

Prosperity, Health, Happiness

#0185

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 16, 1956

Out text this evening is found in one of the very small chapters of the Bible. Third John, the second verse:

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospers” 3 John 1:2.

This was written by the Apostle John to the well-beloved Gaius. But in *Ministry of Healing*, page 113, we’re told that this is the desire of God for every human being. So it isn’t just for Gaius; it isn’t just for the people that read that message back there; it’s for all who read it today. In fact, it’s for every human being.

Each one of us tonight can receive this message as if it were addressed to him personally. Take that first word, “beloved,” are you beloved? Does God love you? Praise His name, yes He does. He *does* love you. He loves you with a wonderful love. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to experience all the things that this verse says. He is expecting to make it plain just how you can receive it.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospers” 3 John 1:2.

There are three kinds of success that are spoken of in this verse. I’d like to mention all of them tonight. The first is spoken of as being prosperous—prosperity. [Elder Frazee is writing on a blackboard.] The second is spoken of as being in health. And the third is spoken of as *soul* prosperity.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospers” 3 John 1:2.

And as I shall show, the result of that and the fruit of that is happiness, so I’ll mark on the blackboard “happiness.”

There are the three things that God wants us to have: prosperity, health, and happiness. Prosperity has to do with the temporal, the material things: money, a place to live, something to eat, something to wear, keeping warm—the material things of life.

Health, of course, has to do with the physical, the condition of our bodies, and

our minds, the way they work have something to do with the way our health is too. We're to be healthy in body and mind.

And then the soul is to prosper, and this brings happiness. A truly converted heart is a happy heart.

Now how can we have these three experiences? Well, my dear friends, all that we need to do to have all three of these is to walk in the law of the Lord.

Notice Psalm 119:1:

"Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD" Psalm 119:1.

Then he goes on:

"Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart" Psalm 119:2.

What happens? What is the experience of these who keep the law of God and walk in His commandments, love His testimonies? They're blessed. They're blessed in temporal things, in physical things, and in spiritual things.

One might be thinking, "Well, why are there so many poor people that are Christians?" Well, there are two parts to that answer. One is that a man may not be rich and yet he may prosper. One of the richest men that ever lived said, "Give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food convenient for me." The Apostle Paul, who had known what it was to be rich measured by the standards of this world, said, "I've learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content. And having food and raiment," he said, "Let us be therewith content."

To be prosperous doesn't necessarily mean to have as much money as a millionaire. Not at all. However, God does what us to prosper. Our text says so. And I think it would probably be true that most of us here if we could look over God's shoulder, if I may use that expression, if we could look over His shoulder and see His plans, we would probably see that God really desires most of us here tonight to have more of what is called wealth than we have. I think that's true.

I think He probably wants most of us to have more health than we have, and probably more happiness than we have. So tonight, we want to study how to increase our wealth, our health, and our happiness by following God's plan, by walking in the law of the Lord and keeping His testimonies.

The greatest object lesson that God has ever made along this line is with the

nation of Israel. God called Israel out of Egypt and gave them His law, statutes, and judgments, and He made them promises in all three of these phases of life. He promised that He would do great things for them, that He would bless them with prosperity, that He would bless them with health, and that He would bless them with joy and happiness.

I want to read a few statements from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy along this line tonight and notice what God promised. Let's go first Deuteronomy 7:

“Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which He swore unto thy fathers: And He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: He will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which He swore unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shall be blessed above all people...”
Deuteronomy 7:12–14.

Now, this is speaking very definitely of financial, material, temporal prosperity. Their crops were to be good crops. They were to have oil and wine and grain. They were to have all the comforts of life. God didn't promise to make any of them millionaires; they didn't need that. But He promised to give them temporal prosperity. It's very clear here.

We come on down to verses 14–15. Notice how He goes into the promises dealing with physical blessing:

“Thou shall be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all *them* that hate thee”
Deuteronomy 7:14–15.

I think that's wonderful, friends. Here we have in these verses wonderful promises of material prosperity, wonderful promises of physical health. God wanted them to be healthy. He wanted them to be prosperous. He wanted them to be happy.

Well, He goes on to through this chapter and continues to repeat the promises. The same in the eighth chapter, and all of them are given on condition of obedience. Notice the beautiful description of the life that God was bringing them into.

“Therefore thou shall keep the commandments of the LORD

thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the LORD thy God brings thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass” Deuteronomy 8:6–9.

