

# How to Hasten His Coming

#0109

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 4, 1974

For a number of weeks, we've been studying this great threefold message of Revelation 14:6–12. Tonight, we notice the climax, the result. God's purpose in giving that message is that the people who hear that message and accept it may be ready for the glorious event pictured in the 14<sup>th</sup> verse:

"I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped" Revelation 14:14–16.

You notice with this there is a reaping also of the clusters of the vine of the earth in verses 17–19. In both cases, it says that the harvest is ripe.

Now in Matthew 13:39, Jesus says, "The harvest is the end of the world."

Would you like the world to end? There are some people who wouldn't; they have plans that that would interfere with. I tell you, there is no plan in this world so beautiful but what is worth setting aside for the dawning of that wonderful day. Even if you and I were sure of spending a lifetime in this world in peace and prosperity, when we look about us and see how much sorrow, how much trouble, how much strife, how much fear is filling this world, would we not long for the end to come so that millions could find something better than what is being found in this world? Wouldn't we? Oh yes. "The harvest is the end of the world."

Now when will the harvest come? I invite you to turn to Mark, the fourth chapter. We will see when the harvest will come. This end of the world, when will it come? Mark 4:29. And if your Bible has a margin, notice the marginal reading on that expression "brought forth." What is it? Ripe.

"But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately He putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come" Mark 4:29.

When is the sickle put in? When the harvest is ripe, that's when the harvest is come. When the fruit is ripe, whether it be the fruit of grain such as wheat or barley, or the fruit of the trees, the fruit must be ripe—the harvest must be developed.

When will Jesus put in the sickle? That's what he's telling about here. You put the sickle in when the harvest is ripe, not till then, friends. In 1844, Jesus went into

the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary to engage in the final work of judgment there before the Ark, the mercy seat. He's been in there now many, many years. He's been wanting to come. But He can't come till the harvest is what? Ripe.

If you and I can do something about this, we can hasten the coming of Jesus, as Peter says. If we don't do something about it, we delay the coming of Jesus. Some people might say, "Oh well. God knows when He's going to come, and nothing we can do can affect it one way or the other."

What does Peter mean then when he says in 2 Peter 3 that we're not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's true that God is omnipotent. But it's also true, dear friends, that God has involved His church as a body and each individual. He has involved human beings in this world in the decision as to when the end shall come, on two counts: first, you and I have a decision to reach as to when we will ripen up for the kingdom of God; second, we have a decision to reach as to what we shall do in bringing the message to millions who have not yet heard it so that they too can ripen up.

The ripening up represents, first of all, character development. In Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 38<sup>th</sup> verse, Jesus says:

“...the good seed are the children of the kingdom”  
Matthew 13:38.

Jesus was the Seed that was planted in this earth—the Divine Seed. In our humanity, He became one with us. And so, Paul says in Galatians 3 that Christ is that Seed. When He is planted in your heart and mine, He desires to bring forth a harvest, and the harvest is always like the seed sown. If you plant wheat, what do you get? Wheat. If you plant corn, you get corn. Jesus wants you and me to receive Him into our hearts and lives that a harvest may be brought forth just like the original Seed. Would you like to be just like Jesus?

You may say, “I could never be that. I'd like to be better than I am, but I could never be like Jesus.” Well, how much less than like Jesus would you like to be? How many times did Jesus lose His temper and get angry? Not once. How many times would you like to do that? Would you like to make arrangements to do it once a year? Somebody says, “No, that wouldn't be often enough for me. I do it about every week.” Some every day. Now really, folks, is that what we want? Do we want to live forever like that? Has God made any arrangements to change our characters so that we become like Jesus? That's what the Gospel is all about—that's the Good News. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,” Paul says, “of whom I am chief.”

“Though shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins” Matthew 1:21.

Is there anybody here tonight whom God has ever done anything for? Has God saved you from anything? Has He made any change in your life? Anybody here whom God gave victory over liquor or tobacco? I could go through a long list of questions. You know what I think, friends? I think that just about everybody here,

maybe everybody, would say, "Yes, Brother Frazee, somewhere along the line, God has done something for me. God has made changes in my life."

Turn to Philippians 1:6. And I want you to read one of the most wonderful verses in all the Bible. Oh, folks, I wouldn't sell this one for a million dollars, but I'll give it to you for nothing.

"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.

Will He get it done? He says He will. Did He want you and me to be confident? What does that mean? Sure, certain, without a doubt that He which has begun a good work in you will finish it, He'll perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Ah, somebody says, "But it seems so slow."

