

# I Must Work

#0321

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 22, 1972

The Christian life presents many parallels to the physical life we live. In physiology, we learn that it is not enough to have a certain vitamin or a certain amino acid or a certain other food element. That it takes all the different food elements in balanced proportion to give us what we need for energy and for building up the body.

And so, in the Christian life, dear friends, there are various ingredients that God has arranged to make us victorious Christians, and there's no one of these that is all-sufficient. Just as in our physical life, there's no one food element that is sufficient so, we need this and this and this. And so it is in the spiritual life.

I'm going to talk to you about a very practical ingredient in our Christian life tonight. And when I mention it and study it with you, do not get the idea that I think this is all there is to the Christian life. A week ago tonight, we studied some very primary, essential, vital things concerning Christian living, successful, victorious life. Tonight, we're going to study something quite different, but all of these things are important.

My text is found in the Gospel of John, the ninth chapter, and the fourth verse. Just three words, three words:

"I must work..." John 9:4.

Will you read it or say it with me:

"I must work..." John 9:4.

Again:

"I must work..." John 9:4.

You know, there are a lot of people that would like to read that, "I'm so glad I don't have to work." There are multitudes who look forward to the reward of the blessed when they won't have to do anything. Of course, there are some texts in the Bible about that, too.

"And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them" Isaiah 65:21.

We must remember, dear friends, that the enemy of all good has sought to turn everything upside down. When Paul and his company came to a certain city, the book of Acts tells us that the opposition raised the cry:

“...These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” Acts 17:6.

And this is the truth. The messenger of God does turn the world upside down because it's the wrong side up. And in the subject we're studying tonight, I think you will observe as we study that what we're going to read from the Bible and inspired modern writings directly contradicts the popular feeling in relation to work, labor, industry, toil. Give it any name you want to. It means using the muscles and the mind together to get something useful done.

Jesus says:

“I must work...” John 9:4.

Now, when we go back to the Garden of Eden, we find that even before sin entered, man was given his work as soon as he was created. God put him in the Garden of Eden “to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). God saw that man, even in Eden, needed employment to be happy. That's the way we tick. Without labor, something is missing in the life. When sin entered, instead of reducing the labor, God added to it, He multiplied it.

Turn back please to the third chapter of Genesis, the 17<sup>th</sup> verse, and let us notice what the Lord said. The very day that sin entered, God laid out a program for Adam, the head of the human race.

“And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground...”

What are the next three words?

“...for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground...”  
Genesis 3:17–19.

Now notice, all this was for whose sake? Man's sake. Everything God ever did, He did it for our sake. The plan of salvation gives abundant proof of that. And this program of labor, as we shall see, is a part of God's total plan of redemption. Not that we can work our way into Heaven. But I want to tell you, friends, a lack of work is going to take a lot of people to hell.

“...Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...”  
Genesis 3:17–19.

Now, we hear this sometimes misquoted, “The sweat of man’s brow.” If you want to experiment, next time you’re in a job where you get the perspiration glands to working, see which comes first, the sweat of your brow or the sweat of your face. And remember, what God said was:

“...In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...”  
Genesis 3:20.

I think you’ll have to work a little harder to get the sweat here than up here. Be that as it may, hard work is a part of the blessing appointed to man since Eden. In Eden, it was easy. No problem, no burden. But now we must meet the weeds, we must grapple with the thorns and the other problems, and work hard. This is God’s program.

Of course, it is true that there never was a time in the history of the world when so many people were bypassing this. Man has become smart. He’s become sophisticated. He knows now how to get his bread without sweating at all. And as the result, we have rapidly increasing heart attacks, strokes and many other conditions.

Doctor Robb and a colleague of his have written an entire book for doctors on hypokinetic diseases. That means diseases caused by lack of exercise—lack of work. And the diseases are increasing due to a disregard of the Savior’s plan. So, while man thought he was smart to get all these various inventions and schemes, ways of earning a living without sweating, without working, he’s really not so smart after all.

I remember the man that got me interested in coming to this place and getting a sanitarium started here. He had a little sanitarium over in Alabama.

