

# God Loveth a Cheerful Giver

#0319

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 29, 1977

Now, we're going to hear God's Word, and I invite you to turn to 2 Corinthians the ninth chapter and the seventh verse. Will you read with me, please:

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Now, if the purpose of our study tonight were to get us all ready to give an offering, perhaps the offering should have been taken at the close of the service instead of at the beginning. But as you will see, there is a message in this text that transcends the matter of giving. And in saying that, I do not belittle the matter of giving, but in God's great plan of salvation and our sharing with Him, *why* we do things is far more important than what we do. And as we ponder the words of this text this evening, I trust that God will help us to get a glimpse of the character of our heavenly Father. The last line is the climax of the verse:

"...God loveth a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Will you repeat it with me:

"...God loveth a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7.

I wonder why? Well, if you stop to think about it, you probably do, too. A few months in the distance, people will be making out Christmas lists, a lot of people will. Suppose you should overhear somebody talking about you and saying, "I wonder what I'll get him for Christmas? I wish I didn't have to, but I suppose he'll feel slighted if I don't. And I wonder what I can get him?"

How would you feel? Well, if you had the disposition of some people, you'd just blurt right out and say, "I heard that, and you can just cross me off your list." Wouldn't you?

Now, if you didn't have that particular disposition, you might say nothing, but in your heart, you'd say, "I'd just as soon they didn't give me anything." Wouldn't you? Yes. And that helps us to understand how God feels.

But I want you to see in this something far more than money tonight. You know, the first angel's message, the first one of the three-fold message of Revelation 14, the

opening words of the angel are:

“Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth...” Revelation 14:7.

Give what? Give money? Give what?

“...Give glory to Him...” Revelation 14:7.

And what kind of a giver does God love, does our text say? A cheerful giver. At the end of the thousand years, when the great judgment sits, and Christ is enthroned above the jasper city, every creature in this universe is going to give glory to God. All the wicked with Satan at their head will bow down and confess that God is right and just and has never done anything but the right thing in the right way. Is that true?

But friends, I’m so thankful that you and I have the privilege and the opportunity of giving glory to God now, not down there. From loving hearts, from understanding minds, come the expressions of gratitude and praise to our Heavenly Father.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name...” Psalm 29:2.

“...Fear God, and give glory to Him...” Revelation 14:7.

And what kind, I repeat, what kind of giver does God love? A cheerful giver. Does it make you happy to give glory to God? Does it make you happy to praise your heavenly Father? As I’ve been pondering over this, it has given me a new glimpse of God’s character. God is hungry, my friends, for understanding.

Were you ever misunderstood? Did you ever have the experience of wanting so much for people to understand you? The most misunderstood person in this universe is God and He’s longing for understanding. And if He can find somebody that understands Him and will give Him glory, will say to God, “Oh Lord, I like You; I like the way You do things,” He appreciates that so much.

And when God hears people telling others of how good He is and how wonderful His ways are, He appreciates that. It awakens in His heart a response. There’s a glow of satisfaction because somebody understands Him.

“...God loveth a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Why has God waited down through the ages all through the great controversy? Why has He waited to bring things to an end? Why hasn’t He simply burned up sin and sinners and taken those who *would* serve Him and go on? Because my friends, God longs for complete understanding. God longs that those who serve Him shall serve Him fully, wholly, entirely because they love Him and appreciate His character.

There are various motives that lead men to examine the Christian life, the gospel way. Some come through hope of reward. And that motive is not to be thrown out. Moses, at the age of 40, looked at the throne of Egypt, and he looked at the throne of God. He accepted the throne of God and left the throne of Egypt. The Bible says:

“...He had respect unto the recompense of the reward”  
Hebrews 11:26.

“Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the  
treasures in Egypt...” Hebrews 11:26.

He made a true estimate, friends, but oh, I'm glad to know that before Moses got through His experience with God, he was led *far* beyond *those* motives. He entered into an experience of fellowship with God that he would rather be with God even if to do that would have meant to have lost *both* the throne of Egypt and the throne of heaven. He became in a special sense the friend of God. God understood Moses, and Moses understood God. They talked with each other face to face, as a man talketh with His friend. That meant so much to Moses. That meant so much to God. This is the fellowship to which God is calling us.