Well, I'll tell you our slowness is more than matched by His patience. The Husbandman hath long patience as He waits for the crop. Oh, I'm so glad that there's something we can do about it. What can you and I do to bring the harvest more quickly, first in our own lives and then by reaching those who don't know the Savior? Because that's all that's involved. When Jesus has got you and me ready, when the harvest is ripe, He'll come. When the millions of earth have heard the message, He'll come.

You know the promise there in Matthew 24:14. Let's repeat it together:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matthew 24:14.

When will the end come? When the gospel has been preached to all the world. Well, you say, "Which is it? Is it the ripening of the character or the giving of the gospel to all the world?" It's both.

How many of you ever saw a silver dollar with just one side? Or a 50-cent piece? Or a quarter? Every coin, little or big, has how many sides? Two sides. Bring me one with just one side, and I'll give you \$20 for it. And I've said that to say this, dear friends: this coin of being ready and getting the harvest ready has two sides. One side is the side of character development, the other side is the side of witnessing till every creature under Heaven has heard the message. And they are two sides of one coin, and the coin is one. Because, believe me, friends, no one will ever get ready for Heaven, no one will ever be ripened for the kingdom of God unless he is involved in this work of spreading the message to others.

I read something very interesting in this little book called *Fundamentals of Christian Education*. I want to share it with you.

"Those who would be overcomers..."

That's you and me—everybody here tonight. We want to be overcomers, don't we? Listen:

“Those who would be overcomers must be drawn out of themselves; and the only thing which will accomplish this great work is to be intensely interested in the salvation of others” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 207.

There you have it. You see, God could have found other ways to spread the message. He could have written it on the sky in a language that anybody could read. He could have sent angels; He has millions and millions of them—one angel to each person in this world. And, in a personal interview, the Gospel could have been told. Why does He wait while such slow people, as most of us are, make up our minds? Well, I'll tell you why, friends, because He loves us. And He has entrusted to us the precious work of witnessing to others, not only that those others might be reached, but in order that you and I might develop unselfishness.

“Those who would be overcomers must be drawn out of themselves; and the only thing which will accomplish this great work is to be intensely interested in the salvation of others” *Ibid*.

You see, the essence of sin is selfishness—being self-centered, self-seeking. We must forget self in our interest for others.

Let me illustrate something; you'll see the point very quickly. Suppose there's something I want you to forget. Well, say it's a certain number—528. I want you to forget that number. So, when you leave here tonight, I say to you, “Please forget that number 528.” And I see you tomorrow, and I say, “Have you forgotten that number yet?” What do you say? You say, “Wait a minute. What was that number? Oh yes, 528. Well, I'll work on that today and try to forget that.” And I see you the next day, and I say, “Have you forgotten 528 yet?” How long must I keep that up before you've forgotten it? How long would it take? Yes, it would take forever, and *then* it wouldn't happen! Am I right? Did you ever see some Christian try to forget self—praying and studying, and studying and praying, and working hard at this business of getting rid of selfishness? Did you ever try it yourself? It's like a little boy in the moonlight trying to run away from his shadow—the faster he runs, the faster the shadow runs. Self is like that. And you cannot forget it by trying to forget it. But there's one way you can forget self, and that is to get interested in something else—in Jesus and in the work He's given you to do.

You remember when Christ met Peter there by the Sea of Galilee after His resurrection, along with the other disciples? Peter had denied the Lord; He was sorry; he was ashamed. But Jesus called Him back and gave His commission.

Jesus said to Peter, “Peter, do you love Me?”

“Oh yes,” Peter said, “I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed My lambs.”

And again, “Peter, do you love Me?”

“Oh yes, Lord, You know all things. You know I love you.”

“Feed My sheep. Peter, do you love Me?”

Peter said, “Lord, You know all things. You know I love you.”

Jesus said, “Peter, feed My sheep.” Take an interest in those who I am interested in. Care for those for whom I gave My life. Peter did it. Praise the Lord.

There’s somebody here tonight who’s going to hear that call and do it? Will you be one? Oh, dear ones, those who are ready for the coming of the Master will be ripe grain. In their lives will be seen that same devotion to service, that same loving interest in others, that filled the heart of Jesus. This is what it means to be ripe for the kingdom of God.

When we love the world as He has loved it, then for us, His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for Heaven, for we have Heaven in our hearts. But what will happen to me if I do that? Would you like to find out what will happen to you? Turn to John the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, and you’ll see exactly what will happen:

“And Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified’ John 12:23.

He was back then; He will be again in this latter rain / loud cry time.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve Me, let him follow Me” John 12:24–26.

Christ illustrates His own sacrifice by the falling of a grain of wheat into the ground. And what happens to it? It dies. And then what happens? It brings forth fruit. And He says, If you want to follow Me, if you want to serve Me, you be like that grain of wheat. That’s what I’m doing, Jesus says; that’s what I want you to do. What will happen to you then? Ah, my friends, your life will be cast into the furrow of the world’s need.

