

# Survival 14 of 14

## *Will You Survive?*

#0438

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

We've been studying this question of survival. We've been looking in the prophecies of the Bible, and it's dark with storm clouds, but the rainbow of hope is there; the promise of God to take His people through. As the remnant proceed in an ever-narrowing way, they have the assurance that the pearly gates are just ahead.

We studied last night the fact that the church of Christ is the one thing in this world that's going to survive. Everything else is going down in ruin. As back in Noah's day, the Ark was the only thing that went through the flood, and all who survived were those who were in the Ark. So today, those who survive will be those who have found a place in the ark of refuge—the remnant church—and who remain in that ark until Jesus comes.

This is the point I wish to study with you tonight—How to be sure to remain; how to be one of the remnant that sticks all the way through.

Turn please to Matthew 24, and we shall note the words of Jesus, as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, talking with His disciples, especially about the signs of His coming, and the time of trouble shortly before He would come.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” Matthew 24:12–13.

These are the survivors, those who endure how long? To the end.

Now, notice there is a clear prediction here, that there will be many who will start out and not finish. Jesus tells us why: Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Now it isn't just the iniquity in the world that is the problem. As a ship proceeding over the ocean is perfectly safe with water all around it, but is in a dangerous condition when water begins to get in the ship. So the church is perfectly safe, even though it's surrounded by all the sin and vice and crime, and wickedness of a godless world, as long as that doesn't seep into the church.

Jesus in His last prayer, prayed:

“I pray not that Thou should take them...”

My people, my church.

“...out of the world, but that Thou should keep them from the evil” John 17:15.

We have studied in former lessons in this series, the prophecy of Ezekiel 9 which shows that in the time in which we live the true people of God will be distinguished by soul anguish, sighing and crying for all the abominations that are done not merely in the world, but in the church, in Jerusalem. This distinguishes those who receive the seal.

Concerning this, Jesus says, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." One who is on fire with the love of God, hot for God, this is one dear to the heart of Jesus. But so many their love waxes cold. May I point out friends, that half-way between hot and cold is what? Lukewarm.

Have you heard that? Where is he? That's the Laodicean message that Jesus, in mercy, has sent to His remnant church, His people in Revelation 3. And His charge against us, against you and me, is that we are what? Lukewarm.

Remember, those who are lukewarm are on the way from hot to where? Cold. And that means, clear out, and as we shall see, this is the end result, this is the end of the road that many are on today.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 136.

Jesus through His messenger, predicts a time of great testing, the same things He's speaking about here in Matthew 24, and with the same result. Many wax cold. Many go out. And notice, it's spoken of here as the great proportion.

Down the page, I read:

"To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader" *Ibid*.

You see, the time presented here, the time of the National Sunday Law, the mark of the beast being enforced, and our nation with the other nations of the world joining with the enemy in a final attack against God and His church.

In this time note, it says the majority will do what? Forsake us. I hate to read that. I hate to think of it. But I dare not put my head in the sand and hide my eyes from that which the prophet of God has written down for our enlightenment.

The Word of God plainly says that we should study the prophecies and see what is ahead so we can keep out of trouble.

“A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished” Proverbs 22:3.

I ask you a question: If the majority of those who come up to the time of test and trouble, if they forsake us, where are they up to that time? They're in the church. They're in the Ark. But they don't stay long enough to go through the great storm. They get out before the great time of trouble breaks. As the persecution comes, the *Great Controversy* says:

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition” *Great Controversy*, page 608.

That is what is ahead of us. And if large numbers of those who claim to keep the commandments of God are going to leave the church when the test is brought, when the screws are put on, when the remnant are persecuted for keeping God's Sabbath, if multitudes are going to leave, then where are they up until that time? They're in the church.

This explains a lot of things. This explains why there's so much worldliness and following fashion, and following worldly customs in diet, in dress, in music, in reading, in amusements, in recreation, in courtship and marriage, in education, and Sabbath-keeping, and child training, and all the other phases of life. Let me read that:

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death... In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 81.