He used to say, “The Lord said you’ve got to sweat,” he’d say to some of his business friends. He said, “Now, you can either work and sweat, or you can skip it, and then you’ll get sick, and you’ll have to come to the sanitarium, and we’ll sweat you here.” [Laughter]

Well, that’s better than nothing, isn’t it? But the better way is to get it through working. But the thing that I want to study with you tonight is that while labor, work, all this is very good for the physical body, and we have to have it one way or the other or else suffer the consequences; there’s far more involved in it than this my friends; far more involved in it than this.

Two thousand years ago, the only Man that ever planned His life before He was born came to tabernacle on this planet. Who was that? Jesus, the Son of God. And He came, as *Ministry of Healing* 365 says, “to show us how to live.” Well, what did He do?

Well, as we often say:

“Christ spent more time in healing than in teaching” *Review and Herald*, September 10, 1908.

This is correct. But my dear friends, He spent *far* more time working as a carpenter and in the chores around the home than He did all the healing and preaching put together that He ever did. Didn't He? Yes, yes.

I wonder why? Well, we might say, of course, He needed to build a strong body. Right. But my friends, there's something far more involved in it than that. Jesus had not only to build a strong physique. He had to build a strong character. And He built His character, as you and I have the privilege of building it, by taking hold of the means of grace offered Him.

He studied the Scriptures, and He got the knowledge of His Father's will just as you and I can get it. He studied nature, and He got acquainted with God's handiwork—the very creation that He and the Father had worked together on when the world was made. But He learned it just like you, and I learn it.

And along with the study of the Scripture and of nature, He was busy every day *doing* things. He worked hard as a carpenter. And during His teens and twenties, you might have seen Him walking back and forth from His humble home to the shop where He was employed. You might have seen Him busy there with the hammer, the saw, the plane, the various tools they used. He was a hard worker. And what did that do for Him? It built muscles. But ah, my dear friends, it built character.

There is something that happens when the mind and the muscles are coordinated to solve problems (and dealing with knotty wood can make problems). There is something that happens, I repeat, when the thinking and the acting focus together on getting something done. And this God intends every child of humanity should have the benefit of.

Work is not a curse. The ground was cursed in order that man might have the blessing of work—hard work, necessary work, shall I say tiring work. There is something that happens to the character when a man works more than he does at a hobby when he has to carry on *after* he's tired in order to get something done. There is something that happens to the character that builds perseverance, strength of will, strength of character.

Do you think this is vital for those of whom it will soon be said:

“Here is the patient endurance of the saints: here are they  
that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”  
Revelation 14:12 (marginal reading)?

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Well, I'll tell you what he *has* done about it, friends. He has introduced first from one angle and then another all manner of things, inventions, ideas, attitudes, to cause millions of people to miss these benefits today. There are multitudes that are living a parasitic life. They are being supported in one way or another by somebody else's sweat. They may do it by scheming. They may do it by poaching, by leaching. Sad to say, we're in a time of government policy where literally millions of people are being supported in idleness.

I'm not dealing tonight with the political aspects of that at all. I'm dealing with the effect upon the health and the moral fiber of our population. And I want to tell you something, friends. Do not think that merely hearing about the Sabbath and the coming of the Lord and accepting those doctrines is going to take the place of what we're studying tonight. Not a bit of it.

Turn please to the book of Ezekiel, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, and the 49<sup>th</sup> verse. I want you to see something interesting here about Sodom. You remember that Jesus said that the days before His coming would be like the days of Sodom. Let's see what Sodom's problem was. Now, if you haven't read the text, you may have your mind all ready for a picture of the terrible sins for which Sodom was noted and for which our generation is noted, but none of this is in this verse:

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good" Ezekiel 16:49–50.

God saw the root cause of the abominable, unmentionable vices of Sodom. What was it?

"...pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness..."  
Ezekiel 16:49.

"...abundance of idleness..." Ezekiel 16:49.

Now, it might seem that that would be a good place for evangelism because the people had plenty of time. Lot tried to carry on evangelistic work there for some time. You know about how many converts he finally took out of Sodom, don't you?