Another motive that leads people to enter into the way of life is the fear of punishment. And this motive, too, is not to be cast aside or lost sight of. The Bible says:

“...Flee from the wrath to come” Matthew 3:7.

Certainly, it is a wise man that looks at the end of a road and decides whether he wants to arrive at that destination.

Jesus said:

“Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto  
life, and few there be that find it” Matthew 7:14.

“Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to  
destruction, and many there be which go in thereat”  
Matthew 7:13.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end  
thereof are the ways of death” Proverbs 16:25.

But oh, my dear friends, God is disappointed if His children advance no farther than that. God is disappointed if the only reason that we don't smoke tobacco is we're afraid we might get lung cancer or a heart attack. God is disappointed if the only reason that we practice the health principles is to avoid high blood pressure or some other

sickness. God is disappointed if the reason we seek to keep His commandments is just that we want to avoid the lake of fire.

I repeat, there's good sense to avoiding the consequences of transgression. But what God is longing for is that we shall come to know Him personally and give Him our obedience, give Him our praise because we love Him and understand and appreciate His character.

Let's turn over to Jeremiah the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 23–24:

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD” Jeremiah 9:23–24.

A few moments ago, I mentioned that at the final judgment, the whole universe, loyal and disloyal, will kneel down and acknowledge the justice and the righteousness of God and His way. But friends, the Christian who enters into fellowship with God gets a foretaste of that final vindication of God. He comes to know God by faith and trust, as One who can be trusted, One to rely on, One who is right, *a/ways* right, who is love, *a/ways* love. And thus, when we give Him our offerings, whether of money, or of praise, or of service, of obedience, we do it with cheerful loving hearts. And what does our opening text say? How does God feel about this? God loves it. God loves it.

Let's turn now to the book of Malachi, the third chapter. I want you to get a picture of God waiting for that experience to be fully entered into by His people. The first verse of the third chapter of Malachi focuses our attention on the last generation. The scene is that of Jesus suddenly coming to His temple, unexpectedly to His people, entering into the Most Holy Place on October 22, 1844.

In the third verse, we're given a view of the work He is engaged in, in this judgment hour. Will you read with me the third verse of Malachi 3:

“And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness” Malachi 3:3.

Here again is the thought of giving, of offering. And Jesus is in the business of purifying His people so that the offering they bring will be an offering in what? A right offering, one that can be accepted.

Notice, how this thought is borne out in the following verse:

“Then...” Malachi 3:4.

When this refining process is completed:

“Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years”  
Malachi 3:4.

Do you want your offering to be pleasing to the Lord? Whether it be a gift of money, or of time, of service, or praise? Ah my friend, our hearts must be purified and purged of all the dross of selfishness, of all the base metal of misunderstanding God.

Jesus is sitting as a refiner and purifier of silver. He’s putting you and me through experiences that take from our souls every misapprehension of God, every misunderstanding of His character. His longing desire is for you and me to know Him.

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”  
1 John 4:8.

Is everything that God does an act of love? Is every thought that God thinks a thought of love? Is every command God gives, a command of love? Yes. Do you believe that? Only as we accept God’s love as the reason for every command that He’s given can we give obedience that is pleasing to Him. “If ye love Me,” He says, “you will keep my commandments” [John 14:15 marginal reading].

The obedience which does not come from love is not a pleasing offering any more than the money gift which does not come from love can be pleasing to God.

“If ye love Me, keep my commandments” John 14:15.

“If you see Me as One worthy of love, if you see Me as a loving God and love in your heart is awakened in response, then your offering is pleasing to Me,” He says. “Then, your offering is pleasing to Me.”

“*Then* shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord...” Malachi 3:4.

