

Sabbath—Traveler's Check

#0480

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 22, 1969

In my travels, I've learned to use traveler's checks. You see, when one is traveling in different states and in different countries, a personal check really doesn't mean very much, and I don't have any personal checking account anyway. But a traveler's check is one that's accepted anywhere.

How many of you are acquainted with traveler's checks? All right. You folks that are acquainted with them will recognize what I'm saying, and the others, let me explain.

A traveler's check is a check that's issued by some large bank like the National City Bank in New York City or the American Express. They have traveler's checks. And the person who's going to use them goes into a bank anywhere, any bank in the United States or anywhere in the world, says "I'd like to get a hundred, or two hundred, or three hundred dollars' worth of traveler's checks."

And you get them, and at the time you get them, you have to sign your name in the upper left-hand corner, you see. And that means that that's your check.

But now, when you get ready to use it for money, then you have to sign it again in the lower left-hand corner. And that way, somebody in New York City, or Chicago, or Mexico City, or anywhere you happen to be, they can see that your signature in the lower left-hand corner agrees with the signature that already you put at the time you purchased it in the upper left-hand corner.

And since it's guaranteed by the big bank or the American Express Company, whichever company issues it, why they accept it just the same as money. And you cash it, and you can go ahead and just buy gas, or tickets, or food, or whatever it is you want to get. This way, you don't have to carry around a lot of cash that might get stolen because if *these* checks are lost or stolen, you can recover full value just by making a report.

Well, they're rather handy, as you can see, and they come in various denominations, as we call it. You can get \$10 checks, or \$20 checks, or other sizes. And so, we use them like that.

Well, I've been thinking as I've been using these, about the traveler's checks that Jesus furnishes us as travelers on the way from earth to heaven. Anybody here traveling? Are you planning to stay here forever, or are you going? Well now, we need some checks along the way. Every now and then, we come to emergencies when we need some special help, some special supplies, all sorts of needs.

You know, in traveling, there are many things that we might carry, but the Bible says:

“...Money answereth all things” Ecclesiastes 10:19.

That is, all *material* things. In other words, we don’t have to carry a hundred gallons of gasoline when we start across the country. We carry some money or a traveler’s check, and when we need gas, we just pull into the filling station and present the traveler’s check and get our gas and some money in change, and go on our way. Maybe we need some food. We can stop at a grocery store and buy some fruit and other things, present the traveler’s check, and we get our supplies. And so, with everything we need along the way.

Now, God knows that you and I have needs of all kinds. Did any of you ever need some wisdom? Well, God’s got a traveler’s check that takes care of that. Did any of you ever need any food—I mean material food? Well, the Lord’s got a traveler’s check that takes care of that. Did any of you ever need some help to resist temptation? The Devil tempted you with something, and you needed some power to resist it. Well, there’s a traveler’s check that takes care of that, too.

And so, I might go on with all the different needs we have. Now, you may be wondering what I’m thinking about. Let’s turn over and let Peter tell us. I love to hear this beautiful text, 2 Peter the first chapter verses three and four. Here are the traveler’s checks for the pilgrims that are journeying from earth to heaven:

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” 2 Peter 1:3–4.

Yes, these promises are the traveler’s checks. Now, what is a traveler’s check? Really, it’s a promise. The bank that issues them promises to pay to the order of whoever they’re made out to, that amount of money, \$10 or \$20 or whatever.

God’s promises are like that. They’re a pledge from the bank of Heaven to pay out when you need it, whatever the need is. That’s what these promises are. They are promissory notes issued by God, and they’re signed by the blood of Jesus. The honor of Heaven, the honor of the throne of God is at stake. Every one of those promises must be kept. Everyone must be honored, or else it would be a case of the bank failing. Do you suppose the bank of Heaven will fail? Why, there’s not a chance in this universe, friends.

So, every one of us can have some traveler’s checks. But how do you get traveler’s checks? There’s nothing imaginary about them.

You have to go and say, "I want a hundred dollars' worth," or two hundred or three hundred and pay for it, and then you have to sign your name in that upper left-hand corner of each check.

And by doing it, you say, "This is mine. That's my signature."

And you know, in a way, I'll tell you what it is. It's saying, "I believe that this is worth \$20."

A person wouldn't sign his name there unless he believed it, would he? Why, no. But remember, when the need arises, you have to sign your name again. Now, that's the way it is with these promises.

