

Sanctuary (Oak Haven 1969) 3 of 10

Closing of the Sanctuary

#0495

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 1969

The sanctuary is soon to close. That's been the goal that Jesus has had in mind ever since He turned the heavenly temple into an emergency hospital to deal with this dread disease of sin. It was never His purpose to continue this through all eternity. I suppose we all believe that, but I wonder if we have all meditated on the implications of that fact. The sanctuary soon to close? I wonder what that would mean. Well, the sanctuary provides forgiveness. Could you get along without forgiveness every day? The sanctuary provides the blotting out of sin and provides for an experience in which no longer will men break God's holy law.

You can readily see that if sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), then a closed sanctuary would mean that there was no remedy for transgressions unless somebody could find a different way from the way God has been using for 6,000 years. Are you and I really living in this time when the Great High Priest is going to come forth and say:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold I come quickly: and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be" Revelation 22:11–12.

I'd like to have us think about that a little and its implications. Last year, I was out at Loma Linda, and we were studying some of these things there. I said, "I notice you have a hospital here; I suppose you have an emergency room. How often is that open?"

"It's open all the time."

"You mean 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? 52 weeks a year?"

"Yes. All the time."

"Why do you have the emergency hospital open all the time?"

"Because people are coming in all the time. Accidents out on these highways, people are getting sick any hour of the day or night, and we rush them into the hospital."

"How long has it been going on?"

"Quite a while."

And I said to them, "Suppose that someday we go down there to the hospital and we see a big sign across the door: THIS HOSPITAL WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 31.

No more hospital? No more emergency room? No. Suppose that there was no other hospital anywhere around here. I can imagine people talking all over the campus and all through the communities around here, "What in the world are we going to do? What will we do without a hospital? We've always had a hospital."

Would it be a good question? A very good question.

Is that a good question to ask about the sanctuary? Is the hospital going to close? Unless it does, we've got to stay right here in this world in quarantine. Jesus does this work once for all.

Then I said to the folks at Loma Linda, "I suppose that as we're studying that sign: THIS HOSPITAL WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 31, wondering what it all means and how we're all going to adjust to it. Suppose if we see another sign underneath that says: CLASSES ARE NOW BEING HELD DAILY IN HOW TO KEEP FROM ACCIDENTS AND SICKNESS, SO YOU'LL NEVER NEED A HOSPITAL ANYMORE. Would you attend? You would if you believed the sign, wouldn't you?

You know, there are multitudes of people in this world today that are acting just as if the hospital was always going to stay open. But it isn't; it's going to close. It's going to close real soon. Now that might frighten some people, but I must tell you honestly, friends, it's one of the most cheering bits of news I know, for two reasons. In the first place, it shows that God's program is a success. He started out with the goal of getting rid of sin. And when He gets rid of sin, He doesn't need the sanctuary service anymore, for it deals with how to get rid of sin. As long as we're sinning and repenting, sinning and repenting, sinning and repenting, we need a place to send the sins as fast as we repent of them. A closed sanctuary will mean that God has solved the sin problem in the lives of His people. I say that's cheering news. What do you say?

And may I say, Don't worry, He'll never close it until He solves it. Don't get the picture of somebody running and almost getting to the door, and the door closes, and he misses it by five minutes of five days. Nothing like that. The God who gave His only Son to die upon the cross, the Christ who has spent His life all these centuries and millennia in pleading for lost men is not going to close the door five minutes ahead of a fleeing refugee. One reason I know that is that He's waited all these years. For 125 years, He's been within the inner veil, there before the mercy seat. If He's waited this long for our poor, bungling, awkward, slow movements, I have courage and faith that He's going to wait for us, friends.

But that leads me to the second point. The second reason that I think this is good news that the sanctuary is going to close is that it's been costing Him a tremendous lot to keep it open. Do you know what it's been costing Him? I'd like to have you think about it for a few minutes. In your imagination, look with me at the type and see. What do you see on the horns of that brazen altar? Blood. What do

you see on the horns of the golden altar in the Holy Place? Blood. What do you see sprinkled on the mercy seat between the cherubim? Blood.