When is the time of separation? When the mark of the beast is urged upon us. Now I know that the shaking and the sifting have been going on, in a sense, for over a century—we have references that say that. And it is a sad fact that every year there are those who leave the remnant church and go out into the world. It's a pitiful thing isn't friends. Like those disciples that left Jesus in Capernaum. Many of His disciples, it says in John 6, when He gave that straight sermon in the synagogue, from that time, they went forth, left Him, they departed from Him, and walked no more with Him.

And so that work of sifting is going on at the present time. But this is but a preliminary. The real sifting of the church, the real separation of the wheat and the chaff, the gold and the dross, awaits the time of persecution.

I want to give you tonight, three great causes of the shaking and sifting: the three great things, agencies that are going to cause people to leave the church. If you know what these three things are, then you can watch in your own experience that you do not take a wrong attitude on any one of these three.

I've mentioned one of them already—the persecution. I read it here in *Volume 5*. Jesus speaks of it here in Matthew 24:

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended...” Matthew 24:9–10.

Persecution has always been a great sifting agency. When the church is persecuted, those who have come in in times of peace are tested to see whether they really mean business. It’s one thing to join the church when people pat you on the back or at least admire you for your stand; it’s another thing to join the church, or stay in it when it means to go to prison; when it means to be banished; when it means to be made a slave; when it means to be marked for death. So persecution is one of the agencies that’s going to sift the church.

There’re other agencies:

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 707.

What’s the agency of sifting here? Heresy. What are heresies? False teaching. False teachings have always sifted the church.

Back there in the days of Christ and the apostles, heresies were coming in. Many of the epistles of Paul were written to deal with various heresies. Why did he write to the Galatians? Read the book, and you will see that false teachers were bringing in heresies into the churches of Galatia. Why did he write to the Thessalonians? Why did he write one church after the other? Because he was dealing with certain false teachings. Sometimes they misquoted the apostle himself. My point is that when false teachings come, they separate the chaff from the wheat.

I’ve studied in former lessons in this series the great counterfeit latter rain which is even now beginning in the religious world around us. As the popular churches get more and more pleased with the kind of Gospel that’s being presented, and more and more, the mighty power of Satan witnesses to that false Gospel. Remember friends, it’s going to become more and more.

But it’s not only out there in the world, and in the popular churches that Satan will bring in false teachings. No, in the remnant church, there has been down through the history of this movement and will continue to be, those who bring in false teachings.

We think of Canright. We think of Kellogg and Jones. We think of others since who have apostatized from this movement, and yet for a period sought to maintain within the movement their right to teach their false theories.

Some of those things are among us today. We need to be on the lookout for those things; for heresies, it says, will sift the church, separating the chaff from the wheat.

Which is it that goes out, the wheat or the chaff? I studied that with you last night from Matthew 3. Jesus fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, gather His wheat in the garner, and burn up the chaff. When the wind blows through the thrashing floor, what is it that leaves? The chaff.

Let no one. I plead with you for Jesus' sake, deceive you with the thought that the true people of God will either leave the remnant church or be cast out of the remnant church. There is not one syllable of divine proof on that point. Yet well-meaning people apparently get that idea. It's one of the deceptive snares of the Devil.

This ark that was started over a hundred years ago by divine direction is the ark that is to carry the people of God through the storm ahead. We don't need a new ark at all. We need a new understanding of the blueprint for this one, and a new determination to abide in the ship.

May I read you a clear statement here? This was written to Elder Canright, back in the 1880s shortly before he made his sad mistake, his bad decision to leave this movement. The prophet of God says:

“Dear Brother M: I had an impressive dream last night. I thought that you were on a strong vessel, sailing on very rough waters. Sometimes the waves beat over the top, and you were drenched with water. You said: ‘I shall get off; this vessel is going down.’ ‘No,’ said one who appeared to be the captain, ‘this vessel sails into the harbor. She will never go down’” *Ibid.*, page 571.

