

What About Research?

#0358

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 26, 1977

I'm glad that we can meet together outside. Circumstances have their providence, you know. First of all, my wife and I want to thank all of you who had a part in this little scroll or big scroll of appreciation. One of the joys of getting white hair is seeing the work that we have worked on for a long time bear fruit. And we appreciate the fellowship and love of you all.

And this has led me to some thoughts that I want to share with you this little while we're together this evening. What is there about this program that makes it important and makes it distinctive? Without the slightest thought of commenting upon other programs anywhere else, without any reflection upon other institutions, let me say that there is one thing that we're trying to do here at Wildwood. And this is the thing that has brought us all together. It's a serious attempt to carry out the instructions of the Spirit of Prophecy in regard to sanitariums, educational and medical evangelistic work.

Now, I observe that in the world today, and it seeps into the church, there is more and more the thought of research being done to find out how to do things. And this extends even into fields that you and I would consider settled. The Ten Commandments are no longer the binding law that they were to the Christian world a hundred and two hundred years ago. And I say this seeps in from the world into the church so that there are thousands of items that today human beings think are subject to research.

Now, my dear friends, I'm perfectly willing for people to engage in research concerning the distance from here to the other galaxies. I find that those figures change from time to time as they find new methods of measuring distance. But when it comes to things that God has spoken about, the only research you and I need to do is to find out what God has said and then do it. This is our wisdom and understanding.

Long ago, Moses said to the Israelites.

“...This is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people”
Deuteronomy 4:6.

And I thank the Lord for the measure of blessing that has come in our work here, as men and women and boys and girls have sought to follow out the divine blueprint.

Not long ago, I heard the word “blueprint” referred to by a man some distance from here, and he remarked that people talk about following the blueprint in our institutions and that God has not given us a blueprint in the Spirit of Prophecy. He has given us some principles.

May I say that definitely, I deplore that use of terms? I believe with all my heart that we *do* have a blueprint in the Spirit of Prophecy. And this program is committed to following out the blueprint that is found in the Spirit of Prophecy.

We find in the Spirit of Prophecy literally hundreds of details regarding the size of medical institutions, the size of educational institutions, the locations of these institutions, the curriculum we should follow, the textbooks we should use and the textbooks we shouldn't use, the association of men and women in these institutions, both single and married, the matter of child training, the matter of Sabbath Schoolwork, the matter of evangelistic work, the matter of recreation and amusements. All these things are covered not merely by great principles such as we find in the Bible, but literally hundreds of details and specifications.

Now, since the world is filling up with the idea of simply doing research and finding out what's being done, and a lot of that research amounts to this. They'll take the blood pressure of 10 million people and divide that and get the average and call that the blood pressure. And you and I know that average blood pressure today is where? Too high. The normal is not the average.

That could be said about a thousand other things. The average attitude toward morality is not normal. The average attitude toward the Ten Commandments is not normal. The average understanding of the proper association between men and women is not normal. The average idea of what is fun, what's a good time, what's amusement and recreation is not normal.

You remember that in the early church, those who went out who were called Christians, at one city that they came to, after they gave their initial lectures, some opposers said:

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

Do you know why they turned the world upside down? It was wrong side up. And a true Seventh-day Adventist today, a true medical missionary, will be out of gear with the world in a thousand details.

In a recent issue of one of the most widely-read and most respected journals in America, a doctor who should know better, whose position entitles him to have influence, devotes his entire article to this proposition, “That we have discovered that the proper way to deal with alcohol is to encourage its use moderately.”

You heard me correctly. That's what he said.

Now, why will you and I not buy that? Because we know a blueprint in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, which specifically rules out any and all uses of alcohol, is that right? So we're not taken in by that kind of "scientific" research.

But as I looked at that, I thought in my soul, "If they're so far off in that which we can see easily, what about a lot of other areas that we may not be able to discern so clearly?"

My dear friends, anything the world teaches today is suspect. Anything the world is *doing* today is suspect. Instead of taking for granted that what the world is doing educationally, medically, recreationally, socially, is correct and that we follow it unless God thunders from Sinai and says, "Thou shalt not," we would do well to hunt for an inspired blueprint, a command or directive for everything of major importance that we do or carry on.

Now, this at once to the thinking mind will suggest that somebody needs to do a lot of study. And the beautiful thing and the important thing about this program is that this involves all of us. God has not given the work of searching the blueprint merely to a few leaders. In God's army, every soldier must know the blueprint, must know the plan of battle, must know what our objectives are and how we're going to reach those objectives.