What happened to Peter who heard this? Well, he gave his life in service, and the Romans crucified him. But there will be thousands of people in the kingdom because Peter gave his life in service and sacrifice, right? Was it worth it? Peter thought so; Jesus thinks so. And Peter will be there to see them too. Jesus can resurrect the soul that has given the life in service and sacrifice.

Paul, he took hold of this wonderful program. He gave *his* life in service and sacrifice. Going from city to city and country to country, he’d been rich, a very influential man in the Jewish nation, a member of the honored council of the seventy,

one of the leading men of the nation; he met Jesus. That day, he put his life fully into the furrow of need. He was willing to put himself, his plans, his wealth, his own ideas and program, put it all away—just live for others. He got thrown in jail many times; he got beaten, he got stoned, shipwrecked, spent years in prison. Finally, they took him out, cut his head off, at the command of the cruel Roman emperor Nero. But friends, he never regretted, all through his life and right up to the day he died, he never regretted the decision he'd made. He would have done it over again. And in the kingdom of God, he'll see thousands of people who are there because he gave his life.

Now, you and I are not called tonight to go to prison to have our heads taken off. But friends, nothing less than that surrender will enable us to bring forth fruit. The seed that brings forth fruit falls into the ground and dies. And God intends that every soul that accepts the Gospel of Christ shall, in turn, become seed to produce harvest again. do you see? God wants you, you for whom Christ has given His life, He wants *you* to give *your* life so that others can accept Him and give their lives and help others to accept Him and give their lives, and so the blessed work continues until every soul in this world that will accept Him has heard and accepted Him and the harvest is ready, and then Jesus will come. I want Him to come soon, don't you?

The sunset burns across the sky;  
Upon the air its warning cry.  
The curfew tolls, from tower to tower;  
O children, 'tis the last, last hour!

The work that centuries might have done  
Must crowd the hour of setting sun,  
And through all lands the saving name  
Ye must in fervent haste proclaim.

The fields are white to harvest.  
Weep, o tardy workers, as ye reap,  
For wasted hours that might have won  
Rich harvests ere the set of sun.

We hear His footsteps on the way;  
O work while it is called today,  
Constrained by love, endued with power,  
O children, in this last, last hour.

What is the church? Is it a mutual admiration society in which our main job is to pat one another on the back and keep one another feeling good? Is it a hospital where we go when we're sick, and hope they're enough preachers and church officers to take care of us, spiritually I mean? Or is the church an army in which every member is to be an enlisted soldier (no draftees), and everyone marching? We sing it, don't we? "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war. Like a mighty army moves the church of God."

Do you believe that? Are you enlisted in that army? Has Jesus given you a job? Oh friends, it's dangerous to be in an army in wartime, isn't it? Yes, it cost

Jesus His life; it cost Paul his life; it cost Peter his life; it's cost millions their lives; it'll cost you your life. Is it worth it? If Jesus is worth living for, He's worth dying for, isn't He?

Why not? Oh, why not this first Sabbath of the new year settle it that, for you and me, life in 1974 is going to have one great purpose, and that's to help Jesus reach other people so the work can be finished, and Jesus come, and all the troubles and problems of this world be solved by His coming. What do you say, friends?

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August in 1950, an Italian fisherman was drawing near the Golden Gate in San Francisco. He'd been out on the ocean catching fish; he'd had a good bog. He was bringing his catch into the harbor, about \$3,000 worth of fish on board. But he was moving cautiously for the fog that often comes there in the Golden Gate area had settled down. And suddenly, he noticed a man struggling in the water, close by his boat. Then, as the fog cleared a little, he looked down, and there in the clear waters were others. The United States Naval Hospital ship had been rammed in the fog, and it sunk with all on board. These were the survivors struggling in the water. He reached out suddenly to the man nearest him and pulled him in. Then he reached out and got another man and pulled him in. But pretty soon he had a problem. Do you know what it was? There wasn't any more room. There were boxes of fish all about. What should he do? What would *you* do?

Overboard went a box of fish, and in came another man. And so it went on. And as the sun went down, John Napoli came into the wharf with 70 men on board—every one he had pulled out of the water with his own arms. But there were no fish left. Was it worth it? If anybody you love was among the 70 saved, it was worth it. Am I right? The things that are keeping Christians from putting their whole lives into the work of God are not so much, *bad* things.