Notice what a picture of material prosperity there’s set before them here. God wanted them to prosper. And He warned them that when they got into that prosperity, they should be careful not to forget the Lord, not to think as the 17th verse says, the danger of saying in thine heart:

“...My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth” Deuteronomy 8:17.

Notice the 18th verse:

“But thou shall remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that gives thee power to get wealth...” Deuteronomy 8:18.

Did God want them to be prosperous? Yes. Now is it a fact that they were prosperous when they followed His commands? Why yes, there’s no question about that. All through these chapters in Deuteronomy, one after the other, these promises are repeated of temporal prosperity, physical health, and spiritual blessing.

This one in the 11th chapter we love to repeat:

“Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sit in thine house, and when thou walk by the way, when thou lie down, and when thou rise up. And thou shall write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth” Deuteronomy 11:18–21.

God wanted them to have haven on earth, friends. Those that entered into His purpose did, to a great extent. They achieved a prosperity and health and happiness that made them the wonder of the world. Oh, that they all might have done it!

Deuteronomy 12:7. Notice how God wanted them to be happy in everything they did:

“And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee”
Deuteronomy 12:7.

Isn't that nice? They were to enjoy their work and their study, their labor and their rest, their worship, their recreation, eating—everything was to be a source of happiness.

Now, what was God's purpose in all this, friends? Why, God's purpose in all of it was so that the whole world could see in Israel an object lesson of how good God's plan is. That was His purpose. God said that the other people would see Israel in this prosperous, healthy, happy condition, and they would say, “What nation is there that has laws so great and wonderful as Israel?” And eventually, Israel would have spread over the earth by conquest and by many people accepting the plan of life that God had given Israel, and eventually Jerusalem would have been the metropolis of the whole world.

Well, the sad thing is, friends, that instead of following God's plan, they made two mistakes. Very few of them followed it fully, and on the other hand, nearly all of them were all the time studying how to get as much of the world's plan as they could, and as little of God's plan; all the time finding some other way. The result was that the never, as a nation, fully entered in to God's plan.

I'm going to read a few statements from *Ministry of Healing*, page 283:

“Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received, and profited by their advantages, they would have been the world's object lesson of health and prosperity”
Ministry of Healing, page 283.

Notice, not only health but what else? Prosperity. And notice, not only prosperity but what? Health.

“Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received, and profited by their advantages, they would have been the world's object lesson of health and prosperity. If, as a people, they had lived according to God's plan, they would have been preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations” *Ibid*.

We read that, a few minutes ago, over in Deuteronomy 7, didn't we?

"Above any other people they would have possessed physical strength and vigor of intellect. They would have been the mightiest nation on the earth" *Ibid.*

Now on page 285, after quoting a number of these promises:

The Israelites failed of fulfilling God's purpose, and thus failed of receiving the blessings that might have been theirs" *Ibid.*, page 285.

They failed as a nation. But now watch:

"But in Joseph and Daniel, in Moses and Elisha, and many others, we have noble examples of the results of the true plan of living. Like faithfulness today will produce like results" *Ibid.*

Now there are several things I want you to notice about this. What did Israel do as a nation? They failed. But did certain individuals enter into this? Yes. Then tell me, can individuals receive these blessings even if a nation doesn't? Did they back there? Yes, all right.

Notice also that what Joseph, and Daniel, and Moses, and Elisha, and many others demonstrated was the results of the "true plan of living." Does God have a plan of living? Yes. And God's plan of living *results* in prosperity, health and happiness. That's the thing; it's God's plan of living that produces these results, and wonderful results they are!

"Like faithfulness today will produce like results" *Ibid.*

Will God have some people today that are prosperous, and are prosperous because they follow His plan? Will He? Will God have some people today that are healthy? And will their health come from a lot of marvelous discoveries of how to do something different from what God says? Is that the way they'll get health? No. Their health will come from what? It will be one of the results of the true plan of living. God will have some happy people today in a world of restless, worry, and fear. God will have some happy people.

Now that's the way it's put there in *Ministry of Healing*; now, let me read something similar in *Prophets and Kings*, page 713:

"That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel,

the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today” *Prophets and Kings*, page 713.

Now, *Ministry of Healing* says it *could* be done today, *can* be done, *may* be done. But *Prophets and Kings* says it *will* be done. Somebody’s going to do it. And it’s going to be done through what? Through His church. Well then I want to be a part of His church, don’t you? That’s right. I want to be a part of His church. I don’t want to be ensnared by some offshoot. I don’t want to be taken in by some voice that is saying, Lo here, or Lo, there. I want to be a part of God’s remnant church which He established a hundred years ago to carry this message to all the world and to prepare a people to demonstrate the very thing we’re studying about tonight.