Now, when we come down to the eighth verse, we see that this is very practical dealing with this matter of tithes and offerings. God says that to rob Him in tithes and offerings brings what? A curse [a paraphrase of Malachi 3:8–9]. But the greatest curse that’s involved in this is not, friends, on our crops or on our income. The great curse that comes in withholding from God His tithes and the offerings of gratitude is this: it’s a symptom, an indication that we do not know God, we do not understand God. To know God is to love Him, and if we really loved Him, we would press our offerings, we would

rejoice to bring the tithe to Him, not as an arbitrary requirement of God, but as an opportunity to show, to express the gratitude we feel.

And what did we read in our opening text? God loveth a, what? A cheerful giver. And so, He says in Malachi 3:10, if we'll bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there'll be meat in His house, He'll open the windows of heaven and do what?

“...Pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” Malachi 3:10.

Does that mean, dear friend, that if every one of us will be faithful to God that the money will just come rolling in here until we'll just have to have several people just to look after the money that comes rolling in? Is that what He's talking about?

I want to tell you something, friends. If you could buy prosperity simply by paying a tithe and offering, Wall Street would eventually get hold of that secret. Yes, they would.

“Well,” somebody says, “Brother Frazee, don't you believe that paying tithes and giving offerings is part of God's plan for prosperity?”

Indeed. And God says:

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

But the book of Job was written to teach us to avoid the mistake of equating prosperity with righteousness, and the converse, thinking that disaster and sickness and bankruptcy are necessary proof that a man has turned his face away from God. Is that the message of the book of Job? Certainly.

No, dear friends, there are rich blessings for us in temporal things in this matter of tithe and offerings. But oh, God is longing for you and me in all these matters and in our service for Him to understand that He longs for what? What kind of a giver? A cheerful giver, a cheerful giver. And the great blessing that He pours out as we enter in with Him is the joy, the fellowship of knowing *Him* as a friend, so that we'd rather be with *Him* in the dungeon than without Him on the throne, that we'd rather be with *Him* in the ash heap with poor Job than with all the prosperous people of this world.

“...I will... pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” Malachi 3:10.

Now, we often close with these verses when we read this chapter, but I want you to go a little further, the 13<sup>th</sup> verse:

“Your words have been stout against Me, saith the LORD.

Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against Thee?  
Ye have said, It is vain to serve God..." Malachi 3:13–14.

Tell me, did the people to whom God was speaking think they were serving God? Apparently, they thought they'd at least made an effort, but they found out that it was what? What did they say they thought? Vain. What does that mean? It didn't work. I wonder if you children or some of us who were once children (that includes all of us, doesn't it?), did you ever put some money in a slot machine and not get the article that you expected out of it? You couldn't get your money, and you couldn't get the thing you'd put the nickel, or dime, or quarter in for? Ever had that experience? Well, that's what these people are talking about.

They said, "Lord, we've been serving You, but it doesn't work. We don't get anything."

"...It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered" Malachi 3:14–15.

In other words, it doesn't work. We're not getting anything out of it. And this is what is happening, my friends, to many people in the great churches of Christendom, and I'm sorry to say it seeps in even to the remnant, this feeling that we don't get our money's worth.

"We sacrifice, we give up, we do this and that, but somehow we don't get returns."

But there's another class, and they're mentioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> verse. Will you read with me:

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name. And they..."  
Malachi 3:16–17.

These people that in a time when others are getting cynical and disillusioned about God, and about giving to Him, and about working for Him, and about living His program—when multitudes are losing the vision, then "they that feared the Lord" and that praise Him, they shall be what?

"...they shall be Mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels" Malachi 3:17.

Oh friends, God is in the refining business and He's in the jewelry cutting business. He's making up His special treasure in this time.

Now, let me read a most interesting passage here in *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 299. Who is it that we just read in Malachi are those that are the special jewels of God? Those that did what? "...Spake often one to another..." (Malachi 3:16). What about? The context shows that it's about God and His wonderful character.

"God desired that the whole life of His people should be a life of praise. Thus His way was to be made 'known upon earth,' His 'saving health among all nations'"

*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 299.

How is it that the character of God is to be revealed to others? Through our praise, giving glory to Him. And God loves what? A cheerful giver.