You mean blood in the court, blood in the Holy Place, blood in the Most Holy Place? Yes, it's a blood-sprinkled way, my friends.

Now, look at the reality. Whose blood is it that's shed in the court upon the cross? The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Whose blood is it that is ministered within the sanctuary to cover sins as they are confessed and forgiven? The blood of Jesus Christ. Whose blood is that that's sprinkled on the mercy seat, finally blots out sin? The blood of Jesus Christ.

Now that brings us face to face with this important reality—that every step in the plan of salvation involves pain and sacrifice and suffering for the Godhead. This pain did not begin when Christ was nailed to cross on Friday morning. And it didn't stop when He breathed His last at 3:00 in the afternoon. This pain began when sin began, and it will never stop till sin stops. This is the product of our redemption.

From the inspired pen, I read these wonderful words. I think they are the most sublime in all the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy:

“All Heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him” *Education*, page 263.

Oh, my friends, that blood-sprinkled way in the sanctuary testifies that sin brings pain to our Lord. It did when it started; it will never stop till sin stops. And it is the realization of that that will make the church pray fervently, “Come, Lord Jesus. Put an end to this sin problem.” But before He can come in glory and cleanse this planet, he must come through the operation of His Spirit and the sprinkled blood and take sin out of His people and out of His church. For until He gets individuals who are done with sin and gets a church that's done with sin, He can never close the sanctuary and come in glory. This is the great message of the sanctuary. It isn't just to keep on coming with our sins and say, “Lord, I lost my temper today. Will you please forgive me?” And He'll forgive us, of course, He will. “Oh, Lord, I broke the Sabbath. I lost track of holy time, and I got to talking about business or about pleasure, and I'm sorry. Will You forgive me?” Will He do it? Yes, He will. But you know what it costs? It costs blood. There aren't any “little” sins that don't cost blood.

God hates sin. It tore His Son from the throne and drove Him to the cross. He hates every bit of sin. Every bit of sin is a manifestation of selfishness, and selfishness is what started this whole sin problem. Are you rid of it? Are you on the road?

I've got a wonderful text I want you to turn to—Philippians the first chapter and the sixth verse:

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6.

Has God started anything good in you? The fact that you’re here tells me that He has. I don’t think the Devil helped you to get here. Whether you’ve been serving the Lord for a day or a year or 50 years, thank God He’s begun a work in your heart. Are you with me on that? Are you sure He’s something for you? All right.

When you start a building, you expect to finish it. When you sow a crop, you expect to harvest it. You ladies, when you cut out a dress, you expect to finish it. We’re dealing with a God who is the Creator. He started this world on Sunday morning, and how much did He have to start with? Nothing. Because ‘to create’ means to make something out of nothing. I’m old-fashioned enough to believe that, friends. And you and I keep the seventh-day Sabbath in memory of the fact that God started at the beginning of the week with nothing and ended with everything, and everything “very good.” Oh, we have no idea how much power there is in the creative work of Jesus Christ. And He’s the One who died for us on the cross, and ever lives to make intercession for us.

You notice what the margin says there in that sixth verse? Finish it. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished in six days. God gave us the Sabbath to forever remember it. Because you and I need to have faith in a Creator and a Redeemer who can begin something and perform it, carry it through to completion, finish it. Friends, will it get finished? You think it will? I can tell you this: the whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest to see it. There’s somebody who doesn’t think it can be done. You know who it is? The Devil. I’ll tell you the truth: I think he believes that it can’t be done. And he piles up the evidences down through history. He just delights to take some saint like David and trip him up into deadly sin. He gets a great deal of satisfaction out of taking a friend of God, Abraham, and getting him to lie when he’s pushed into a corner. And oh, how it pleased him to get Peter, one of the disciples closest to the Lord, into a situation where Peter lost his temper, cursed and swore and denied the master. All of those things gratified the Devil tremendously.