I want to tell you something, friends. It may be hard work to labor in oak and some of these other hardwoods, but when you get through, you've got something. But you can polish all day on punk, and what have you got? And we have millions of people today growing up all around us that have never learned to work. They're trying to learn how *not* to work. And the Devil and a lot of good people are helping them.

But somewhere along the line between now and the coming of Jesus, every one of us is going to have to have built into our characters that which can come only from the stern discipline of toil—work, hard work, more than a little jogging. Something more than cultivating a few flowers around the front doorstep, you see. Oh, that's fine. This is all good. It has its place. So does parsley on the dinner plate. But it takes some beans or potatoes to really make the muscles. Am I right? Yes. And it takes work, hard work to build muscle and to build the character.

Now, I know that everybody can't take the same amount. Everybody can't take the same amount of beans. And I'm not arguing that some poor, weak invalid

should be put out at once into hard work. And of course, there are people with wooden legs and so forth. But I'm talking about people that have the potential. Let's not get our minds off to the exceptions and miss the blessing.

My dear friends, God has put a wonderful blessing in work. It does something for the mind. Do you know what it does for students? Oh, let me read you something tremendous here, *Counsels to Teachers, Parents and Students*, page 292. Listen:

"Daily systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of the youth, even at this late period. Much can now be gained by connecting labor with our schools. In following this plan..." *Counsels to Teachers, Parents and Students*, page 292.

Now, don't miss this:

"In following this plan..." *Ibid.*

What plan? Having labor along with study.

"...the students will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought, and will be able to accomplish more mental labor in a given time than they could by study alone" *Ibid.*

Say, isn't this a bargain? Yes. What have you got? Ten hours, we'll say. Put it all in, in book study, cram and cram and cram. But here's some other student that takes five of those hours and devotes them to work—hard work. He puts his mind to the task in the other five hours. He gets more done *mentally*, this says, than the one that spends all his time just studying. Do you believe that? Do you believe it in your muscles as well as up here?

Now, there's a little verb here that I want to call attention to. It's the verb "realize." Listen for this word "realize" as I read the sentence again.

"In following this plan the students will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought..." *Ibid.*

The students who follow this plan "will realize elasticity of spirit and vigor of thought." What does "realize" here mean? They'll experience it. Do you think it will be a conscious experience? Oh yes, if they realize it. They're not under an anesthetic. They're not being doped by tranquilizers, chemical or self-produced. Their minds are alert, and they know it, and they know how they're getting it.

Dear students, are you getting in on your share of these wonderful benefits? Oh, thank God, we're not in a penitentiary working in the chain gang. No, no. We are candidates for the restored Garden of Eden where men:

"...shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them" Isaiah 65:21.

And thank God, we want more, not less, more of the labor that God gave His children in the days of Adam and Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Moses and Samuel and David. We want more of that, not less. What do you say?

You know, this is for children as well; for children as well as adults. The book *Adventist Home*, page 290:

“...It is a precious privilege of teachers and parents to cooperate in teaching the children how to drink in the gladness of Christ’s life by learning to follow His example. The Saviour’s early years were useful years. He was His mother’s helper in the home; and He was just as verily fulfilling His commission when performing the duties of the home and working at the carpenter’s bench as when He engaged in His public work of ministry” *Adventist Home*, page 290.

Think of Him sitting there giving the Sermon on the Mount. Think of Him taking the loaves and feeding the multitude. But just as verily He was fulfilling His commission from Heaven when He was helping mother sweep the floor, or bring in the wood, or carry water, or wash the dishes. And just as truly when He was in the carpenter shop working with those tools. Oh friends, I think that’s a wonderful picture! What do you say?

Listen, children, boys and girls, are you in on that program? Do you have chores in the home? Do you have something to do? Regular, systematic? Something more than flipping a switch on the side of the wall?

Parents, do you love to accomplish things? Have your children caught the inspiration, the joy of seeing you as parents map out a job and then get it done? Do they *know* that that makes you glad? These things must be not only taught, but they must also be caught. *Adventist Home*, 286:

“Work is good for children” *Adventist Home*, page 286.

