard in this world as great a sacrifice as Moses made. You don't have that much to give up. But listen, Moses felt and he *knew* that the reward that God would give him was greater than *anything* this world could offer.

Is it? Moses knows all about it now by experience. He knew it then by faith. He is up there where streets are not dirt or asphalt, but gold. There is no sickness, no crime, where everybody loves and there is no hatred.

You and I are invited to the same recompense of reward that attracted Moses. Can we have it? Is there a place for us? Then why not go? I want to tell you that if you see enough of it, *vividly* enough, nothing magnetic in this world can hold you! There's a greater magnet pulling and drawing, but you must allow yourself to be brought within its field.

Oh, look at the glorious reward. Look at that city with its foundations of precious stones. Listen to the words of Jesus:

"In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" John 14:2–3.

Wouldn't it be a shame to miss the music of Heaven, the glorious opportunities of travel all through the universe? We have spent billions of dollars to get out here to the moon, that cold, desolate place. A friend of mine was telling me he preached a sermon on three astronauts who went past the moon. Two of them returned to the earth. He was talking about Enoch and Elijah and Moses. Moses and Elijah came

back. Did they go past the moon? Oh yes, way on past. You and I are going to go. We won't have to be in some capsule where we'll have to take oxygen tanks along. We're going to be with the angels. And oh, the fellowship we're going to share with them.

One of the greatest joys I find in this present world is *fellowship* with people. I love my old friends. God's given me new ones all the while. But when I get there to Heaven, God is going to let me have the joy of visiting with Moses and Enoch and Samuel and David and Mary and Martha, and James and Ellen White, and all the others down through the ages, each one different, but each one reflecting the image of Jesus. There's a man that I love very dearly. He used to say, "My Best Friend has made arrangements for me to become personally acquainted with everybody that has ever lived in this world that is worth knowing."

I can skip getting acquainted with Nero and Napoleon, can't you? But I want to get acquainted with Abraham. I want to meet Esther. I want to sit down with Mary, the mother of Jesus. I think it would be good for her telling about the babyhood and childhood of Jesus in Bethlehem and Nazareth. So on and on and on, friends, just to sit and visit or to walk in fellowship. And oh, the fellowship with God Himself. To think of *Jesus* taking you and me for a walk. He's going to again and again. Anytime we want to we can take a walk with Jesus.

Someone says, "How can He get around to so many"?

I don't know. I haven't figured that out. I don't try to. I know that He's giving me His whole attention now. And if He can do it now, He can do it then.

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as thought there were not another soul upon the earth" *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

And so since He's giving me all He has now, I know He will later. Friends, I can't miss it. What do you say?

To live forever without any pain, without any sickness, without any trouble of any kind. Filled to overflowing with all that is good and beautiful and enjoyable.

When I was a little fellow and heard about Heaven at my mother's knee, like a child I formed concepts of what it would be like to be there. My mother tells me that one of the things I said about it was that when I got there I was going to get a banana, and jump on a lion and ride around on the lion and eating the banana. Well, that might not be bad. The banana is going to be there, and I am going to enjoy it. The lion is going to be there, and it will be safe to ride. There's something there for *you* that will satisfy your heart like nothing else.

Why miss it? The next time you are tempted to sin, wouldn't it be a good thing to stop for a minute and look at the recompense of the reward? Wouldn't it?

But now I bring you the most amazing thing of all. Once there was someone that had all of Heaven. It was His by right. He left it all and took all of hell for *you*. I

wonder why He did it? What could cause Christ to leave the greatest attraction of the universe, the glories of Heaven and the love of His Father and the fellowship, and plunge not merely into this world of sin, but into the terrors and horrors of hell?

You say, "Did Christ experience that?"

Oh, yes. I want you to see it. Turn to the Psalm 116:3.

You see, Jesus took my place. He suffered my death. He had to suffer what I deserved, and what I deserved is the second death, and He must suffer the second death. The death that Jesus died on the cross wasn't just this death that you and I know about here in this world. It was this awful horror and blackness and separation from His Father that literally broke His heart in anguish.

"The sorrows of death compassed Me, and the pains of
hell gat hold upon Me: I found trouble and sorrow"
Psalm 116:3.

What does compassed mean? Clear around Him. Everywhere He looked there was nothing but the sorrows of death. This was in Gethsemane and on the cross. The margin says, "The pains of found Me." There was no place to run, no place to hide. There He was, friends. The pains of hell found Him. They got hold upon Him. He experienced the awful death that the sinner will experience if he clings to his sins.

We have already seen that part of the pains of hell is the darkness and separation from God. At Calvary, Christ is on the cross. He has been hanging there since nine o'clock in the morning. Now it is twelve o'clock, the sixth hour of the day.

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the
land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus
cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?
that is to say, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken
Me?" Matthew 27:45-46.