"He desires us to serve Him...with gladness every day. He longs to see gratitude welling up in our hearts because our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, because we may cast all our care upon Him who cares for us... Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience... We are to show to the world... that we appreciate the wonderful love of God... and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings" *Ibid*.

And so, my dear friends, the church is not merely a place where we bring our offerings, our tithes and our gifts. It *is* that. It *is* God's storehouse. But oh, the church is the place where, in a special sense, we bring our offerings of praise, testifying that God is good. And God loves what? A cheerful giver, a cheerful giver.

In fact, dear friends, I wonder if I would be misunderstood in saying this, at least I'll risk it. There are times when it would be better for us to keep still. If all we have is some mournful recital, some complaint, some moan or groan, it would be better to keep still because God loves a, what? A cheerful giver.

Now, perhaps I ought to bring a reference on that, *Volume 6*, page 365:

"While we are exhorted not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, these assemblies are not to be merely for our own refreshing. We are to be inspired with greater zeal to impart the consolation we have received. It is our duty to be very jealous for the glory of God and to bring no evil report, even by the sadness of the countenance or by ill-advised words, as if the requirements of God were a restriction upon our liberty" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 365.



Did you notice what we read there in Malachi? God felt bad because the people that claimed to be His were saying it's what to serve God? It's vain.

"We've tried it, and it doesn't work."

God says, "That makes Me feel sad."

But over here is somebody, several somebodies, that are speaking often one to another about God and His goodness and His character.

Jesus says, "They're My Jewels. They're going to shine forever in the courts of God."

For God loves what? A cheerful giver. Let's give Him what He's asked for. What do you say?

Now, turn please to Hebrews the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter verses 15–16:

"By Him..." Hebrews 13:15.

That's by Jesus. Would you read verses 15 and 16 with me:

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" Hebrews 13:15–16.

You notice that two kinds of sacrifices are mentioned here. One is the sacrifice which we bring with our, what? Our lips. What does He say that is? Praise. But in the next verse, another kind of sacrifice. What's that? To *do* good, communicate. We're to *do* things as well as talk about them. We're to *act* as well as speak. We're to *bring* our tithes and offerings as well as our words of gratitude. We're to help the poor and the needy. We're to do medical missionary work, relieving the suffering. We're to spread the wonderful message of God to the ends of the earth. But all of this, remember, is a part of the offering we bring to God. And God loves what? A cheerful giver. Let's make Him happy. What do you say?

Now, let me give you a little practical secret. Suppose as you and I read the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, we come to something, and we say, "My, that's hard. I don't see how I could do that. I don't see how I could give that up. Would God expect me to do that?"

Now, there are three things we can do, friends. Tell me which one you think Jesus would like to have us do.

The first thing we can do is to say, “Lord, I don’t see that, and I’m not going to do it. It’s too hard. It would make me too peculiar, or it’s too sacrificial”—whatever. “I’m not going to do it.”

That’s one thing we *could* do, isn’t it? Do some people take that course? Oh yes, the majority.

There’s another thing we could do. Some people do this.

They say, “Well, it’s a hard thing, but I want to go to heaven, and I don’t want to go to hell so I’m going to do it.”

We could do that, couldn’t we?

But there’s a third thing we *could* do. We could get down on our knees and say, “Dear Lord, I confess that I’m not cheerful about what You’ve told me. I confess that it goes across the grain. It cuts across the natural inclination of my heart. I confess that I don’t have what it takes to do this lovingly. But oh Lord, I pray that You’ll work a miracle in my life. I pray that You’ll do open heart surgery on this man. I pray that You’ll give me a heart that loves Your way and delights to do Your will. I pray that You’ll help me to see Calvary and God giving everything for me, and to behold that love until my heart is melted and tendered and I choose to give You cheerfully what You’ve asked me for.”

Could we do that? Would that be the way to do it? Ah friends, what are those words of our opening text? “...God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Let’s give Him all He’s asked with all our hearts. What do you say?

How many would like to send Him that word tonight? Thank the Lord.