Of course, the way some regulations are today, about the only way some children can get work is to work at home. And that’s all right. That’s the best place to work.

“Work is good for children” *Ibid.*

So far, there haven’t been any regulations that would keep you fathers and mothers from having your children help wash the dishes, or sweep the floor, or dig in the garden. It’s still legal, still okay.

“Work is good for children” *Ibid.*

Will you recite it with me?

“Work is good for children” *Ibid.*

Aren't you glad you're not a child anymore? But why did I read this? Well, some people think work is just for adults. We think of the glad days of childhood—burden free.

“Work is good for children. They are happier to be usefully employed a large share of the time; their innocent amusements are enjoyed with a keener zest after the successful completion of their tasks” *Ibid.*

Play should always be *after* the work is done.

“Labor strengthens both the muscles and the mind” *Ibid.*

There's another one I want you to recite because it strengthens what I said a while ago. I'll read it again:

“Labor strengthens both the muscles and the mind” *Ibid.*

Together:

“Labor strengthens both the muscles and the mind” *Ibid.*

Any of us have weak minds? Here's the remedy.

But somebody says, “My muscles are so weak.”

Well, here's the remedy for that too. And there's no other. There's no magic formula you can get out of a bottle. There's no muscle-building food you can buy that by taking pounds of it you'll finally look like, you know... There's one thing that, along with a good diet, will build muscles and mind. What is it?

“Labor strengthens both the muscles and the mind” *Ibid.*

Now, if you can do it scientifically, fine. But if you can't, remember there are millions of people that don't know how to do it scientifically that get the benefits just by doing it. It's happening all around the planet.

“Labor strengthens both the muscles and the mind. Mothers may make precious little helpers of their children...”  
*Adventist Home*, page 290.

“Children may be taught, when young, to lift daily their light burdens, each child having some particular task for the accomplishment of which he is responsible to his parents or guardian. They will thus learn to bear the yoke of duty while young; and the performance of their little tasks will become a pleasure, bringing them a happiness that is only gained by well-doing” *Ibid.*



Now, let me ask you something, friends. Don't answer *me* on this. But listen. In your own heart (whatever your age, young or old) do you really believe what I just read? Have you found it true experimentally? Do you *really* find pleasure and satisfaction in work? Well now, if you haven't, don't get discouraged. It's there, it's there.

You remember that the psalmist says:

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is..."  
Psalm 40:8.

Where?

"...within my heart" Psalm 40:8.

Again, he says:

"O how love I thy law!..." Psalm 119:97.

"I just love it."

Now, what's the heart of the law?

[Audience] The Sabbath

Is it? All right. Now, let's repeat that Sabbath commandment together, and don't get too fast because I'm going to stop you before we get clear through it. All together:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou..." Exodus 20:8-9.

What? Oh, you mean that's right in the heart of the law?

"Six days shalt thou labour, and..." Exodus 20:9.

What's the next?

"...and do all thy work" Exodus 20:9.

Work? Do you mean that's in the Sabbath commandment? Did you ever stop to think that six-sevenths of the Sabbath commandment is work?

You say, "Brother Frazee, I don't think it means that." [Chuckles from the audience]

Well, let me read it to you, *Volume 5*, 179. Then you won't have to take my word for it.

“The religion you profess makes it as much your duty to employ your time during the six working days as to attend church on the Sabbath” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 179.

Of course, that’s just putting the magnifying glass on it. It says it that way, anyway. Just take a look at it:

“Six days shalt thou labour...” Exodus 20:9.

It doesn’t say “You may labor if you feel like it.”

That isn’t what it says. Let’s start again. All together:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8–11.

Do you know what the Sabbath is for, friends? The Sabbath is to put the crowning joy on the total week. God set us the example. He worked, how long? Six days. Then what did He do? He rested the Sabbath day. The Bible says in Exodus 31:17:

“...On the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed”  
Exodus 31:17.

Do you think God was tired? No. Well, how did he get refreshed? Why friends, He just enjoyed looking over all that He’d made. And really, it was a job well done, wasn’t it?