You know, friends, when we get out here in some emergency, we have to have some promises in our pocket, and the pocket is right up here above the neck. You know what I mean? Here's the pocket right up here in the skull. And there's room there for a lot of traveler's checks. How many are you carrying? How many checks have you bought and put in the pocket up there? How many have you signed your name to that you can use in an emergency?

You say, "What do you mean, Brother Frazee?"

I mean to read and commit to memory these promises.

Turn over, please, to John's Gospel, the 16th chapter and the 13th verse, and the 14th chapter and the 26th verse. I want to show you something interesting here that shows how to cash these traveler's checks.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come" John 16:13.

The Holy Spirit will do what? He'll guide you into what? All truth. Now notice one of the ways He does this.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" John 14:26.

Now, what do you have to do before you can remember something? You have to know it. Is that right? Can you remember anything that you never knew? No. That's why when we read in the Bible in the law of God:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" Exodus 20:8.

... that proves that God had said something about it beforehand. That wasn't the first time. "Remember it," He says. "Remember it."

So, the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring to our remembrance the promises of God. We get into an emergency—you mothers, you hear the children cry and you don't know what's the matter, the dishes to do and one of the children's sick, all kinds of things—an emergency.

You think, "What in the world am I going to do?"

What do you need? You need a traveler's check. You need one to cash right on the spot and get the help you need. And if you've got one in your pocket that you signed in the upper left-hand corner and accepted as your own, you can pull it out in a flash and sign it again in the lower left-hand corner and get the help you need. It's just that simple.

If the Holy Spirit brings to your mind some promise that was put there days, or weeks, or months, or years before, He'll bring it to your mind. Isn't that what He says He'll do here? Yes. And you can accept it as your own.

And you can present it and say, "Dear Lord, here is your promise. You gave it to me years ago, or maybe hours ago. Right now, I need payment. Right now, I need the help you promised."

And since we've already accepted it and learned it before, now it's just a matter of the Spirit bringing it to our remembrance and claiming it as ours right then. This is the way to live the Christian life.

Let's take a few samples. 1 Corinthians the 10th chapter and the 13th verse, here's a wonderful traveler's check. It's good in all countries, all seasons of the year. Oh, I wouldn't be without this one, friends. I need this one, and I use it, thank God.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Sometimes we get into trouble, and we think, "My, nobody ever had any trouble like this."

No, here's a traveler's check that says, "Don't get excited or worried. A lot of people have been in the same kind of trouble you're in."

But He doesn't stop there.

"...but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able..." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Isn't that wonderful? Then, if the wind starts blowing 60 miles an hour, you know your house can stand a 60-mile-an-hour wind. If it gets up to 80 miles, 100 miles, 120 miles an hour, if the hurricane starts blowing, you know that God won't suffer that wind to blow faster and harder than He'll help you to stand. That's what He says.

And I'll tell you, folks, it's wonderful to have a traveler's check like this, that you can bring right out and say, "Lord, here's Your promise."

Now, this isn't all of it. Watch:

"...God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"
1 Corinthians 10:13.

With the temptation, with the trial, He'll make a what?

"...a way to escape..." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

So that you won't have to bear it? What does He say?

"...that ye may be able to bear it" 1 Corinthians 10:13.

It's quite a difference, isn't it? Yes.

David, you remember, once a lion came, and you remember, you boys and girls, what David did with that lion that tried to steal one of his lambs? He ran after it and caught it, got the lamb out of the mouth of that lion, and when the lion turned on him, David killed him.

Now, David might have stood there just wringing his hands and saying, "Oh, Lord, chase that lion away and don't let him take the lamb."

But God's way of answering David's prayer was to strengthen David to wrestle with that lion. Do you see? And that's the way He's going to help us many times. We pray for temptations and trials to be removed when God's way of answering our need is to cash this traveler's check.

It says He will:

"...with the temptation..." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

With the trial.

"...make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"
1 Corinthians 10:13.

You remember Jesus in Gethsemane, He prayed that there might be some way of escape so that He wouldn't have to drink the cup. Do you remember? But instead, the father gave Him the strength to drink it. And that's the way He may do with us.

We may pray for some disease to be taken away, and God instead may give us the strength to suffer it. We may pray for some pain to be removed, and God may give us the strength to bear it.

We may pray for some problem in the home to be just dissolved, and God's answer may be, "I'm going to give you the grace to live with that thing and show the beauty of a loving Christian life."