Now, we’re going to spend a little time in witness. It’d be too bad to read these verses in Malachi and Hebrews and then not give you a chance to do what it says. Wouldn’t it, friends? Sure. So, all of you who would like to, make your way up here, and friends, members, visitors, anybody that wishes to witness for God.

May I suggest that your word be short so that others can speak? And you won’t forget what kind of witness we’re going to bear. Nothing gloomy, nothing discouraging, no report that would bring reproach upon the Master, but words of praise, thanksgiving, courage, because Jesus has died for us, He lives for us, He makes intercession for us, and He’s coming soon to get us.

[Man from congregation] This evening, I want to testify to the truthfulness of what we’ve been studying, for the Lord has been going across my grain today, but through the grace of Jesus, I’m victorious in Him tonight.

[Woman from congregation] Good to be here. I failed my Lord this morning, and I was talking to Him about it this evening, and I asked Him, “Father, how much of your

power do I have to have in order to keep from failing?” And He told me that He died so He could give me *all* of His power. That all I have to do is ask for it. For a God that loves me that much, I’ll do anything He asks me to.

[Elder Frazee] Thank the Lord.

[Woman from congregation] I’ve been a Christian for three years, and I’m just so thankful to the Lord for such a loving Father that He is to me. And I’m just so grateful for this message tonight that I knew I just couldn’t hold myself from just glorifying Him because I know all the heavens, all the world is just watching down, and they’re seeing this, and they’re listening to see if we really can glorify our Father if we really say in our hearts that we do, and I want to thank Him.

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Woman from congregation] I’m so thankful that my heavenly Father loves me enough, and it makes a difference to Him if I love Him or not.

[Elder Frazee] Right.

[Same woman continuing] If I say something nice about Him, it pleases Him, and if I want to do His will, it pleases Him. And I really want to make Him happy.

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Man from congregation] For the last approximately eight years now, we have been following a plan that some of you probably are following of going around the circle at worship time each Sabbath morning saying what we had we’re thankful for, for the past week. And it’s really a wonderful experience.

And we have the last couple or three years, or maybe even longer, followed the plan in our smaller worship with my wife and two children in the Sabbath evening, after we read it in the Spirit of Prophecy, that it was good to look back upon the Sabbath and review the things that have taken place on the Sabbath. We decide what we like best about that Sabbath.

And I challenge you if you haven’t done this to try it. And if you need a practical demonstration, we’ll be at Lookout View at seven o’clock in the morning, and we’d be glad to have you join us.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you.

[Man from congregation] Elder Frazee, this very wonderful experience here this evening reminds me of a very happy Friday evening that came to me not too long ago in the South American Division. The Friday evening came, and the Sabbath was ushered in. It was my privilege to join with a Christian family for the sundown vesper service at

the opening of the Sabbath.

Somehow as we arose from our knees, something happened that I was not fully accustomed to. They just put their arms around each other, much like you did to me here tonight, and I can't tell you how much joy that brought, but they looked at each other and they said, "Have a happy Sabbath day." And you know, it ushered in that Sabbath day in a mood of happiness and cheerfulness and joy that I've never experienced before.

And then the next day, as I fellowshiped with our people at our churches, two of them in succession, the folk as they would shake hands would say, "Happy Sabbath day," and there were just a joy and a smile and a cheerfulness about their witness that just made that Sabbath day one of the most glorious and most rewarding of any Sabbath day that I think I've ever enjoyed.

And I think this experience here tonight of hearing these witnesses, these testimonies of what Christ has done to make happiness and cheerfulness in our lives and to make us victorious in Christ, is also a tremendous inspiration. And I'm sure that it's pleasing to God.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, elder.

Now, we're going to hear from a man that's spent many years in South America, as well as other parts of the world field, Elder Bosch.

[Elder Bosch] Twenty-five years ago, I was living at SMC, I made my first contact with Wildwood, and I'll never forget it. It was a happy contact. Two years ago, I made my second visit to Wildwood. Stayed in the home of Brother Vital and his dear wife and Kathy. It was a wonderful experience.