Do you know friends, that one of the greatest joys in labor—and I don’t know how the poor fellows that work for so much money in Detroit just screwing on a certain nut on the automobile as it comes along the assembly line get this. One of the greatest joys in labor is the joy of laying out a certain piece of work, sticking to it and getting done, and then stepping back and looking at it, whether it’s a garden or a pile of dishes in the sink and watching them as they’re all dry and ready to put back, or a nice batch of bread fresh out of the oven, or a porch well swept, or a garden freed from weeds.

Say, you know, a few weeks ago, I looked at a certain garden up in the hollow, and I thought, “My, too bad the weeds have gotten that.”

And then, do you know, some folks young, and others not quite so young, got hold of it, and do you know it’s a showpiece now. And I’m sure that those people

that got in and cleaned the weeds out of that garden and got it all looking nice, I think they got a joy akin to the joy that God had in the creation. I believe that. Let me see if I can't read you something that might suggest that, *Education*, page 215.

See if this isn't a thrilling statement:

“While God has created and constantly controls all things, He has endowed us with a power not wholly unlike His. To us has been given a degree of control over the forces of nature. As God called forth the earth in its beauty out of chaos, so we can bring order and beauty out of confusion” *Education*, page 215.

Did you ever try it in a room that was all in disorder, or a garden that was full of weeds, or a desk that was piled high with paperwork? Let me read this again:

“As God called forth the earth in its beauty out of chaos, so we can bring order and beauty out of confusion. And though all things are now marred with evil, yet in our completed work we feel a joy akin to His, when, looking on the fair earth, He pronounced it ‘very good’” *Ibid.*

My dear friends, do you want a new joy in Sabbath-keeping? Link the day of rest with the week of toil. Do as God did: labor to get something done Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and then when Sabbath comes, along with the worship of God in church, think of what God has helped you to get done during the week and praise Him for it. Yes. Oh, what a wonderful team God and man make working together!

Well friends, now I'm going to take you back—way back in English history to a man by the name of Isaac Watts. Some of you know him as the author of the immortal hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” But somewhere in his young life he penned these interesting lines. Listen:

“How doth the little busy bee  
Improve each shining hour,  
And gather honey all the day  
From every opening flower?  
In works of labor or of skill  
I would be busy too;  
For Satan finds some mischief still  
For idle hands to do.”  
“How Doth the Little Busy Bee”  
by Isaac Watts, first and third stanzas.

Here's another big reason for working, friends. Did you ever call somebody and get the busy signal? It's so nice when the Devil tries to get your attention, and he has to recognize that you're just busy—too busy for him.

“...For Satan finds some mischief still

For idle hands to do" *Ibid.*

While we recite the Lord's prayer, "Lead us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13), shouldn't we cooperate with our heavenly Father in avoiding the way of temptation? And let me tell you, friends, while prayer is essential to victory, there are times that the best way to work with God to answer your prayers is to get up from your knees and get doing something that's hard work. That's right, that's right.

There are times when too much revelry, too much moon gazing, castle building, idle dreaming (even about what you're going to do in the mission field someday) is not the answer. There are weeds to be pulled. There are dishes in the sink. There are letters to be typed. There are people to be visited. There are poor to be helped. There are porches to be swept. There are treatments to be given. There are all kinds of work to do.

Is that right, Brother Callahan? If any of you run out, see Brother Callahan. He'll be glad to help you find something. I know he's looking for help. Ah friends, and what's it all for? It's for you and me—"for thy sake" (Genesis 3:17). Oh, I thank God for labor, friends! I thank God for labor.

Some of you know I had surgery a few weeks ago. And one of my greatest joys, as the healing has proceeded, is to get to the place where I could get out on the trail again with the tools to work to keep those trails open. Yes. And I get a joy out of it. Not just in using my muscles, mind and muscles together, and then the joy of looking back over that trail. And I think of the patients that are going to walk along those trails. I think of the students that are going to walk along those trails, the visitors, the workers. And I get a joy out of it. I know how God felt there at creation.

Oh friends, say, I was about to say something. I don't think I will. I'll tell you some other time. I want to hear from you now. What did you get tonight? What did you get tonight? I'd like to have about 20 people come up here right now that really got something, and you're going to do something about it.