“That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today... to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people”
Ibid.

That takes in a lot of territory (if I may use that expression). Everything that God promises to ancient Israel, all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people will be fulfilled to His people today. Does it take in what we’ve read then? Is that why these promises are there in the Bible? Yes. They’re for.

“...whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” Romans 15:4.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Oh friends, aren’t we in a glorious hour? Well, now what can we do, friends, to enter more fully into this? I shall not seek to exhaust the subject tonight, we couldn’t, but I would like to take up two principles that run through the Lord’s instructions concerning how to be prosperous, how to be healthy, and how to be happy.

The first is a very simple principle. It’s amazing how much it is disregarded, and that is to avoid debt. Avoid debt.

“We should shun debt as we should shun the leprosy”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 217.

I’d like to have us think of it tonight, not merely in temporal things, although it includes that. I’d like to have us think of it in our physical life, and in our spiritual life.

Do you know what debt is? I'll tell you what it is; it's spending more than you have received. I was about to say it's drawing on reserves. It's worse than that. If you have reserves, *actual* reserves that you can draw on, that's one thing. But to borrow in order to spend, to take that which we do not rightly have because we want to do something at the moment, that is a very dangerous thing.

Now, I'm acquainted with the fact that the Lord has, through the Spirit of Prophecy, told us that there are times when in order to get an institution started, debt should be incurred. I don't want to discount that tonight, and I want to mention it right now so that we won't get any wrong ideas.

But I want to say, dear friends, that debt is not God's ideal plan and purpose for us. There are a great many things that God puts up with. There are great many things that He even uses. He uses sickness, doesn't He? But it isn't His ideal plan. He uses debt, but it isn't His ideal plan. To Israel He said, Thou shall lend unto many nations, but Thou shall not borrow. That was a promise, not a command. It wasn't that God told them, you must not borrow. He says, you won't need too if you do what I tell you. And so while we should be willing to borrow if we need too in order to carry on a work for God, we should remember that God is seeking to lead us past all such experiences into the glorious liberty and freedom from every kind of debt, my friends, every kind of debt.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” Galatians 5:1.

But now having made clear that in our human experience, our human nature being what it is, there are times when debt seems to be a necessity, let me go back to this important thing that we're studying, and that is that God's want us in all these three phases of life to get beyond debt. He wants us to get beyond debt. That simply means to not spend that which we do not have.

It's interesting how the nation today is riding on a great tide of what is called prosperity, which is almost entirely dependent on debt. I'm speaking of the American nation. You see people riding around here in automobiles, and most of them are new; they're not very old. How many of them do you suppose are paid for? It would be an interesting thing if the state police would take one of their checking points and stop every car and ask, “Is this car paid for?”

“No.”

“Is this one paid for?”

“No.”

“How much you paid on it?”

“Well, I have 12 months yet to go.”

“How much have you got?”

“Well, I’ve got three months left to go. Then I’m going to get a new one and start all over again.” [Audience laughter]

But that’s only the beginning. People are looking at television. They’ve got deep freezers and refrigerators. They’ve got lovely carpets and furniture, and all kinds of things, but 9 out of 10 of them will tell you that if something should happen that they would be thrown out of work, in just a few months, they’d lose most of what they have.

Now, the world may call that prosperity, friends. You’ll allow me to have a question mark in my mind about it. It’s the same kind of prosperity that we see on the next level in this matter of health. We see people rushing around that seem to have a lot of vigor, vim, and vitality, but when you inquire into it you find that they’re taking drugs every day of their lives.

Some of them get it from a coffee cup, or I should put it in the plural for one is never enough. It takes anywhere from 3 to 20 a day to keep some people going. Coffee. Others get the same thing from Coca-Cola. They’ have to have a lift. They’d be worn out before the day was half gone if they didn’t have that caffeine, either from coffee, or tea, or Coca-Cola.

Others get it in other ways. My point is that much of what passes for the ability to keep going is an artificial thing that is produced by drug action in one way or another. Isn’t that too bad, friends? That’s the truth. And just as if you would stop the debt business, the prosperity of this country would go, so if you stopped the drug business, you would stop the drugging habits of people, oh my, it would be hard to find enough people with enough vitality to keep the essential things going.