Every soldier here needs to know the chronological plan of battle between now and the coming of Christ. Which comes first, the close of probation or the National Sunday Law? Which comes first, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the seven last plagues? Which comes first, the death decree or Jacob's trouble? I could go on with 25 questions like that that everybody here needs to know just like that. We need to know the plan of battle. It isn't enough for a few leaders to know those things.

And they're there in *Early Writings*, in *Great Controversy* and the other inspired volumes. One of Sister White's great contributions to the understanding of truth is the vision, the series of visions dealing with coming events, their order and sequence.

Now, they're not written down one, two, three, A, B, C. Those things must be searched out. Some details may not be as clear as we would like, but God knew what He was doing. He wanted to stimulate our minds to study because in the very process of studying, something happens to our minds. They're developed.

And so with these other areas of practical life: the training of our children in home and in school, in Sabbath School, our work of evangelism, our community missionary work, our health education program. All these things, in the Spirit of Prophecy, we find, as I say, hundreds of details.

In these few minutes, we're together this evening, I simply want to call your attention to these facts. One is God wants this program to be different. That's why it's here. Second, the blueprint is in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and He wants all of us to be engaged in study.

Now, there's one problem about that. When people get to studying the blueprint, whether they're studying it out of *Volume 5*, or *Great Controversy*, or *Adventist Home*, or *Messages to Young People*, they begin to find some things *in* there that are different from what they see going on around them.

At this point, one of several things can happen. One is that we get discouraged reading the books and simply float along with what's going on around us. That's too bad, isn't it? Another thing is that we study the books and study the books, but we become critical of the church around us and even of our brothers and sisters that we sit next to. That's too bad.

I want to tell you something, friends. We're dealing with a perfect standard, a perfect blueprint. And anybody who will study it will find areas where there needs to be coming up, coming up on these points.

I wonder if we find that true in our own personal life? This is as God intended it. And the answer is not to get discouraged. Neither is the answer to leave aside the study because it points out things in which we're not up on. Rather, we can thank God for two things. First, He will give us grace day by day to draw nearer and nearer the working out of the divine will. And second, He gives us through it all, faith that ultimately you and I personally and the church as a whole will reflect the divine image fully. Do you believe that?

This is the essence of righteousness by faith in the third angel's message. We believe not merely that our sins are covered through the justifying blood of Jesus. Thank God for that. And if we're under that blood, if we should die tonight, we're as safe as the thief on the cross when he died, and that's home safe, isn't it? Sure.

But oh friends, in the third angel's message, God has revealed His glorious purpose to develop a people in whose lives this righteousness, which has been imputed to us, is imparted in such fullness that the world can see a demonstration of what God has on the books of heaven covering us, they see it in our lives. I want a part in that, don't you?

And we're to have that faith for ourselves personally and for the church. It is through this church, our beloved church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that this demonstration is to be made. And just as there has to be a sifting in our individual lives, sifting out everything which is foreign to that ideal, so in the church, that sifting must go on. And those who will not have that work done in their lives will eventually be sifted out from the church. So that at the end, when probation closes, God will have a people in whose lives these principles are completely revealed. And that's what this is all about.

This isn't just a community hospital or even an ordinary sanitarium. This isn't here just for health education or any other kind of education. This is here to develop a people in whose hearts the law of God is written, in whose lives the image of Jesus is fully revealed. Oh, I'm so glad for this! And God intends that this shall be an experience of joy and satisfaction, my friends.

Let me ask you something. Where is the happiest place in the universe, do you think? In heaven. All right. Then, tell me this. The closer that we get to heaven, the happier we should be, or the more miserable?

In *Medical Ministry*, page 214, I read.

“We all have very much to be thankful for; let us open our lips in praise and thanksgiving to God...He has made it possible for us to secure for ourselves a very happy life even in this world of sin, and holds out the hope of being continually in His presence in the kingdom He is preparing for His people. Should not these thoughts call forth from us praise and thanksgiving?” *Medical Ministry*, page 214.

What do you say? And so, my dear friends, the reason God has given us instruction in our medical work, in our educational work, in recreation and amusement, reading and music, the use of our time and money, child training and all the rest—the reason He’s given us this instruction is to make us what? Happy. Is that right? Yes.

But it takes conversion to enjoy it. A fish wouldn’t enjoy this meeting this evening. He’d die for want of water, you understand. And if I had to spend very many hours down there where the fish is, I’d die. Wouldn’t you? Sure. It takes a born-again nature to enjoy a born-again experience.