Oh friends, this is a wonderful traveler's check. Don't you think so? Let's read it together, 1 Corinthians 10:13. All together:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"
1 Corinthians 10:13.

Say, wouldn't you like to have that in your pocket? Wouldn't you like to have that traveler's check? But remember, there are two things you must do. First, you must sign your name to it as soon as you get it. You must accept it as your own, as written to *you*.

It isn't enough to believe, "Well, this was certainly fine for Paul and Silas, for John and Peter."

Oh, no. It's for *you*, for *you*. Will you accept it? Is it yours? Has Jesus promised this to you?

Say, "Yes, Lord, I believe it. This is mine. This is for me."

Sign your name to it, as it were. Take it as yours. Tuck it away there in your pocket. You'll need it this afternoon, or tomorrow, or next week. And then, what? Oh friends, as you get into the problem and the Holy Spirit brings this to your remembrance, sign your name again.

Say, "Yes, Lord, this is the time I need it sure, and I know You keep Your word. I'm presenting it for payment."

Turn to Mark 11:24, and you'll see what I mean. Here's the way you get payment of these traveler's checks:

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray..." Mark 11:24.

What's the next word?

"...believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"
Mark 11:24.

Why, yes. Suppose I take one of the traveler's checks out of my pocket. I go up to a bank in Denver, Colorado.

I say, "I want to get \$20."

They want to see the check. They see my signature over there in the upper left-hand corner. But now, before they'll give me that \$20, you know what I have to do? I have to sign my name again in the lower left-hand corner. And what does that mean? That means that's my acknowledgment that I received the payment. That's right. That's what it means.

And they can take that and present it to the bank from which I've made the purchase, and they can get their money back that they're giving me, you see. So, it's important that I sign that as a receipt.

But I say, "I don't have it yet."

"Well, you sign it, and we'll give it to you."

Dare I do that? Dare I stand there in the bank and sign my name to something, and I haven't got the money yet? If I want the money, that's the way I get it. It works, it works.

And friends, it'll work with God. If we believe the promise of men, shouldn't we believe the promise of God? When we get into an emergency, and we need help, out comes one of those traveler's checks, these promises.

And we say, "Lord, here. I need help."

He says, "All right. Do you believe the promise is for you?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe that it's for you right now and that I'm going to give you what you're asking for?"

"Yes, I believe it right now."

"All right. If you believe, put your name right here."

And I have it. Is that right? That's the way to get it, friends.

Let's turn back here to Mark 9, the 22nd verse. You'll see how Jesus emphasizes this. Jesus came where there was a multitude of people, and there was a man there that had a son that was possessed of a devil and very sick. And the other disciples were trying to do something about it. They didn't have the power. They didn't have faith. They didn't know how to use these traveler's checks. They were depending on themselves.

And so, when Jesus came, He had the father bring the boy there, and notice what the father said. Really, this evil spirit was treating this boy terribly.

“And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us” Mark 9:22.

What was wrong with that appeal? “If, if.” The man didn’t quite what? Believe. He wasn’t ready to sign his name on the check.

He just said, “Lord, if you can do anything for me, I’d sure appreciate it.”

But now notice what Christ said, Mark 9:23. Will you read it with me:

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” Mark 9:23.

By the way, here’s another wonderful traveler’s check to put your name to and tuck away in your pocket. Here’s a promise, a promise of Jesus:

“...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” Mark 9:23.

Now, notice what the man did:

“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief” Mark 9:24.

He signed his name. Did he get the payment? Yes. Read on. Jesus healed his son. He got the answer. When he did what? When he believed. When he asked for help and believed all at the same time.

Some people want to ask for help now and believe by and by. No. Jesus said, and we read it there:

“...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” Mark 11:24.

Anything that God has promised. Of course, that doesn’t mean, friend, just ask for anything that comes into our minds. Some of you have heard me tell about a little boy whose mother one night heard him pray to the Lord and ask Him for an elephant.

The mother said to the little boy, “Why, darling, why are you asking for an elephant?”

“Well,” he said, “didn’t you say Jesus would give us anything we ask for?”

We have to be careful what we say, don’t we?

“Well,” she said, “that means anything you need, anything He’s promised.”

“Well, I want Him to give me an elephant.”

“Well,” she said, “where would we put him?”