On the other hand, there are things that bother the Devil. Enoch bothered the Devil. For 300 years, he did what? Walked with God. Can two walk together except they be agreed (Amos 3:3). No. Then Enoch did what? He agreed with God. That’s what holiness is. And, as with Enoch, so must be their holiness who are translated from this earth when Jesus comes. Are you planning to be among them? That’s what it means to walk with God.

Elijah bothered the Devil too. It hurt him badly to see him go off in a chariot of fire. God was demonstrating that it could be done. And Moses, although the Devil tripped him up that time when he lost his temper and struck the rock, nevertheless, Moses repented of that, and before Moses died, he had complete victory, didn’t he? Yes. And although he had to die so that Israel would get the lesson, within a short time, Jesus came down and brought him from the dead and took him to Heaven. And he’s up there now with Enoch and Elijah. You know he’s there, don’t you? Yes.

Did anybody see him down here in this world? Yes, he was with Christ on the mount of transfiguration.

Is there anybody else who has gotten through and gone up there? Anybody else that's been taken out of quarantine? When Jesus rose from the dead, who rose with Him? A multitude, we're told. Did they stay here in this world? Where did they go? They went to Heaven with Jesus. Where are they now? Heaven. Isn't that wonderful, friends? They're up there helping Jesus. People from this world, men of like passions, you and me, they gained the victory, they've gone through, their sins have been all taken away. Is that right? Or do you think they're still carrying sin around? Oh, no, my friends.

There is an idea that nobody can ever reach this happy and holy experience until Jesus does something more in the Heavenly Sanctuary. To tell you the truth, God has been offering this to people ever since the gates of Eden. And when I say this, I mean the experience of being in harmony with the law of God—a character that reflects the image of Jesus. I'm going to read that so you won't have to take anybody's word for it. This is an inspired statement. Once you get this settled, you won't be interested in any of these teachings that would postpone till some time in the future this precious experience.

“Some few in every generation from Adam resisted his [Satan's] every artifice and stood forth as noble representatives of what it was in the power of man to do and to be—Christ working with human efforts, helping man in overcoming the power of Satan. Enoch and Elijah are the correct representatives of what the race might be through faith in Jesus Christ if they chose to be. Satan was greatly disturbed because these noble, holy men stood untainted amid the moral pollution surrounding them, perfecting righteous characters, and were accounted worthy for translation to Heaven” *Review and Herald*, March 3, 1874.

Is there anybody in the past who has perfected righteous characters? This says they did. It's true that everybody could. These few who did weren't some pet favorites of Heaven. They simply met the conditions that were open to everybody. And any theory which makes an exception of Enoch misses this whole point. The plan of salvation is big with blessings, mighty in its potential, and *has* been from the day that Jesus introduced it in the Garden of Eden.

But somebody will say to me, “Brother Frazee, how could the people back then perfect righteous characters when Jesus hadn't yet made the final atonement in the Most Holy Place? That's a good question. Certainly, my friends, nobody in this world could ever reach the perfection of character—harmony with the law of God—*without* that work of Jesus in the Most Holy Place. But let me ask you something: do you think Abel had his sins forgiven when he offered the lamb? How many of you think Abel had his sins forgiven? Was it the blood of the lamb that paid the debt for his sins? How many of you think it was the blood of that animal he brought that paid the debt for his sins? It was the blood of Jesus. Was it shed in the Garden of Eden? How long was it before He went to the cross? Four thousand years. Besides dying

on Calvary, was it necessary that Jesus should minister as our Priest in the sanctuary in order to get sins forgiven? That's what the Bible teaches, doesn't it?

Now I want to ask you something: If Abel could get his sins forgiven 4,000 years before Jesus died and went into the priestly work there, don't you think he could also get the rest of the benefit of what Jesus would do within the veil? Do you see the point, friends? Once you get that, it sweeps away a mass of confused thinking. Don't miss it. All those patriarchs and prophets down through the ages who had this close experience with God, they had it in anticipation of what Jesus would do. They were saved by faith in what He *would* do when He came and died upon the cross, when He ascended to Heaven in the sanctuary, and in anticipation of what He is *yet* to do at the mercy seat in the final atonement. I trust that those thoughts will help some people. I believe they will if you meditate on them.

