

I'm Very Sure 4 of 4

#0227

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 25, 1968

“...In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established” 2 Corinthians 13:1.

In these studies that we are concluding tonight, this particular series, we're studying the reasonable evidences of the Christian hope. The Christian's hope is not based upon myth or legend or superstition. It's not based just on the longings of the human heart, although certainly there are deep and earnest longings in these souls of ours. The Christian's hope and faith are built upon evidence that can be examined by any reasonable mind.

When we look at these evidences, we're constrained to admit there is definite proof that this universe is in the hands of a General Manager who is wise, infinite in wisdom; mighty, infinite in power, and loving. He's thinking of us. And as a result, if we are willing to enter into His plans, then He will make everything in this present life work for our good, however bad it may seem to be. And beyond that, He gives us the hope of sharing in a home of peace and love, health, and success throughout the endless ages of eternity.

To be able to know that, not just to hope it, or guess it, or think it, or maybe so, but to know it, this is worth everything, dear friends. And the scriptures invite us to prove all things.

“Come now and let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18), is the invitation of the Creator. God wants our minds to be satisfied that He has presented to us abundant proof, satisfactory evidence. Nothing is left to chance or uncertainty. You know, when a person has that certainty in his soul, when he knows beyond *any* question that these are realities, ah, then, my friends, he has everything to be thankful for.

Now, there are three great lines of evidence that make it certain that there is a God, that He has spoken to us through His Word, and that those who cooperate with Him can have this hope of which we are speaking.

The first line of evidence is from nature. We examined that in one of our earlier studies, the abundant testimony from the works of God, that the One who made this universe has a plan, a design. It isn't run by chance. He's mighty in power. He can keep these stars running in perfect order. He turns the earth on its axis, and guides it in its journey around the sun, all in perfect order. And as we examine the various things in nature, from the minute to the greatest, we see evidence of a master plan for things fit together.

It's true that there are discordant notes in the music we hear in this world. And there is an explanation for that. I wish to spend a few minutes on that, tonight,

in one phase of our study. But in general, as I say, if we'll look, there is evidence of a master plan in the things of nature in this world and all through the universe. Every design proves the presence of a designer.

You know, I was thinking about it, friends. Suppose you and I were going out on a journey here through the mountains, and we come to a meadow, way up there in the mountains. And as far as we know, nobody has ever been there. But as we come along, we see 4 posts in a row, 12 feet apart, and in a straight line—those 4 posts sticking in the ground. What do we know right away? Somebody has been there. Some human being has been there.

And if one of the parties says, "Oh, look! somebody has been there."

Suppose somebody else should say, "Why do you think so? Don't you suppose that could have just happened?"

Those 4 posts 12 feet apart, in a straight line—there isn't a reasonable mind in this world that could even conceive of the possibility of that being there by chance. Do you agree with me?

But my dear friends, in nature we have literally 10,000 examples of a much more intricate pattern, a much more wonderful design from the atom on up to the starry hosts above us. Yes, nature speaks to us of an unseen Creator who has a wonderful mind and has made a wonderful design.

In our last study, we raised this question: If the universe is in the charge of a General Manager like that who made it, and if it's evident that He has a design, and if man is the highest order of being we know of in this world, would it not be reasonable that the Creator should seek to communicate with these intelligent beings that are the highest order of creation on this planet? Especially since it is evident as we look at life around us that the human choice has something to do, yes a great deal to do, with success to the individual?

Around us are laws: moral laws, natural laws, the laws of physiology and health. These laws require on our part two things: an intelligent knowledge of how they operate, and a choice to cooperate with them. We can find some of these laws as we study the natural world.

Doctors, scientists, have been studying for a long time now, the mysteries of the human body. And what wonderful, wonderful wisdom they discover as the result of the study of the lungs, the liver, the heart, the stomach, the nerves, and the brain—evidence of wonderful wisdom. Yet, dear friends, we also discover that the choice of man can thwart the Creator's wisdom and power, and love as far as making a success of the individual. Last year two million people died of heart attacks. And scientific research shows that most of those could have been prevented. That's just one example of what I'm talking about.

The human choice can either cooperate with these wonderful laws in the physical world and the spiritual world, and reap the result in health and happiness, or it can fail to cooperate and reap the sad result of disappointment, disease, death.

So I repeat, the Creator who has gone to such work to make such a vast universe so orderly in its arrangement, and has done so much to fill this world with beauty and love, would He not seek to reveal Himself and His plan? And He has done this in the Bible.

We examined in our last study the evidence that in this Book the Creator has proved that He is speaking. He has done it by foretelling the future, which the mind of man cannot do. Only the One who sees the future can tell, with accuracy, what's coming. No mortal mind can do that. Here is the finger of God.