“Well, daddy could build a corral for him in the back yard.”

“What would we feed him?”

“Well, we could get some hay.”

She said, “I don’t think, darling, Jesus is going to send you an elephant.”

Fortunately, He didn’t. And there are some prayers just like that, friends, not childlike but childish. Grown folks with gray hairs, they can ask for elephants, white elephants, if you please. And the answer would be a lot worse than anything they can imagine.

So, what we’re studying about this morning, friends, is not that we can get any foolish thing we imagine. The only thing I can get is what the check promises. And that’s all I need. And if the traveler’s check says I can get \$20, \$20, it is when I need it, and I sign my name again thereon.

And there are no traveler’s checks made out for elephants, thank the Lord. The promises of God cover our needs.

Turn to Philippians the 4th chapter and the 19th verse. Oh, I love this one.

“But my God shall supply...” Philippians 4:19.

What?

“...all your *need* according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

How much in the bank? Everything in Heaven, everything in the universe pledged. God would send every angel out of Heaven rather than let you be overcome.

“But my God shall supply...” Philippians 4:19.

Not everything you might imagine, not everything you might think that you’d like to have, no elephants.

“But my God shall supply all your...” Philippians 4:19.

What?

“...your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

Is that for you? Everything you need? Why not right now take that as one of your traveler's checks?

Why not sign your name in the upper left-hand corner and say, "Yes, Lord, I believe that's for me."

Tuck it away up here in your safe deposit box. And then, tomorrow as some need arises, pull it out, sign your name again.

Say, "Yes, Lord, this is for me. You gave it to me yesterday, and right now, I'm claiming it. You said:

'...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them'" Mark 11:24.

Thank God, He'll do it. Take another one, James, the first chapter, the fifth verse. I wouldn't know how to do business without this one. Here's a traveler's check I have to use over and over again.

"If any of you lack wisdom..." James 1:5.

What does "lack" mean? You don't have it. You need it and you don't have it.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering..." James 1:5-6.

Do you need any wisdom? Do you come to a decision and wonder whether to go to the right hand or to the left? Here's the promise. Be sure you've got that traveler's check in your billfold. Be sure it's signed.

Be sure you've accepted it as your own and said, "Yes, Lord, I know you meant that for me."

And then, when you get into the need, pull it out, sign it up, present it for payment. You know the best thing about these traveler's checks? They're so different from the ones I got at the bank. I can use them over and over again. Isn't that wonderful? But I have to sign my name every time. No other way to get it.

"...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" Mark 11:24.

Take another one, Jeremiah 33:3. This is one of the best traveler's checks in the whole book. I got hold of this several years ago, and I don't think there's any one I've used more, either for myself or other people.

In the last year or 18 months especially, I've had a great need for wisdom to know what decisions to make, to know where to go and what to do with my wife's health, and with my being called here and there. Sometimes, Helen and I just haven't known what to plan for even a few weeks ahead. And oh, here's a traveler's

check we've had to pull out and use. And folks, it works. Do you have it? Jeremiah 33:3, read it with me:

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" Jeremiah 33:3.

Isn't that wonderful? I don't know something, and I can call to God, and He says He'll do what? He'll answer me and what? Show me. I've seen that promise fulfilled, again and again, this last year and a half, friends. And I know that every one of these promises that mean so much to me can mean just as much to you.

I'm sure that some of you here this morning have some traveler's checks that God has made precious to you. I want to hear from you in a moment. I want to hear you stand up and praise the Lord for some promise that has meant a lot to you.

And then, I want to hear from some others of you that this morning you're getting a vision of what can happen in your life, and you're deciding that by God's grace, you're going to take some of these promises and memorize them and then use them over and over again.

Remember, friends, they are purchased for us through the death of Jesus on Calvary. He offers to pay for all these checks. He has paid for them. But we have to accept them as a gift by writing our name and accepting them as our own. And then, claiming them day by day as we need them.

But remember, we didn't buy them. He bought them with His precious blood. He gave His life that we might be safe and secure and have the answer to every question, the solution to every problem.

Oh, my dear friends, listen, every one of you right now. Whatever your problem, Jesus has the answer. Whatever your need, Jesus has what you need. Take His promise, accept it as your own. Claim it. Let Jesus prove to you how valuable these checks are.

May I ask, friend, is there somebody here this morning that says, "Brother Frazee, this lesson is for me this morning. God brought me here to hear this message, and by God's grace, I'm going to do something about it."

