

Messages from Revelation 6 of 16

Give Glory to God

#0467

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 8, 1973

Again, let us turn to Revelation 14; this wonderful message, God's last message in this last generation. Revelation 14:6 John sees the angel flying in the midst of heaven with the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. What is the message? "Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

We've been studying in recent vesper hours this wonderful message that prepares a people for the coming of Jesus. This evening we shall note especially the expression, "Give glory to Him." Lucifer, the author of sin, turned from beholding the glory of God to think about his own glory. Any glory he had was given him by the Creator. But he lost the consciousness of his utter dependence upon the Creator.

In this last generation, when human wisdom is demonstrating its foolishness, and human pride is being prepared for its final fall, the remnant church will be distinguished by giving glory to God and to God alone.

I'd like to meditate with you this evening for a little while on some of the practical implications and applications of this. Let me ask this question: Can you stand the revelation of human weakness in yourself and in others? You remember that Jesus tried earnestly to get Peter to sense the importance of praying in Gethsemane, but Peter went to sleep while Jesus was praying. The reason was simply this: Peter was sure that he was all right and would stand. But when he made that failure and denied his Lord with cursing and swearing, something happened to Peter. He came to view himself as utterly unreliable. He came to see that without Christ Peter could not be depended upon.

There in Gethsemane that night after the denial, and then through those days with Jesus after the resurrection, and in the upper room before Pentecost Peter learned the lesson of self distrust and with it the precious lesson of depending on God. This is the lesson the remnant must learn.

How do we relate to our own failures in the past, and relate to the failures of others? I thought about it. Suppose that we are there on the Day of Pentecost. Do we hear John saying to James, "I wonder what that fellow Peter is up there preaching for anyway; after all, doesn't he know that there are hundreds of people in this audience that know about his awful failure less than two months ago? How dare he presume to give the message?"

Did John and James talk that way to each other? No, for two reasons: The biggest reason was that John and James had learned each for himself this lesson of self distrust. Second, John and James were trusting in the righteousness of Jesus to cover their failures, and to cover Peter's failures.

Believe me my brother, if the knowledge of the righteousness of Christ, your understanding of righteousness by faith does not enable you to cover the weaknesses and failures of your brethren, you may well doubt whether it can cover you or not. That's the reason that Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Forgive us our trespasses for we also forgive them that trespass against us."

When we have an experimental knowledge of how weak humanity is, and how wonderful divine love is, we shall always know that our confidence both for ourselves and for others lies in Jesus and not in man. So our message tonight is, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come, and worship Him that made heaven and earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Let's put it this way: I am nothing without Him. But with Him, and through Him, and by Him, I can do all things. In our human weakness, we may do the deeds of omnipotence. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. No limit to the one who puts self aside; no limit to the progress upward if we learn this lesson of self distrust and give glory to God. But let me warn your soul, there is no limit to the downward path of the one whose confidence is in himself and who takes glory to himself instead of directing all praise to God.

How is it with you? I trust you are well aware that you may be warned that popular education is ever praising the individual. If he's a little brighter than somebody else, a little smarter than somebody else, a little more skillful—all the more dangerous, all the more perilous is his life. From beginning to the end worldly education tends to exalt and praise human attainment, human talent. But God says:

"... my glory will I not give to another..." Isaiah 42:8.

"...them that honor me I will honor..." 1 Samuel 2:30.

Oh, that God may help us to appreciate how precious it is to divert all glory that may come to us to divert it to God, that's where it belongs.

You remember that Joseph when he came before Pharaoh; Pharaoh said, "I have heard of you that you can do this and that." Joseph at once said, "It is not in me." But he didn't grovel like a worm. He said, "God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Joseph knew that God would use him to do a work, but he was careful to make it clear to Pharaoh that the answer was not in humanity. It must come from God.

So with Daniel before king Nebuchadnezzar: He said, “King, it isn’t that I’m wiser than all these wise men who have failed you. I haven’t intrinsically, inherently, any more in me than they have. I’d be just as much a failure as they’ve proved themselves to be. But oh, there is a God in Heaven that reveals secrets and makes know to the king what shall come to pass.”