I believe it friends, what do you say? You know that wonderful picture in Revelation 12:17, pictures a war between the dragon on the one side, and the woman and the remnant on the other, and that remnant keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. I choose to remain with the remnant. I want to survive with the Ark of God. What is your answer? God grant it for everyone.

Very well, I've given you two agencies of sifting. What was that first one? Persecution. What's the next one? Heresies. I'm giving you these, in a sense, chronologically backward. The persecution is the last one that comes in its fury. I'm going to give you now the first one. *Early Writings*:

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony

called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people" *Early Writings*, page 270.

What causes the shaking according to this page? The straight testimony. Now I want you to see why it causes the shaking. It says some will not bear it. That is, they won't take it, they won't stand it, they won't endure it, they won't tolerate it. They don't want to hear it. They don't want to listen to it; they don't want to have it in the church. So they do what? They rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

If everybody in the church would listen to the straight testimony, would there be any shaking in the church? No, there wouldn't. It is those who rise up against the straight testimony who are responsible for the shaking in the church. May I read this paragraph again, it's so important:

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people" *Ibid*.

Another word for shaking is agitation. There are those who would be glad if there were no agitation in the church at all. I have no sympathy at all for schismatics, those who seek to bring disunion, and disorder and lack of confidence in the church through their rumors and criticisms and all that sort of thing. But we will never go through to the kingdom without passing through some stormy waters in this matter we're studying right now. The Lord's messenger says, but few know what our churches are to experience.

I ask you, will you endure the sifting that the persecution brings? Before that, and in connection with it, will you endure the sifting that false teaching from without and from within? But preparatory to both of those, I bring you the question which comes closes to the heart; will you endure the straight testimony? Will you survive the giving of the straight testimony? Unless you can receive the straight testimony, you will not be a survivor. You'll be sifted out.

There's a point here that needs to be made very clear. It's possible to hear the straight testimony in the remnant church, rise up against it, and refuse to accept it; treat it as an interference, and an invader, and continue right on as a church member in good and regular standing thinking that you are really, the true loyal core of the church—that's possible. Do you know when your true condition will be

brought to light? If you are in that condition, you know, I'll tell you—when the persecution comes. The persecution sifts out what the straight testimony shakes.

Let me illustrate it. Suppose I had a great big glass jar here tonight. Suppose I had in it some beans (navy beans, and some other kind of little beans). Suppose I had with this some walnuts, nice good-sized English walnuts. They're all mixed up in there—Beans and walnuts. Now suppose I begin to shake that jar. You can see the beans moving all around and the walnuts moving all around. Do you know what will happen pretty soon? The walnuts will be where? At the top and the beans at the bottom. The shaking produced a separation. The big ones are on top, and the little ones are on the bottom. But mark you, they're all still in the jar.

This is what the straight testimony does in the remnant church. It brings together those who receive the straight testimony and draws together those who resist it. But they're all, most of them, are still in the church.

Suppose I could drill some holes in the bottom of that jar, just the right size for the beans to go through, but too small to let a walnut through. I continue the shaking. I shake and shake. What would you see streaming down from that jar? Beans, beans, beans. And if I keep that thing going long enough, where would all the beans be? On the floor. Where would all the walnuts be? Still in the jar. There you have the picture friend, never forget it.

The persecution is the thing that's going to make a sieve which will cause those who have rejected the straight testimony to find a good reason for leaving the church.

Now put those three things together: Shaking, caused by the straight Testimony; Deception, brought by false teaching; Persecution, brought by the powers of earth. You get all those three things together operating on a soul, and tell me, can you survive? Oh, what a question.

Now turn please to Matthew 26, and oh, I want you to see a warning that Jesus gave to His disciples concerning the sifting that awaited them. Let us see what He told them to do, let us see what He told us to do:

"Then says Jesus unto them..."