Fine, friends, come right up. While he's coming, let some others come and we'll make the house ring with the praise of God. I'm glad God is so practical. What do you say?

[Man from congregation] Say, you know, I was coming here complaining because I was working too hard because I've been putting in real long hours, and I went, "Well, this just isn't right just working this hard." And now I know it is.

[Elder Frazee] Yes. Now, you know there are some people that don't eat enough. Laughter from the audience and the man giving the testimony] And what they need to do is eat more. And there are some people that don't work enough and what they need is to work more.

Is it possible to overeat?

[Same man continuing] Yes.

[Elder Frazee] Is it possible to overwork?

[Same man continuing] Yes.

[Elder Frazee] All right. A word to the wise is sufficient. You and the Lord figure that one out. Thank you.

I will drop this little word, though. Outdoor work is ten times more beneficial, as far as physical health is concerned, than anything inside.

[Woman from congregation] Well, tonight I saw a different aspect of the whole thing, the whole matter. I know before I felt like I wanted to do my work, and I enjoyed it, and I thought I was being proud, and I thought, "I've got to get over this."

I know when I first came here and the first work they gave me was cleaning up Haskell Hall, and well, I thought, "Oh boy, I feel like George Washington Carver." Just say, "Okay now, if you can do this work well you'll get to enter our school."

And I thought, "Now, I wonder why their work wasn't finished. So, it took me just a week to find out. But you know, when I first went up and did my work I looked back over the floor. It looked nasty, it looked dull, so I went over it again with the dust mop. And the desks, they were so dirty and dull, so I went over them with wax, each one. And the piano, it was all dusty, so I had to go over it again.

Seems like I went over everything about three or four times, and finally, I was satisfied. And I thought, "I spent too much time. You know, I'm taking all their time and I'm trying to get perfection. And I wonder if God's really pleased. But now tonight I think I've seen that God is pleased when we do our best, and I'm thankful for this.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you.

Elder McGee.

[Elder McGee] Well, as I've noticed over the years, sometimes it happens I've seen some things that people miss a blessing sometimes because when God gives them the power to do a certain work and he has failed to do it. Therefore, I think I've heard of some statement that says, "Many fail because they fail to do what they are able to."

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, friend. Thank you.

Brother Roy Brown. We're glad to hear from you, friend.

[Brother Brown] Well, I'm here to tell you what God did for me inasmuch as I can. There's no way that I could go into all the detail. There's just no way. But He did something really marvelous for me, and so I've got a duty now, and that's to let it be known.

I would to God that I had the command of the language and the eloquence of the word to do justice to what He's done for me, but I don't. I've been coming down here for a long time, and I told my dear friend here a long time ago that I always, you know, got something, every time I come down here, I went away with something. And I've been carrying things off for a long time, and I never really had any idea—never had any intentions at all of, you know, getting this involved. And God knows my heart. That's the truth. But He had other ideas, and all I can say to that is that it's joy unspeakable and full of glory.

[Elder Frazee] Thank God.

[Same man continuing] I've had the privilege, and I still don't understand why or how that God could use me. Some of the very best things that He has for me, He's used some of the finest workmen that He has in my behalf, and I've been privileged to talk and to be instructed in God's Word by some people who really love Him. And I think that's primarily the reason that I couldn't turn loose, you know, and just sort of had to keep coming back.

But you know, it wasn't too long ago that I knew I was really hooked, and it kind of scared me. I guarantee you, it scared me because I got a little glimpse of the beauty of the Sabbath. To me, that was just always a bunch of people who were legalists, you know. But I got just a glimmer of it, and I was hooked.

And so, well from there, I don't know. How do you explain it? But I got rid of all my religion, and now I got a peace in my heart that I can't tell you about. I might show you sometime, but to make a long story short, I'm just standing in awe and completely satisfied. And I know that I've just stepped upon the threshold. I've got a long ways to go, and I'm not what I'm going to be. I'm not what I used to be, thanks be unto God.

[Elder Frazee] Thank the Lord.