God delights to use those who will give Him glory. “Fear God and give glory to Him.” So I said, there is no limit to the upward progress of the one who takes that attitude. There’s no limit to the downward progress of the one who turns from giving glory to God.

We think of men that God used mightily in this movement such men as Elder A. T. Jones, Elder Waggoner, Doctor John Harvey Kellogg, and others—Bright lights, and God used them. Inspiration assures us that God used them. There were times when the Spirit was upon them mightily. But they came to the place where self distrust was lost and self confidence took over. And then there was nothing ahead but failure. They stumbled on the dark mountains of unbelief.

So it will be with every soul of us here this evening if we trust in humanity, either our own or somebody else’s. It doesn’t make any difference what you lean on. Some people are more inclined to trust in self. Some are more inclined to lean on some other self. Either way the lesson is clear. There is nothing in humanity to depend upon, or to count on.

God has ways to try to help us learn this lesson. For example:

“In His mercy and faithfulness, God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man, and making flesh our arm” *Ministry of Healing*, page 486.

Notice what trusting in man is said to be. What was it? Folly. What is that? Foolishness. It doesn’t add up. It doesn’t make sense. It isn’t merely that trusting in man is wicked. It’s plain silly. It won’t work. And what does God do to try to teach you and me this lesson. He often allows those in whom we place confidence to fail us; in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man and making flesh our arm. This is why there are so many experiences written in the Bible of good men failing. From the beginning there with Adam and Eve in Eden and on down through to Noah’s failure, Abraham’s failures, Isaac’s failures, Jacob’s failures, Moses’ failures, David’s failures, and Peter’s failures. It’s quite a Book of failures.

But oh, what a wonderful thing to see that time after time God helped those men that had failed again and again to so turn from self and give glory to God that He could use them in spite of their past failures. He’ll do that for you, if you will utterly disavow all trust in yourself or in anybody else; if you’ll let your confidence be only in God.

Even instruments that God is using especially, we must be careful not to trust in them. When the prophet of God was with the remnant church in person this statement was penned:

“If the people lean upon Brother and Sister White, and trust in them, God will humble them among you or remove them from you. You must look to God and trust in Him” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 121.

The people of God must not trust in Moses, they must not trust in Samuel, they must not trust in Daniel, they must not trust in Paul. Every heart must trust fully, humbly in Jesus and Him alone.

If we turn off all the lights it makes a difference; I wonder what happened? We had light here a moment ago. You can't depend on those lights, can you? I wonder what happened. Well, you and I know what happened, don't we? The connection with the power house was what? Broken. And those lights can shine how long? As long as they're connected with the power house. And they do not learn after a while to be so good that they can do it by themselves. Do they? No.

Let's make the connection with the power house what do you say? My point is friends, even if a man is failed because he's broken the connection, thank God, the connection can be restored.

This is what happened not at Pentecost, but before Pentecost with Peter. Too many people would give the impression that something happened to Peter when the rain of the Spirit fell upon him. I'll tell you when something happened to Peter. It happened to him when Jesus looked upon him in pity and love there in the courtroom. It happened as he fell upon his face there in Gethsemane and wept where Jesus had wept. It happened in the upper room when with humble heart he confessed to his brethren his pride and self-seeking. This is when something happened to Peter.

The rain of the Spirit that fell on Pentecost came not to change the hearts of those disciples. It was God's seal upon the experience they had already received. The Latter Rain is coming upon this people, not to make great changes in our characters, but as a seal of the experience of giving glory to God and trusting in Him alone that has already come to us.

Did you ever see the moon in eclipse? How many of you ever saw the moon blotted out? Did you blame the moon because it could shine only with reflected light? I think God let's an eclipse come occasionally to teach us this precious lesson. I love to see the moon in its beauty, don't you? But every ray of light that comes from the moon is what kind of light? Reflected light. And I do not blame it because it can shine only in that way.

That's the way you and I are, isn't it? Every ray of light we shed on the pathway of others is a reflected beam. It is as we behold the loving face of Jesus that we shine. Without that, with the world in between, we have no light.