Now, you go on up into this matter of happiness. Of course, we see a great deal of unhappiness, but there’s more than we see. Much of what passes for happiness today is not so at all. It sustains the same relationship to the mind and soul that this artificial vim does to the body, and the artificial prosperity does to the pocketbook. It’s false. It’s fictitious. It’s put on. It’s make-believe. It comes from artificially exciting the nerves and brain. That’s what the movies do. That’s what dances do. That’s what fiction does, whether it’s on the television, or the radio, or out of a book or a magazine. Much of the things that people are counting on today to give them happiness are artificial and false. So we see the world today as a world of sham, largely, both in prosperity and health and in happiness.

Oh, my friends, shall we go that road? Shall we enjoy prosperity which comes by being slaves in a treadmill of installment payments? Shall we enjoy a certain amount of vitalities which is caused by taking pills, or injections, or cups of this or that? And shall we depend for happiness upon these commercialized amusements, or on these other things that the Devil is using to keep people's minds in a world of excitement?

Let me tell you that what God offered Israel and what He offers Israel today is something entirely different. It is a prosperity that is built around keeping out of debt, not going into debt. There's only one way to keep out of debt, and that is to get out of debt and stay out.

And so with our health, my dear friends. We will never achieve health by biting off more than we can chew. We will never achieve health by driving ourselves to try to pack more than 24 hours into a day. Nobody ever succeeds in doing it.

The Bible very plainly states:

"It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he gives his beloved sleep"
Psalm 127:2.

Oh, I'm so glad, friends, that God has given us a way of life in temporal things, in physical things, in spiritual things that keep our feet on the earth and our head in the sky. I mean by that that it's practical, down to earth, and yet, it is all so beautiful. And we can really enter into the success that God has for us.

But we must be willing to be patient and work with God and His ways. We must be willing to earn the money and not think that we can get it all today and then pay later. So with our health: if we've lost our health through disobedience to nature's laws, we must not think, my dear friends, that we can go to some doctor, or go to some sanitarium, even the Wildwood sanitarium, and that suddenly some wonderful herb, or some charcoal, or some fomentation, or some prayer is going to take the place of patient, continuance in well-doing in obedience to the laws of life and health. Do you see what I mean?

We must settle it in our souls that God is seeking to teach us a no debt plan to put something in before we draw out. To put something in the purse before we try to spend. Put something in the body before we try to spend energy. And every day to put in just a little bit more than we spend.

Benjamin Franklin, I think it was who put it this way. He says, "Every day spend one penny less than you earn. Then all your creditors will be happy. You'll have a good name." You'll be happy. Just spend one penny less than you earn.

In health matters, it's amazing what a tiny shift of the balance would do for some people in this matter of spending just a little less than they take in, giving the body sufficient time to have the battery recharged by sleep, by happy outdoor exercise, and by prayer.

And in the spiritual, most of all, dear friends, we need to definitely recognize that we cannot communicate that which we have not received. Here, more than any other phase of our life, we must first receive from God before we can communicate to men. And there's nothing more wearing on the souls of people than to try to minister spiritual life when our own spiritual battery is way run down.

What was it that God said to Ezekiel?

"Son of man... eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel" Ezekiel 3:1.

We must stop to eat the roll before we go to speak. Jesus Himself, often had to go away to the mountains or in some place of retirement. What for? To get spiritual life. He could not operate on a debt policy in spiritual things. He had to have poured into Him life from above that He might pour out that life to others. And so I suggest that we study personally this matter of getting out of debt and keeping out of debt as it relates to our material life, our physical life, and our spiritual life. I'll leave that with you to study.

One other principle, that is this: In God's plan, all of this is for others, not for self. In God's plan if He blesses us with prosperity, it is that we may be wise stewards of His blessings to share with those needier than ourselves. If He blesses us with health, it is that we may use that strength in serving others, the sick, the weak, the needy in body and mind. And if He blesses us with a spiritual experience, it isn't just that we may sit back and enjoy a fellowship with God and let the rest of the world go by. No. We are blessed, as God put it to Abraham, that we may be a blessing.

"...I will bless thee... and thou shall be a blessing"
Genesis 12:2.

Unless we have in our hearts that spirit of making others first, and ourselves secondary, we forfeit the conditions of blessing in all these areas.