They're on their way from the upper room, to the garden of Gethsemane.

"All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad" Matthew 26:31.

Did Jesus foretell a sifting? Now watch:

"Peter answered and said unto Him, Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended" Matthew 26:33.

Was Peter sure he'd be a survivor? Yes. Was he? No, he failed. After Jesus warned him again, Peter said:

"Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee.  
Likewise also said all the disciples" Matthew 26:35.

All the 11 were perfectly sure that they would stand with Jesus, as they say, through thick and thin. Weren't they? Did they mean it? Were they sincere? Do you see it takes more than earnest determination, more than firm resolution, more than sincerity? What does it take? Oh, look at the 38<sup>th</sup> verse as He went into Gethsemane. He asked them to tarry here and watch with me. Then in the 41<sup>st</sup> verse:

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" Matthew 26: 41.

What did he try to get them to do? Watch and pray. Did they do either one very much that night? What did they do? They went to sleep.

"By these sleeping disciples is represented a sleeping church, when the day of God's visitation is nigh. It is a time of clouds and thick darkness, when to be found asleep is most perilous" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 205.

I ask you my dear brother, are you asleep or awake? We're told that the sleep the disciples had there in Gethsemane wasn't a sound sleep. They were just sleepy enough to miss what was going on. There are thousands today they're not in a sound sleep. They can come to Sabbath School and church, but they are not awake enough to know what's going on.

God help us to wake up, what do you say? It's our only hope. It's our only hope of being able to receive the straight testimony without resisting it. It's our only hope to avoid being deceived by the heresies and the offshoots. It's our only hope to stand when persecution sweeps through the church, and the chaff goes out like clouds. Our only hope is to learn to watch and pray.

Now go back to that wonderful chapter in *Early Writings*:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances..." *Early Writings*, pages 269–270.

This is the picture of those who receive the counsel of the True Witness, lift the standard, give the straight testimony, and under the power of the Latter Rain proclaim the Loud Cry and gather in earth's last harvest.



These are the survivors. Before they give the Loud Cry, they must receive the Latter Rain. Before they receive the Latter Rain, they must both receive and give the straight testimony. Before they can give the straight testimony, they must receive the counsel of the True Witness. They do this by taking the Laodicean message literally and getting down upon their knees and repenting, opening the door to Jesus and letting Him take over.

I would like to sum this up for you very simply. You remember that in that Laodicean message, the True Witness says, "I counsel you to buy of me what? Gold, white raiment, and eye salve. That gold is faith and love. You know there are those who think that the Laodicean message is very discouraging. They think it means that the remnant are going to be spewed out of Jesus' mouth. No, not at all; I've shown you who are going out. It's the chaff that is going out. It's the dross that's going out. It's the lukewarm that are going out.

I read:

"The counsel of the true Witness does not represent those who are lukewarm as in a hopeless state. There is yet a chance to remedy their state, and the Laodicean message is full of encouragement" *Our High Calling*, page 351.

What do you say? I'm ashamed that we are in a lukewarm condition, but I'm not ashamed that I'm a part of the Laodicean church. The Laodicean church is the one where Jesus is standing at the door, knocking. I want to be right there. What do you say?

The Laodicean church is the one to whom Jesus says:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" Revelation 3:19.

I'm so glad for that call. And the Laodicean church is the church that receives that marvelous promise:

"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" Revelation 3:21.

Oh friends, those who survive the straight testimony, those who survive the heresies, those who survive the persecution, will stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, will sing the victory song with the remnant church. I want to be, by God's grace, I choose to be.

I would not boastfully, like Peter say, "Oh yes, I know I will. I would say humbly, Search me, Oh God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me. And lead me in the path of light." God will hear that prayer. I know He will.

The gold is love. There is a double love we need, and yet it is one. -Love for the truth, and love for the church. It'll take both to survive. Both of these are inseparably identified with Jesus Himself.