Who's this calling? Jesus is calling. Who's He calling? He's calling His Father. Is there any answer? No, no answer. Why? What was there around the cross at this time? Darkness. Jesus had gone out into the darkness of God, abandonment. He had left not only the light and glory of Heaven but the joy of His Father's smile. As He walked here among men, He could look up and know that His Father was pleased with Him. But now He's experiencing the pains of hell. He's gone down into the darkness, and His anguished soul cries out, "My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

There's something else that I want you to see about this. A lot of people don't understand this. I want to read you something:

"The heavens gather blackness... Christ is dying! He is in
despair! His Father's approving smile is removed..."

“Even doubts assailed the dying Son of God. He could not see through the portals of the tomb. Bright hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the tomb a conqueror and His Father’s acceptance of His sacrifice. The sin of the world, with all its terribleness was felt to the utmost by the Son of God. The displeasure of the Father for sin, and its penalty, which is death, were all that He could realize through this amazing darkness. He was tempted to fear that sin was so offensive in the sight of His Father that He could not be reconciled to His Son. The fierce temptation that His own Father had forever left Him caused that piercing cry from the cross: ‘My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’

“Christ felt much as sinners will feel when the vials of God’s wrath shall be poured out upon them. Black despair, like the pall of death, will gather about their guilty souls, and then they will realize to the fullest extent the sinfulness of sin” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, pages 209–210.

If you want to know what’s ahead for the sinner, go to Calvary and try to understand what happened to the Man that took that hell that sinners might escape it. He knows what He’s talking about. He’s been there. He says to you and me, “*Flee* from the wrath to come. I took it for you, so that you wouldn’t have to.”

Jesus couldn’t see through the portals of the tomb. He feared that sin was so offensive that the separation with the Father would be eternal. Could He have gone back without going down into the pit? Oh, yes. He could have left the cross at any time. The Devil and the chief priests and all the rest of the people around that cross kept prodding Him and ridiculing Him and reproaching Him saying, “Why don’t you come down from the cross if You are God’s Son?”

Could He have come down from the cross? Yes. But if He had come down, you and I would have to suffer what He was suffering. Not just being nailed to the cross. That isn’t the point. It’s this awful darkness that separated Him from God that finally broke His heart.

The thing I want you to see is this: “As Jesus hung there on the cross, fearing that the separation would be eternal, the thing that caused Him to be willing to never see the glories of Heaven again, and to suffer this awful darkness and eternal death, was *love* for you and me. He knew that if He would pay that price that you and I could miss what He was suffering, and enjoy what He had left for us.

When a man sees that, he’d rather suffer with Jesus in hell than be in Heaven without Him. But the good news is, friends, that all that He suffered was that you and I might not suffer that. We might have to suffer a little in this world. Everybody suffers something sometime somewhere. Don’t they? From Adam and Eve right on down to the present. We may have a few trials. But oh, to be with Jesus forever in those glorious mansions and to miss that awful hell. But oh, greater than all those motives

is the supreme motive: Jesus loved me so much that He took hell for me so I wouldn't have to take it. He left Heaven for me at the risk of eternal loss so that I could be there. I want to see Him and tell Him that I appreciate it. I want Him to get the benefit of what He paid for. You're the only one who can settle it.

It's the Christmas season. Many people are racking their brains to think what they should give someone. Suppose you have an Uncle George. He's a millionaire. What are you going to give him for Christmas? Give him a new tie? Bless his heart, he already has 50. Give him a suit of clothes? He has a dozen of those hanging in the closet. Maybe two dozen. Give him a new car? He has many in the garage. You can go down the list, and what are you going to give him?

What are you going to give God for Christmas? It just happens that Christmas is supposed to be the birthday of Christ. Isn't it? I don't know what day He was born. The important thing is not what day He was born, but the fact that He was born, He left Heaven and came down there to save you and me. That's the important thing.

What are you going to give Him? There's only one thing you can give Him that He doesn't already have. That's a deeper love from your heart. That's what He wants. That's why He left Heaven. There was something about you that drew Him with an attraction stronger than all the glories of Heaven, and pulled Him right into the mouth and depths of hell to get you, to rescue you.

Will you give Him what He wants? Will you give Him your life, your love? *Here* is the power. Here is the power.

You say, "I'd like to, Brother Frazee, but I just feel I'm so weak.

Listen, strength comes by looking at reality. There's many a person who thought they couldn't move, but when the house caught on fire, they got out. When you stand and look at hell this morning, do you not feel to flee from the wrath to come? Think of what people have done in order to get some reward. Think of the thousands that walked across the plains to get gold in the west. They were looking for that reward. If you and I have looked at the glorious reward that Heaven offers us, does there not stir in our hearts the longing to get what God has purchased for us? But if you still feel weak, look with me at Calvary, and see the One who loves you and died for you, and gave His life in order that you might escape from hell and have the reward of Heaven.

Whatever it might do to you, can you now, *will* you now, for *His* sake say, "Lord, I'll give You what you want and what You bought, what You died for. I'll give You my heart, my love."

[Testimony service]

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