As we examined in our last study some of the prophecies of Daniel, we saw evidence in history that exactly what prophecy had predicted has come to pass, and that we're living, according to those wonderful prophecies, in the closing hour of human history. And the next event is the setting up of God's kingdom.

We also noted the evidence that the One who is speaking in this Book, the Creator of the universe, gave His life for us upon the cross. For in the wonderful, mathematical prophecy of Daniel 8 and 9, the exact time of the Messiah's coming, the exact year of His death upon the cross, were foretold. Christ came at the precise time pointed out over 500 years in advance. This shows that He is indeed the Savior of the world, the true Messiah, the Redeemer.

Now, this evening we're studying an additional line of evidence. This is the evidence of human experience. You know, friends, when a human being tries out this wonderful plan of God, and it works for him in his life, he has an evidence that to him is worth everything. And God Himself invites us to do this. He says:

“...prove me now...” Malachi 3:10.

“O taste and see that the LORD is good...” Psalm 34:8.

You see, this is a different kind of evidence from the other lines we've been studying. All this evidence from nature I can present to you. We can go out together in the woods, the fields. We can go out at night and scan the heavens, or look through the telescope. Or we can look through the microscope at the intricate pattern of the small things that God has made. Here is evidence that we can present to somebody else. And so with this evidence of prophecy, it appeals to the logical mind. But the crowning evidence is one that which each one must experience for himself:

“O taste and see...” Psalm 34:8.

Suppose that I were to start in to tell you tonight how wonderful an apple is. And suppose there are some people here that have never tasted an apple. I hold up an apple here. I tell you about it. But is there any way that I can put across to you what an apple tastes like? How is the only way you can find out? Taste it for yourself.

The wisest philosopher in the world cannot put in another's mind what an apple tastes like. The greatest scientist in the world cannot, by any scientific evidence, give you that knowledge. But you can have it in two minutes, by doing what? tasting it.

You know that's the way we find out a lot of things. You watch a baby as it begins to grow; how it reaches out with its little fingers, staring out from its little eyes, and listening. What's it doing? It's experimenting. It's learning by experience. It's storing up experiences in those ten billion little brain cells. Those experiences will make it acquainted with the world around.

And so it is, my dear friends, in these things you and I are studying—the evidences of the Christian faith; how we can be certain, how we can be very sure that God lives, that His Word is true, that the Christian religion is a revelation from the Creator of the universe. I say that in addition to the evidence from nature, in addition to the evidence from prophecy and the Bible, each man can know, and must know for himself in his own experience, that the thing works. When he has found, by experience, that it does work, then, my friends, all the doubts that infidels may suggest have no influence on him at all.

Let me illustrate: Suppose that somebody should come along with a book, or a paper written to prove to you that bread and milk had no food value at all. Would you be impressed by that? Why not? Because you have all experimented, whether you called it an experiment or not, you have learned by experience that bread and milk satisfy the hunger needs of the body and build up the body. You've not only experienced it in your own body, you have watched it in dozens and scores and hundreds of other people. Is that right? And so, somebody propagating a theory of that kind wouldn't have an impression on you at all. And so it is with the Christian who has in his own life found that God keeps His word.

It is proper that we should be impressed, also, with the many other human beings down through history that have had an experience with God. We think of the martyrs—thousands of them, millions of them, who gave up their lives, rather than give up their faith and hope. It's a wonderful thing to have something in the heart so settled that there is no way that any human pressure can take away that certainty.

In the early ages of Christianity, when the Gospel of Christ was making its way through the Roman Empire, Christianity was a religion that was persecuted both by the Jews and the Romans, and millions of Christians were put to death. Some were crucified. Some were beheaded. Some were thrown to the lions. Some were tarred with pitch and used as torches, burning them at night in Nero's garden. In many ways they were tortured and killed.

But every one of those Christians who died a martyr, gave as the result, his dying testimony that this thing works that we're studying about, that Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, and the One who inspired the Bible, and the One who came here and lived for us, and died for us, had satisfied the needs of their hearts.

Then, as we come down to the Dark Ages of medieval Europe, we see again a great time of persecution when the so-called church of Christ, having apostatized

from the true religion, joined hands with the state to persecute dissenters, and in the name of religion put to death literally millions of martyrs.

But the Waldenses, the Albigenses, the Huguenots, and then, in later reformation times, the dear people in Germany and France and England and Italy, and other places, who rather than give up their faith in Christ and the Bible, were willing to die. Every one of these, my point is, every one of these is a witness whose testimony sounds down to our time, that they found something that works. They found something that satisfied the needs of their hearts. They found a Savior who forgave their sins, took away the load of guilt, put a song in their hearts.

Think what it must have meant to go singing to the stake. That's what John Huss did in Bohemia. That's what thousands of others did.