Turn please to 2 Thessalonians 2. In previous lessons, we noted some points in this. But there's an expression I want to fix your mind upon just now: Verses 9 and 10 show us the marvelous working of Satan—deceiving all who will listen. And it says that the reason they perish, are deceived, the last part of the 10<sup>th</sup> verse:

“...because they received not...”

What?

“...the love of the truth, that they might be saved”  
2 Thessalonians 2:10.

All who are saved will have what attitude toward the truth? They'll love it. You remember what Jesus said in John 14:

“...I am the way, the truth, and the life...” John 14:6.

Tell me something, can you love Jesus without loving the truth? Can you love Jesus and just love *some* of the truth? Can you pick and choose?

“...whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” James 2:10.

Friends, do you love the truth? Do you love the Sabbath truth? Do you love the truth on health reform? Do you love the truth on dress reform? Do you love the truth on educational reform, tithe paying, offering? Do you love the truth on family worship? Do you have family worship? Do you love to study the Bible? Do you love the testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy?

If you and I'll get down upon our knees alone with God, with the Bible and the *Testimonies*, somewhere we'll find something in there that we don't naturally love. Now, if you've never had that experience, I tell you, it's ahead of you. Don't tell me it won't happen—That's what Peter said. You had better find out where the loose screw is before the shaking time.

Down on your knees, alone with God, take your Bible and the *Testimonies*, and I beseech you, when you find something that means a change in your life, if you line up with what you read, don't run around hunting for somebody who will explain it to you so that it doesn't mean what it says, for you'll surely find it. That's what's the matter with a lot of people; that's why they're lukewarm. Years ago, they read something in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, and they didn't see anybody else doing it, so they ran around to find out what the excuse was, and the excuse satisfied them, and there they sank.

Brother, sister, friend, there is a stumbling stone in your way that until you get it out of the way, it bars your entrance into the glorious scenes of the Latter Rain.

Now, turn to Ephesians 5. I want you to see the other half of this coin. You know every coin has two sides. Nobody ever made a coin thin enough to have less than two sides, am I correct? One side of this coin we're studying is the love of the truth. The other side of it is love of the church.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" Ephesians 5:25.

If Jesus loves the church and the love of Jesus is in your heart, what will your attitude be toward the church? You'll love the church. I want to read a wonderful sentence:

"Christ and His church are inseparable" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3*, page 418.

Do you think that might keep you from being sifted out? Do you think that might even keep you from listening to offshoots? Oh friends, your soul is at stake.

Eve listened to an offshoot and was led off, didn't she? Wasn't that what was talking in that tree—an offshoot? It was in the Garden of Eden too. Don't forget it. Don't listen. You may be charmed. Christ and His church are what? Inseparable.

Let's look at the love of the truth and the love of the church—two sides of the same coin.

Let's look at these two things: The love of the truth on one side, the love of the church on the other—two sides of the same coin. If your love of the truth is such that it leads you to have less love for the church, there's something wrong with your brand of love.

Equally true, and don't miss this, if your love for the church is such as to excuse you in not loving the truth, the whole truth, all the truth that's in the Bible and the *Testimonies*, there's something wrong with your love for the church. Never let what others are doing in the remnant church act as a shield to excuse your transgression of God's law, and your ignoring the requirements of the *Testimonies*.

You can always find somebody to hide behind. If you had been in Gethsemane, you might have said as the other disciples, "Well, there's Peter, he was the one that was strongest in his statements of loyalty, now he's running away; I guess I'll run too."

Is that a good excuse? Oh no, love the truth so much that you will let no one in God's church change your loyalty on one single point of truth. Love God's church so much that you will let nothing, without or within, separate you from the love of Christ and the ark which He has established to take His remnant people through.

If you will settle those two points, through prayer and the study of His Word and the *Testimonies*, let those things be deeply imprinted in your soul every day, as

you plead with God in prayer for yourself, your family and the church, you will be one of those that survive.

[Appeal]

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