Let's notice how Jesus taught this wonderful lesson in the feeding of the 5,000. The story is told in various places. We'll note just a few thoughts from the sixth chapter of John. This was on the shore of the sea of Galilee. Jesus had been teaching the people all day. You remember as the evening was coming on, Jesus knew that many of those people would faint by the way. They hadn't had anything to eat all day.

Notice how Jesus tested the disciples:

“When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this He said to prove him: for He himself knew what He would do”
John 6:5–6.

Now, I want you to notice several things that Jesus didn’t do. He did not dismiss the multitudes even though the disciples, as another record says, suggested that He’d better send them home. He didn’t send them home on the ground that He had nothing to take care of them with. That’s one thing that He didn’t do.

That’s the way some people interpret the no-debt policy. They say, “I don’t have very much. I don’t even have enough for myself, so I know I can’t help anybody.” The same with the health question. They say, “I can hardly take care of myself, let alone look after anybody else.” So their idea of interpreting the no-debt policy is, “Don’t ask me to do anything because I can’t even look after myself.”

Well you say, “Isn’t that just what you said a few minutes ago, Brother Frazee?” No, you may have thought that’s what we said, but that isn’t it? That’s why I’m studying this now. I don’t want anybody to get that idea. Isaiah 58 definitely contradicts that. You remember in Isaiah 58 there were some people that were just fasting; they were so anxious for God to bless them. You know a man really wants something when he quits eating in order to pray about something, doesn’t he? Yes.

But what did God say to the people in Isaiah 58? Did He say, If you fast some more, I’ll do it? No. He said, “You need to do something else instead of fast. You need to get up and get busy and help other people. And then if you’ll do that, He said, your health will spring forth what? Speedily.”

Is that what the Bible says? Did I quote that right? Yes. That’s exactly what it says in Isaiah 58. That’s written to the people who are to be the repairers of the breach, and the restorer of paths to dwell in on the Sabbath commandment. So that’s for you and me. Very well. Jesus did not make His poverty an excuse for doing nothing with needy people. He didn’t do that.

Now note something else He didn’t do. He didn’t say to Judas, who was the treasurer, “It looks like you’d have to go over to the nearby city and float a loan. See if you can’t go over there and borrow about \$500.00. Then go over to the bakery and get what it takes to take care of these people.”

That’s the other thing He didn’t do. He didn’t do either one of those things. He didn’t dismiss the people without helping them; neither did He involve Himself in some

great debt in order to take care of the situation.

He raised the question with the disciples, "How are we going to handle it?" I love that sixth verse:

"And this He said to prove Him: for He himself knew what He would do" John 6:6.

He knew. Thank God, He has a way through every problem for you and me, friends, if we're willing to do what Jesus and His disciples did that day. Well, you remember the story. We'll not take time to look at all the details. The thing I want you to notice is that Jesus got them to looking to see what? What they had. What they had.

"How many loaves have you?" He said. "Look and see." And finally, they looked all around and Andrew came up, and he said, "All we can find is that there's a little boy here that has five little buns and two fishes." I suppose the disciples thought that that surely would convince the Master that nothing could be done about it.

But what did Jesus say? Did He say, "Well, maybe we can arrange for the little boy to give us part of that, and after the multitude is gone, at least we'll have a little something to eat?" Is that what He said? No, He didn't say that. He said, "Bring those to Me."

You know, it's wonderful that the little fellow was willing to have his lunch used, wasn't it? That's bringing out the very lesson that I want to leave with us as the most important tonight. The spirit of sacrifice must be in our hearts all the way up and down this matter. The kind of prosperity God wants to give us is built on *sacrifice*, not all this inflation and installment buying, friends. The kind of health that God wants to give us is the kind that Isaiah 58 brings to view. Not the kind that comes from pampering and sparing ourselves so that God can't use us to help others.

The kind of happiness that God wants to give us is not the happiness that comes from going off in some desert place, going off in some tropical isle somewhere where nobody can bother us. Don't misunderstand me, there're times for retirement, but I'm talking about the prosperity and the health and happiness tonight that God wants to give us. It is based, my dear friends, upon sacrifice; paradoxical as that may seem.

Now let's see how it worked with Jesus. He got them to bring the bread, all of it. Then He asked God to bless it. We'd better ask God to bless this thing, or it'll never work, friends. But when He did that, then did He say to the disciples, "Well now we will have something to eat and see if there is anything left over for the rest?" No. What did He say? Why, He said to Matthew, "Here Matthew, take this basket and feed those over here. Peter, take this basket and feed those yonder; Andrew, over here, John there, James, there," and so on. And all 12 of the apostles were busy passing out

bread.