Is there somebody like that? Would you raise your hand? I'd like to see your hand. Thank God, dear friends. I'm glad so many are getting just the help they need.

Now, for a few minutes, may I hear from you? Stand up. Two things I'd like to hear. Somebody here that has a promise that has meant a lot to you, and you want to tell us what that promise is and thank God for it. You do that.

And then somebody else says, "Brother Frazee, I'm afraid I haven't been doing this, but by God's grace, I'm going to do it from now on."

To the glory of God, say that.

There's a place for everybody to speak. Just now, let God pour it in and you pour it out. It'll make Jesus happy to hear from you.

[Testimony meeting]

Now, I want to tell you a little story. Just take two or three minutes. Then, we're going to go home. Some of you have read Bunyan's allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. You know, there were a couple of men that were traveling along the highway to Heaven, and they came to a place where there was a fence that ran along the highway.

But the road was getting rough, and they looked over across the fence, and they saw another way that seemed to parallel this one, and it was nice and smooth. And there was a stile over the fence, and all they had to do was step across there. And so, they questioned whether they hadn't better do that.

And one of them said, "I don't think we'd better do that because that would be out of the way."

And the other one said, "Yes, but look. It's right alongside here, and if it seems to lead off, we can always come back."

And so, with that, they went. But as they went along that way, night came on, and a storm came up, and they hunted around for some shelter. And finally in the morning, a great big giant found them.

And he said, "You're poaching on my grounds."

And he beat them all the way to his castle. The name of the giant was Giant Despair, and the name of his castle was Doubting Castle.

And so, he kicked them and beat them and threw them down into a dungeon and left them there. And every day, he'd come down and beat them and even suggested to them they might as well kill themselves because there was no hope. They were never going to get out of there. And day after day, they were in such despair.

And they said, "Oh, we wish we had stayed in the road."

But there they were, and what was going to happen to them?

Until one night about midnight, Christian said to his companion, "Oh," he said, "what a fool I am to lie in this loathsome dungeon when I could just as well be out enjoying the fresh air. I have a key in my breast promised by name, which I believe will open any door in Doubting Castle."

And his companion said, "Well, man, pluck it out and try it."

And so, he pulled out the key, and he went and opened the door of the cell, and sure enough, they got out of there. And they went on out into the next gate or door that guarded the captives in there, and they tried that, and sure enough, it opened that. And then finally to the outside gate, and that opened hard, but they gave it a twist, and off they ran.

Say, folks, is anybody here in Doubting Castle this morning? Is there anybody that old Giant Despair has found and put down in the dungeon of darkness and doubt and worry and fear? Oh, if there is, take the promise of God and open up and come back to life and victory. Won't you do that?

Is there somebody here that says, "This is for me. I see I've been in doubt and despair, and this morning I'm going to take the promise of God and believe what God says."

Will you raise your hand? Will you say, "Yes, Lord, this is for me"?

Thank God. Thank God for every victory. And be sure, Jesus loves you and accepts you, dear ones. There's no question about it. He loves you. He accepts you.

All right. Now, what's that number we're going to sing? Six fifty-five [old *Church Hymnal* (1941)]. What does it say?

"Give me the Bible, star of gladness gleaming,
To cheer the wanderer lone and tempest tossed,
No storm can hide that peaceful radiance beaming,
Since Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Give me the Bible, holy message shining,
Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way,
Precept and *promise*, law and love combining,
Till night shall vanish in eternal day."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #272, first stanza.

And remember, tonight at six o'clock. Hope to see every one of you. We're going to have a wonderful time.

"Give me the Bible, star of gladness gleaming,
To cheer the wanderer lone and tempest-tossed,
No storm can hide that peaceful radiance beaming,
Since Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Refrain: Give me the Bible, holy message shining,
Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way,
Precept and *promise*, law and love combining,
Till night shall vanish in eternal day."
Ibid.

Last verse:

“Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal,
Hold up that splendor by the open grave;
Show me the light from heaven’s shining portal,
Show me the glory gilding Jordan’s wave.
Refrain.”

Old *Church Hymnal* (1941), fifth stanza.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for these traveler’s checks. And as pilgrims journeying from earth to Heaven, we’re glad that the riches of the bank of Heaven are all for us. Bless everyone here this morning with this full assurance of faith. We ask it in Jesus’ name, amen.

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