This is the testimony that came to the church in Battle Creek in 1882 in a great crisis there:

"Our people are making very dangerous mistakes. We cannot praise and flatter any man without doing him a great wrong; those who do this will meet with serious disappointment. They trust too fully to finite man and not enough to God, who never errs. The eager desire to urge men into public notice is an evidence of backsliding from God and of friendship with the world. It is the spirit which characterizes the present day. It shows that men have not the mind of Jesus..." There is among us as a people an idolatry of human instrumentalities and mere human talent, and these even of a superficial character"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 75.

There are men and women of talent out in the world and in the popular churches that God would like to bring into this movement. But it would imperil their souls if He would, because they are idolized and praised.

I was talking with a man a few months ago, he and I were taking a walk together, and I just asked him in confidence about his brother who had written some things reflecting upon the straight truth of God in this message. He told me, he said, "You know Brother Frazee, what happened to my brother?" He said, that he was given a great deal of praise. Some worldly organization honored him for some of his work, and our people took it up and had him all over the country displaying him, calling our attention to his attainments." My friends, the Word of God is:

"Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils:
for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Isaiah 2:22.

When we praise and give glory to human talent we are repeating the sin of Lucifer in the courts of Heaven. All praise and all glory are to be given to God. We have no exhibition of self to make of our own or others. If men have a witness for God to give, let's be sure it is a witness for *God*. If men have an experience to tell about, let us be sure that experience gives glory to God, even though it lays the pride of man in the dust.

Before we get through to Pentecost we're going to go through Gethsemane, and the upper room in preparation of that wonderful outpouring of the Spirit.

Turn now to Isaiah where we will see some of these wonderful exhortations that John echoes in the book of Revelation. This was fulfilled in the work of John the Baptist; it is fulfilled again in a broader scale in the work of the remnant church.

“The voice of him that cries in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway foot. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed...” Isaiah 40:3–5.

What’s going to be revealed? The glory of the Lord. Not how wonderful some man can sing. Not how marvelous somebody can play the piano. Not what a great preacher this man is. Not how eloquent some speaker is. Oh, no. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is the glory of God which closes the work of the plan of salvation on this planet. This is the glory of the Latter Rain and the Loud Cry. The exaltation of God and God alone when His human agents have come to the full realization of how utterly weak and worthless they are without Him. Oh, if we’ll be empty, God will fill us.

“...the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withers, the flower fades: because the spirit of the LORD blows upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” Isaiah 40:5–8

Have we learned the lesson? Do we really know that humanity has nothing without God? How wonderfully God can work with and in humanity if it will be empty and give Him all the glory. Notice the 17th verse:

“All nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted to Him less than nothing, and vanity” Isaiah 40:17.

All nations are what? Nothing and less than nothing. Now the 26th verse:

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that brings out their host by number: He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one fails” Isaiah 40:26.

Look at those stars, the prophet says. Behold their orderly march across the heavens. Now watch what the One who orders the constellations is saying to you—the 29th verse:

He gives power to the faint...

Who gets the power? The faint

“...and to them that have no might He increases strength”
Isaiah 40:29.

Are you weak? He's strong. Why not go into partnership with Him? Are you ignorant? He's wise. Why not link up with Him? Oh, that God may help us. The best of us need Him; and the worse of us can do something if we'll give Him a chance. Why not link up with Him? The wisest of us are foolish without Him, and the most ignorant of us can do something if we'll link up with Him.

Thank God, there's a place for every one of us in the army of God if we'll learn this lesson. And there's no place for the wisest, the best trained, the most experienced of any of us unless we learn this lesson. We'll fall out as men have fallen all along the way. But oh, the humble, the meek, the trustful, those who are little in their own sight, but look to God and claim His promises, they will be the Gideon's band that will put the enemy to rout and plant the standard of God on the eternal heights. Thank God, there's a place for you and me. What do you say?

Shall we then put aside all trust in ourselves? Shall we put aside all trust in other people; and praise of them, and exaltation of them, and leaning on them, and thinking we've got to depend upon them? Thank God for a church, the church of the living church, that is built on Christ the eternal Rock. Upon this rock, His own bruised body.

“...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” Matthew 16:18.

[The Appeal]

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