[Same man continuing] And the motivating factor in this whole thing from the outset right up to now, the big thing was Jesus Christ.

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Same man continuing] It wasn't anything I did or anything that anybody else did for me, but it was what He did for all of us.

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Same man continuing] And I don't ever want to lose sight of that.

[Elder Frazee] Amen.

[Same man continuing] The fact that Jesus is the big part of everything, He set the standards. And I think the greatest privilege that I'll ever have is just trying to walk along in His footsteps. And if I have just one wish, one prayer, it's that I never lose anything that I've learned in the last few months. Because I tell you, the past

few months I've been coming down here and studying, and it's as if God just kind of slid the lid back and let me look down through the channels of time. And boy, you can just stand so much of that. You know, we're not geared for it yet. And to see the beauty of His plan and the magnificence of everything that's gone into it, it's really a glorious experience.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, my friend.

[Same man continuing] Well, I could talk from now on, but it wouldn't make any difference. [Laughter from the audience] But I thought tonight that I don't want to ever give the credit to anybody but Jesus.

[Elder Frazee] That's the way to do it.

[Same man continuing] I thought about the times that I've come down here and the times that I've walked around down here and everything, and I think it's kind of like walking on holy ground to me. Kind of got a special place in my heart for Wildwood. And it didn't really start here. It just sort of wound up here, you know. This thing started about 18 months ago, and boy, I tell you, I fought it hard right on down to the end. But God finally won, and so I'm the richer for it.

[Elder Frazee] Thank the Lord. Thanks, my friend. Brother Owen.

[Brother Owen] I don't reckon I could say that any sermon that Elder Frazee has ever preached wasn't practical. But tonight it was especially practical in my book.

[Elder Frazee] This is the farm manager speaking. [Laughter from the audience]

[Brother Owen] I love to work. I think I learned it in my teens. I like to accomplish something. I have worked with young men, the last 20–25 years, and some of these young men like to work.

I was made happy just a day or two ago. I have a couple young men working with me, and one of them, I don't think he's been on the farm very much. We were cleaning out the fence row. Did you ever try pulling honeysuckle and saw briars out of a fence row? Well, we were doing that. We were trimming the lower branches of the tree and cleaning out the brush.

And pretty soon, he looked back, he says, "You know, I like this work."

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Brother Owen] And that really made me happy.

[Elder Frazee] That's it.

[Brother Owen] I tell you, when a person can get in a job like that and say "I like it," there's something to it.

[Elder Frazee] Right. Thank you.

[Woman from congregation] I thank the Lord for work, and I'm glad that I like to work. I remember when a child came to me to live in my home, and she said, "Do you ever do anything but work?" Oh, I said, "Yes, sometimes."

Well, she learned to change her mind on that, but some of my sweetest experiences have been in helping my children to like to work, and I'm so thankful that they do like to work. And it's really a privilege and a joy for them and for me, and I praise the Lord for the blessing it's been in my life and in my home.

[Elder Frazee] Before others speak, you might like this little quotation on when children are old enough to get into these benefits, *Adventist Home*, page 180:

"Each member of the family should understand just the part he is expected to act in union with the others. All, from the child six years old and upward, should understand that it is required of them to bear their share of life's burdens"  
*Adventist Home*, page 180.

Of course, some of them play at it before they get to be six, and that's all right, too.

All right. Now, how old are you? You're seven. Well, we'd like to hear from you.

[Girl from congregation] I'm glad there's work to do.

[Elder Frazee] Well, this is fine, and I've seen this girl work. She works, all right.

[A another girl from congregation] The Lord gave us the work, and we should do all the work He gave us to do. Well, Tuesday and Wednesday last week, when we were at school we were singing, and I got dizzy, and the Lord helped me, and Miss Worth took me to her office, and Mrs. Dagon picked me up and took me home, and the Lord helped me, and we got all our work done, and the Lord comes and helps us do our work to be finished, and we should be happy the Lord's helping us.

[Elder Frazee] Good, good.

Dr. Taylor. I know he's going to have sometime interesting to tell us.