What's in your boat? What's taking up your time, your thought, your effort? If we look with eyes anointed by the spirit of God, we'll see men struggling in the waters around us. We'll see people struggling with alcohol, with tobacco, with all kinds of problems—drug problems, marriage problems, problems of nervousness and fear and anxiety, problems of sin. Have you got a lifeboat? Or is that boat that God gave you—your life, your talents, your time—filled with fish, just filled with the things that you get just by spending time in ordinary activities? Ah, somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, we have to make a living." John Napoli was making a living that day, wasn't he? But bless the Lord, his living went to the bottom of the ocean, and he saved 70 lives. The God who has called you and me to service says, Go, and I'll be with you, and whatsoever is right I will give you.

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. God may want you to keep doing the same work you're doing. But friends, if He does, it's because in that work you'll find not merely some money to pay some bills; that's very incidental. It is because He has arranged for you to find some people who you can pull out of sin into the Gospel lifeboat. Paul found them as he made tents. Jesus found them in His work in the carpenter shop. If God has called you to any line of work or business, remember it is that in that work you may find people to witness to and bring them to the Savior that He may forgive their sins and get them ready for His coming. And if the work you're doing won't let you do that,

won't allow you to do that, won't enable you to do it, by all means, throw the fish overboard. Let everything that would hinder us in this one work of soul-winning, let it be put aside. What do you say?

You know, this is the last chance we're ever going to have. Most all the things that people are interested in doing today, if they're worth doing, we'll have a chance to do them more and better when Jesus comes. Travel? My, what wonderful trips we'll take with Jesus all through the universe, won't we? What a trip through Orion to the center of the universe, then on out through space. Music? Building? Study? Visiting? You name it, friends. Food? My, what a wonderful banquet God is arranging. And there will be something better every day. Everything worthwhile we're going to have. But listen: there's one thing we'll never have a chance to do, and that's to pull a man out of the waters of sin. Never! Never in all eternity. Our only chance to do that is now. Oh, men sell out so cheaply. How men miss the great opportunity of life. I hope you won't. I hope this very first Sabbath of this new year you will settle it in your soul: God helping me, I will let Jesus finish His work in my life, and I'll begin right now to let Him use me to help other people. I'll live for that.

Somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, be practical. What should I do?"

Listen. I know something, and it's just as certain as I stand here. If you make the full surrender to Jesus and play fair with God, God will help you to know what to do a step at a time. John Napoli knew what to do with his boat, didn't he? Sure.

Now, it may not come upon you so suddenly. And you may not see everything all at once the way he did there for a few minutes. But you can make that same surrender. You can say, "Lord, here's my boat. Use it any way You want to. Use my time, my talents, my strength, my money, my life. Here it is, Lord. Use it anywhere you want to. And don't be afraid that somebody else is going to step in and take your life over. Just you and Jesus, that's all. Just make an arrangement with Jesus right here tonight that anything that God makes plain to you, you're going to do it. That hand that reaches out to take your hand is pierced with nails. We can trust Him.

What we're talking about isn't just being saved ourselves. John Napoli could have steamed into the harbor with \$3,000 worth of fish and spent a comfortable night with his family. Or could he?

Listen. If you and I go into the golden harbor of Heaven empty, as far as souls are concerned, what profit will it be if we've made a name for ourselves or wealth for ourselves or comfort for ourselves in this world? We want to take some souls with us for Jesus' sake, don't we?

Young people. What are you going to do with your life? Spend it in fun? Get some fame? Get some finances? What are you going to do with your life? I offer you the grandest opportunity of eternity, young people. You can be those who plant the standard of victory on the eternal heights. You can be those who share in the final triumph of the army of God. It's going to take all you have. You can't hold on to the world with one hand and God with the other. It's impossible, friends, to live for



fun and frolic and foolishness, for fame and money with one half of your brain and the other really be devoted to working for Jesus. God's promised you an expense account. What more do you need? He guarantees to supply all that's necessary. I'd like to ask a question. And my question is not addressed to people in general; it's addressed to one person—it could be you. oh, I hope there will be more than one that the arrow from God's quiver reaches. But I'm talking to one man, one woman, one youth, one boy, one girl, one soul. Listen, my friend. If God has spoken to your heart tonight, and you know that God is calling you to respond to this message in such a way that it makes a change in your life, I want you to stand up. I want to pray for you. Somebody here who God is going to talk to, you're going to realize that this means a change in your life. You realize that this means some turning around. Let the Holy Spirit talk to our hearts. We can't judge others; we can't read hearts. The Holy Spirit is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the mind and soul. but if God is speaking to your heart right now and saying, Tonight is decision night for you, listen to the voice of the Spirit and stand. By standing, say, Lord, here's my boat. It may be a little boat, but you can have all of it.

Now, we're going to spend just a few minutes in responses. What has God said to your heart tonight?

[Testimony service]

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