And therefore, as we read the blueprint and deal with these specific instructions, if we find that our natural disposition rises up against any point, instead of getting proud, or negligent, or any other of those things, this is a call to prayer for you and me to get down on our knees and say, “Lord, change my heart, and help me to love what You love and hate what You hate.”

That’s what’s involved in it. God wants these specific things to be to us a challenge to seek Him with all the heart for an experience of true conversion. That comes by looking at Jesus on the cross, in the sanctuary, at the mercy seat.

Now, I want to give a specific example here as we close this little meeting of blueprints, blueprints. During the years that have come and gone here in the past third of a century, we’ve seen a number of buildings built, a number of projects develop, here and in the outreach. How has this been done? By professional fund-raising? No. It’s been done by prayer and sacrifice and hard work.

And along with the prayer and the sacrifice and the hard work, God has put in miracles. When we came here 35 years ago, we had just about enough money to pay the moving bill to get here. And down there in the house that’s called Evangelid and a few old tents that were pitched near it, we gathered our little group of about 15. And from that day to this, my friends, the hammers have never been silent.

What has enabled this program to keep going and developing and building when there is no subsidies available to it, no constituency or board to appeal to for money? My dear friends, again and again, this group (and while we may be different

people we're the same group that came here 35 years ago), this group of people, again and again and again, have gotten down on their knees and said, "Lord, we're at the Red Sea. We believe you want us to go ahead. We're putting our feet in the water. We're going to do all we can with money and time and effort. Send money."

And God's done it over and over again. Look at that building right there. You know, again and again as I walk through the halls of the sanitarium, I as it were, rub my eyes and say, "How did this get here, anyway? How did this get here?"

When we started this particular building a few years ago, all the money we had was enough to pour the footings. That's all, just enough to pour the footings. And thank God, there it stands. Every room in that building is a miracle, my friends. But again and again, not once nor twice but again and again, through the progress of this building, this group was called together to pray that God would open the way, that money might come in, materials might come in, workers might come in, to make it possible.

Friends, this is of the essence of the development of faith. You know, if God wanted to, He could help us find oil on this property, or find a gold mine, or something else that would make it unnecessary for us to pray about money. But God encourages us to pray about these definite things, tangible things so that we can see answers to our prayers.

Now, over in Tiftonia, we have a little chapel. It's well along with its construction. We need some money to complete it. Friday night, last Friday night, I announced that this coming Friday night at vesper service, we were going to take a special offering. I don't know whether the Lord will give us enough next Friday night to complete it all in one offering. He could. We'd need more than \$10,000 if He did. He could do it and He might. He may want us to have another call later on.

But we need a major blessing Friday night and a good response. And I told Brother Vital I'd like an opportunity to lay this before you and have us unite in prayer here that God will give us a wonderful blessing Friday night.

Now, this is all linked with the rest that I've told you. But all the rest I've told you is important whether I said anything about money. Am I correct? Yes. But it all fits together. Where do these ideas come from? Out of these books, my friends. And your personal problems, the solution is in these books.

So tonight, we want to (we're so close together it's going to be hard to kneel), but I'm going to invite those of you who *can* kneel to kneel and those who can't to just bow your heads where you are. And since there's a lot of noise, it'll be necessary for anybody who prays to pray good and loud.

[Man from congregation] Dear Father, we're so thankful for the example of the pioneers who have gone before us. We're thankful for the patriarchs and the prophets and the apostles who lived by faith. We're thankful for the early pioneers of the message who, in such sacrifice, went forward in the work.

We're thankful for a third of a century ago, a small company of pioneers who started Wildwood and gave us so much, so much is already established. But dear Lord, we want to have a part in that pioneer work in this day. Search our hearts, dear Father. Convict us of what we should do with our personal money and savings. And lay the burden on those who have more means. Bring them to the meetings Friday night, we pray. And we pray for a special blessing in Jesus' name, amen.

[Elder Frazee] Our Father, we are all united and agreed in thanking Thee for Thy wonderful blueprint. We're sorry we make such slow and inadequate carrying out of Thy instructions. But we thank Thee for Thy patience, Thy love and Thy mercy. And tonight, we're putting our hands in Thy hand to let Thee lead us more rapidly along the homeward road. We thank Thee for each dear worker in Jesus' name, amen.

God bless you all. You're dismissed.

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