[Dr. Taylor] I'm very happy to be here. I'm glad to have the elder behind me. Just this morning, we were talking in a little group about what we should do to help our patients get better. And I was pushing the idea for those who want to should have something to do in the line of labor.



We have wonderful trails for them to walk on. We have a lot of good things here. But since I've been here, I haven't seen where any of our patients were working.

And patients would ask me, "I'd like to do something constructive."

So, this last week we decided to try to help some folks have something to do constructively. And there was a little difference there, whether we should really push a program in what we call industrial therapy. So I'm so happy that you're behind me.

[Loud laughter from the audience and chuckles from Elder Frazee]

Now, while I'm here, I feel as if I should take a couple more minutes and give you a little more of my own personal experience. When I was about 13 years old in the city of Toledo, I was satisfied that I knew everything that a boy my age should know. I was ready, I thought, to get out and make some money. I think it was a motorcycle I wanted to buy.

But I don't remember just what, but I quit school at the age of 13. Truant officers and everybody else couldn't get me to go back to school anymore. This is up in Toledo, Ohio. My dad was down in Florida working on Camp Jackson at the time of World War I. And when he came home and found out what was going on, that I wasn't as good of a boy as I was when he left home, you see. So he says, "Johnny, we're going back out on the farm again."

I says, "Fine."

So, it wasn't long we found a farm, and the farm was pretty well run down, so there was plenty of work there. And from just about daybreak in the morning until dark at night, and it didn't get dark until about nine o'clock, my dad took me out and taught me how to work seven days a week from early in the spring until all the crops were harvested in the fall.

I said, "Dad, I want to go back to school." [Laughter from the audience]

He says, "You never studied and you never will. I'm going to teach you how to work."

So I worked another year before I had the opportunity to go back to school. But I think it was the greatest lesson I ever learned. And my dad, although he never went to school, he knew how to teach a boy to work, and I appreciated it very much.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you for that testimony, doctor! Thank you.

All right. We're going to have a song now—well, here comes a lady wants to say something, and then when she gets through, we're going to have a song. And if you want to know which one it is, you look in the index back there until you find "Work."

[Woman from congregation] I'd just like to give a short testimony telling you that I have seen you people learn how to work and learn to love to work. I wish we would have more schools like Laurelbrook and Stone Cave and schools like those where young people from 14 to 18 are taught to love work, play and study.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, sister. What did the rest of you think about what she said?

[Audience] Amen.

[Elder Frazee] That's good. All right. Did you find anything in the index about work?

[Audience] "Work, For the Night is Coming."

[Elder Frazee] Yes, all right, 446 [Old Adventist Hymnal (1941)].

Before we sing, I want to ask you a question, folks, very seriously, deep in your heart. Did you get something tonight? Are you going to do something about it? What were those first three words of that opening text?

"I must work..." John 9:4.

Who said that? Jesus. Does He want your help? Can you echo His attitude, His decision?

"I must work..." John 9:4.

Now, don't overwork, folks. Don't quit eating but don't overeat. Get enough food but don't take too much. But I want to tell you something. There's a great deal of difference between being weary and being exhausted. Being weary doesn't hurt people. Plenty of people stop working just when they're beginning to get the most benefit. God will help you to learn, and there are folks who can help you if you need some human help.

But oh, on our knees, let's get close with our heavenly Master in partnership with Him in getting the job done, so we can go home with Him and work with Him through all eternity. What do you say?

"Work, for the night is coming;  
Work through the morning hours;  
Work while the dew is sparkling;  
Work 'mid springing flowers;  
Work while the day grows brighter,  
Under the glowing sun;  
Work, for the night is coming,  
When man's work is done.

Work, for the night is coming;  
Work through the sunny noon;

Fill brightest hours with labor,  
Rest comes sure and soon;  
Give every flying minute  
Something to keep in store;  
Work, for the night is coming,  
When man works no more.

Work, for the night is coming;  
Under the sunset skies,  
While their bright tints are glowing,  
Work, for daylight flies;  
Work till the last beam fadeth,  
Fadeth to shine no more;  
Work while the night is darkening,  
When man's work is o'er."  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* (1985), #375.

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