Think of that girl up there in Scotland, who was taken out, along with an older woman, at low tide. And they were tied out there where the rising tide would finally come in and drown them unless they would give up their religion. But both the elder Mary and the younger Mary (both of these women were named Mary), had found in their own hearts that God keeps His word. He gives to the heart which wants it, evidence in one's own soul that the Bible is true, that Jesus is true, that sin can be forgiven, the load of guilt removed, and hope can be put in the heart.

And as those two dear women saw and felt that tide coming in, rising higher and higher, they sang their faith until finally the rising billows drowned them, took their life. These two are examples, my dear friends, of literally millions of others who have found, by personal experience, that Jesus keeps His word.

Now, all of that is interesting, and all of that should be impressive. But all of it together cannot take the place of your own experimenting with this great plan that God has. You must taste for yourself. You must know for yourself. How can that be done? May I make a few practical suggestions tonight, dear friends?

And if your mind is already sure of these things, then I suggest that you do these things in order to augment the evidence, pile up the proof. You may need it in some time of temptation in the future. And you will need it as you come in contact with other souls, and try to help them to have faith.

But if you do not already have this hope, if this certainty is not yours, then how can you begin? May I suggest, friends that you begin by looking, more than you ever have before, at the universe around you. I suggest that you do this simple thing. Take a notebook and begin to write down the things that you observe in nature that show that this universe has a plan, that shows that the God who made this world is a God of wisdom, that show His power, that show His love.

You may have a different page in your notebook for evidence of wisdom, another page for evidence of power, another page for evidence of love. Under evidence of wisdom, I would put such things as the design of a snowflake—each one a separate design. I would also put the intricate pattern of the movements of the celestial bodies, the sun, moon, and stars. There are thousands of others. Make your own list.

Under evidence of power, I would put the wonderful way in which He keeps these tremendous-size-bodies in the universe moving in perfect order and in harmony, each one exerting its pull upon others. I would put, too, as another example of that, the interesting way in which the Creator arranges for water to be drawn up from deep down in the earth, and up through the roots and into the trunk of these mighty trees, and carried clear up to the topmost bow, and then, in a wonderful invisible sprinkler system, showered through the air, back to the earth.

Did you know that on a summer day in a great tree, as much water is being sucked up through those roots, and then down making the air cool underneath that tree as it comes out of the leaves, as much as if a man were going up a ladder with a ten-quart bucket, pouring out that water at the top of the tree, coming down, filling it again and going back up, all day long? That's how much water one tree is using and sending out into the atmosphere.

Scientists have only begun to penetrate just how some of these processes work.

Under the evidence of love in nature, I'd put the beauty of the sunrise and the sunset, the beautiful songs of the birds, the wonderful adaptation of the different foods to the needs of different animals and to our needs, and so on and on and on.

And then, friends, I would put, if I were making a little notebook on this, I'd put down the evidence of God's love in nature in the fact that He has arranged human love—the love of fathers and mothers, husband and wife, children and parents, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors. That, to me, is a wonderful evidence of the love of the Creator.

But now beyond this, beyond all this evidence of nature, if a reasoning mind wants evidence, then I would suggest that he study these wonderful prophecies that I introduced in my last study—notably the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. These wonderful books are filled with prediction after prediction. And there're special books that we can help you get, that will show, from history, how these prophecies have been fulfilled.

Then beyond this, I would get down on my knees, and I would ask the One who made the world, and the One who claims to have written this Word, the Bible, to reveal Himself to me. Get down all alone. Be like a little child and say, "Dear Lord, if You are speaking in the Bible, help me to recognize Your voice. If the One who made this universe has revealed Himself in this Word, help me to know it."

As a dear old friend of mine used to say, "If you just play fair with God, you'll find that this thing works." But ah, friends, do you know one of the great reasons that people have doubts and cling to them year after year, they are afraid that if they acknowledged the truth of the Bible, it would mean some changes in their lives. I predict it will mean some changes—far more than you ever thought of. But every one will be a change for the better. Every one will be a change that will add years to your life and life to your years. Every change that the Word of God calls for is a change that you will be thankful for when you have reaped the result.

Around us, friends are the voices of sadness, pain, sickness, and instead of refuting the truth of the Word; they tell us what is the sad result of a world that is not in harmony with God and His law. But this Book, thank God, tells us that one day soon, all who will be willing to listen to the evidence will have listened, will have accepted it, and God will create this world beautiful beyond our greatest imagination. And there will be no more sickness, no more pain, and no more death.

Read the last two chapters in this wonderful Book. See for yourself the blueprint for the world of tomorrow. You can be sure of a place in it. There's no question about it. Examine the evidence, the evidence from nature, the evidence from prophecy, and finally the evidence of experience in your own heart. Ask God to reveal Himself to you as you study His Word. He will. He's done it for others; He'll do it for you.

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