And now, Brother Frazee, I've been here four weeks now, and I'm very, very happy to say it has been a better experience than I had before in Wildwood. I'm very, very glad to be here and testify to God's blessing that I have received here in your midst. Not only in the home of the Vidals but also in the different homes where I have been privileged to be invited, I shared a wonderful influence of Christian fellowship. And I want to praise God for His goodness to me to bring me here.

I'm sorry I have to leave. I would like to stay, but I can't. But one day in heaven we're going to live together again, and nobody can say you mustn't be there.

[Elder Frazee] Thank God.

[Elder Bosch] And I want to say that I'm very thankful to all of you for your Christian fellowship, for kindness, for favors, for courtesies. Really a Christian atmosphere here on this sinful earth which is a great exception. When I go back to Washington, the atmosphere's not quite as congenial. I mean, there are lots of people

living in Washington, you know, good and bad, but here it seems they're all good people, aren't they?

And I say, brother, I think that God has blessed you tremendously, brother, in raising up this company.

[Elder Frazee] Elder Bosch, we want to sing Blest Be the Tie for you before you go.

“Blest be the tide that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love!  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.”  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #350, first stanza.*

[Elder Bosch] Thank you so much, thank you.

[Elder Frazee] All right. And thank you for coming.

[Woman from congregation] I'm glad to be at vespers tonight, and I'm just filled, rejoicing in God.

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Woman from congregation] I just want to praise the Lord for the love and the joy and the peace and the loving-kindness that are in the faces and the hearts of His people—the Jesus that I see in all of you. I just appreciate it so much. Thank you for it and praise the Lord for it.

[Elder Frazee] God bless you.

[Woman from congregation] As Elder Bosch said, he came here for four weeks. I originally came for three weeks, and I've ended up being here now four years. And I want to just tell the Lord, though, tonight I'm so thankful for what He's done for me.

And I think of what Alice shared about falling. And I'm so thankful that even when I fall, the Lord keeps on loving me. And I think of a child when they fall, often the parent will look down and smile and try and help them to forget that they've been hurt, and often the child will forget the hurt and return the smile. And I want to learn to keep looking at my heavenly Father and His countenance.

[Elder Frazee] That's right.

[Woman from congregation] Well, I just came to Wildwood to spend the night once at the request of a friend after we had already left Atlanta, and five years ago

tonight, I was in the middle of my visit here which lasted a whole month. I'm still learning more of God's love, and this past week I've been so much impressed with all the things we do, what is the motive behind this. And without a right motive, all of our actions are really as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. I pray to God tonight that He will give me the right motives for all of my actions, and I think there's not a better motive than out of love for Him.

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Woman from congregation] I'm so thankful that we don't have to be afraid that we might not love God enough or that we might not respond to His love because we don't know Him well enough, but that He knows how to draw us to Himself.

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Same woman continuing] I really like this verse in Hosea chapter 2 verse 14. It says:

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her" Hosea 2:14.

And I'm so thankful that God is just saying, "Don't be afraid." That He says that He loves us and He knows how to help us learn to relax when we're with Him and just learn to know what He's really like. I'm really thankful for that.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you. That's the message.

God loveth a, what? A cheerful giver.

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name" Hebrews 13:15.

"My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou,  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now."  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #321, first stanza.*

What a friend, what a friend. Well, dear ones, as we enter into the holy hours, this can be the best Sabbath of our lives. Can't it? When we come to Sabbath school and church tomorrow morning here or in any of the various places where you'll be worshipping tomorrow, remember God loves what? A cheerful giver.

Let's think of that when we put our tithe in the envelope tomorrow. Shall we? Or put our offering in the envelope or on the plate, in Sabbath school or church. God loves

what? A cheerful giver. Let's think of it as we present our offerings of praise, not merely in the public service but as we meet one another before Sabbath school, after church, all the way through these holy hours. Remember, God is listening. He has some special shorthand reporters that are writing down in His book of remembrance every word of love and appreciation that we utter.

And now, dear Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing and keep in our hearts the themes of praise and thanksgiving, of appreciation of Thy character, that shall make us good witnesses for Thee. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

God bless you and give you a wonderful Sabbath.

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