And you know we're told a wonderful thing. The food not only multiplied in Jesus' hands as He broke it off, but we are told that the food actually multiplied in the hands of the disciples as they passed it out. Isn't that wonderful? Wonderful, friends! It multiplied in His hands, but it multiplied in their hands as they did what? As they imparted.

Listen, did they go in debt any on that day? Did they meet the need? Were they prosperous? Why yes, they had all they needed. That's *prosperity*, friends, in my dictionary. Oh, how much better that is than to go in debt to ride in Cadillacs and eat all kinds of luxuries. There was no deficit in the treasury that night. There was no red ink in the books. The people had what they needed. Jesus and His disciples got something to eat, but they got it when? After the others had been fed.

I don't pretend to understand, friends, all that's involved in what I'm studying with you tonight. I, with you, am studying this subject. But I believe with all my heart what I read in my opening text that God's wish for every human being is expressed in the words:

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper
and be in health, even as thy soul prospers” 3 John 1:2.

God says, Brother, Sister, Friend, I love you. Oh, I want you to be prosperous. Not a millionaire, but I want you to have all you need. That's prosperous. And I want you to be healthy. It isn't my wish for you to be sick and have to drag yourself around. I don't enjoy your pain. I'd like you to be healthy, to be just full of vitality. And I want you to be happy.

I want you to be free from the worries and the cares that are eating out the hearts of men and women. And if ye know these things, you are happy if you do them.

But now watch something very interesting, friends. Tell me something; look at those first two—prosperity and health. Which do you think is more important, health or prosperity? Would you rather be a sick, rich man, or a well poor man? I think most people will agree in talking that they would rather be well and poor than sick and rich. But the people of this world, my friends, thousands upon thousands of them use up all their health in the endeavor to get wealth, and then if they succeed in getting the wealth, begin to spend the wealth in an endeavor to try to get what? Get the health back.

Is it wise to sacrifice health in the rush to get prosperity? Oh, no. Health should always be considered of more importance than any amount of money, or anything money can buy. Do you agree with me? That's according to the law and the testimony.

Look a little farther. Which do you think is more important? To have health and

prosperity, or to be happy? You know, you'll pardon me, friends, but I've seen people whose program to get health was such that it made them miserable. Everything had to run just so, and it made them very unhappy. And if there was anybody around them that could be made unhappy, it made them unhappy too.

You know I believe, as I heard one good man put it, that the real object of health reform is health. But I'd like to go a step farther. The real object of health is happiness. That's its purpose, to make people happy. Friends, I wouldn't care if I could be as big as an elephant and as strong as Samson; if I was miserable, what good would it be? I thank God that in the Christian life, He gives us not only a true sense of values, but a sense of relative values.

Jesus put it this way. As He beheld the people worried and wearied with the material things, He said:

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are ye not much better than they? ...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” Matthew 6:26–32.

But He says, “Is not the life more than [food], and” isn't “the body than raiment?” Matthew 6:25. Oh, I feel so sorry for all those people who are rushing to earn money to get something to eat, and they work so hard and have so much to do and so many things to see about, and many places to go that they don't have half the time to sit down and actually enjoy the meal that they work so hard to get the money to buy the food to eat. Isn't that something to feel sorry about as you see people doing that? Wearing their lives away in the endeavor to get something to put into the body to keep the life up.

Rise up, O men of God, have done with lesser things. Oh, let us set our hearts on the things that are more excellent.

“...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper

and be in health, even as thy soul prospers” 3 John 1:2.

We’ve talked of several things tonight; I think it would be nice now if we could talk them over a little together. Some of you’ve gotten one thought, some another. Some may have some thoughts that may not have been expressed so far in the study, but I think we all agree tonight that God has made us some exceeding great and precious promises, and we want to enter into them. We want to meet the conditions, that we today may be what Israel could have been—the object lesson of health, prosperity, and happiness. What for? Not to show how much we are, for we’re nothing, but to show the goodness of our God, and to demonstrate the results of the true plan of living.

Tell me something before we speak, if we have not fully entered in, and seen the results of this thing, is that God’s fault or our fault?

God is not merely willing to demonstrate this thing, He’s *anxious* to do it. We need not fear or worry about the thing working, all we need to do is to seek as little children, day by day, to learn more and better how to enter in with Jesus, remembering that love for others and sacrifice for the good of others is the keynote to the whole matter.

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