Let's come back to this point: How in the world is God going to bring His people to the place where it's safe to close the sanctuary? I think that's the most important question in the world for us to study. Unless we think it's going to go right on indefinitely.

Turn to Hebrews the 10th chapter. We're going to find the answer. Oh, I love this book of Hebrews. I wish we had time to study the whole 10th chapter. But we're going to study a little now, beginning with the 11th verse, down to the 18th.

“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool” Hebrews 10:11–13.

How many offerings does it take? One offering. But that one offering must be fully applied, up there and down here. The blood must be sprinkled, not only to cover sins but the blot them out. And it must be sprinkled not only in the sanctuary but on our hearts. That's the blood of sprinkling that he speaks of in the 22nd verse.

And so, friends, if the blood of Jesus has brought you to the place where you feel sorry for sin enough to confess it after you've fallen, I tell you that a deeper work of grace in your heart, a further application of that same precious blood, will bring you to the place where you're sorry enough for sin to be sorry *before* you do it instead of waiting until *after*.

I was telling you about breaking a vase. I break a vase, and I'm sorry. I think, “Oh, I'll pay for it—3, 4, or 5 dollars.” But when I find there's only one other vase, and it costs \$1,000, I get sorrier, don't I? Wouldn't you? Our problem in getting forgiveness is that we don't tarry enough at the cross to see the cost of forgiveness (not the cost to *us*, the cost to *Heaven*, the cost to Jesus). It takes His blood to cover sin. That means His life poured out, that means His heartbroken. And Paul tells us in Hebrews 6:6, that when people keep on sinning after they know better, they crucify unto themselves the Son of God *afresh*. You mean it? That's what it says.

Not with nails in His hands. That's wasn't what killed Him on Calvary. It was the weight of sin on His poor heart. When the love that broke His heart there, as He suffered the weight of sin, that love still fills His soul and makes Him weep over every sin in this world, particularly the sins of His children.

Ah, my friends, go back there to Gethsemane and Calvary. Certainly, Christ felt oh so sorry as those angry Jews and Romans united to kill Him. But do you know what hurt Him the worst? When one of His best friends denied Him, Peter. Didn't it? Let me tell you: the thing that is hurting Jesus the worst is not the sins of pagans and infidels, it's the failures of the remnant. And when the consciousness of that dawns upon us, we shall say, "I cannot drive the nails again. I cannot bear to see His grief and agony, repeating Calvary by thought of sin. Can't do it. I can't go and break His heart again. I broke it yesterday with my sin. Can I do it today again? And tomorrow again? Is that the program?"

Ah friends, soon and real soon, we'll either get enough consciousness of this to quit, or we'll get enough callousness about it to quit repenting and asking forgiveness. One or the other. We're either going to get tender-hearted about this pain that sin brings to Jesus, enough to stop it or else we're going to get so hard-hearted that we keep right on without even repenting. This is the situation. This is the harvest time; every plant is going to seed. Which way are you headed, friends? Is your heart more sensitive than it was a year ago? Is your conscience more tender than it was a month ago? Do you find the Holy Spirit convicting you for little things (people call them little) that didn't use to bother you? Are you thankful for it? You should be. Cherish every work of the Spirit in your heart.

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin" Hebrews 10:15–18.

When will there be no more offering for sin? When sins are fully remitted. When will that be? When the sins and iniquities are remembered no more. When will that be? When the law of God is written in the minds and hearts.

Now let's see how it works. Was the law of God written in the mind and the heart of Jesus? Oh, yes. He said,

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

Suppose that experience is ours. Then we will know God's will, and we will love it. And if a man knows God's will and loves it, then he won't give up to temptation. The law of God is written in his mind and heart.

The Bible says that this law contains “the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) If men really know what’s in the Ten Commandments, they’ll know God’s will for them. Is that right? The whole Bible is to magnify that law. And the purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy is to magnify the Bible in magnifying the law. When you study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy with that in mind, you’re seeking to find out the will of God for your life. It’s a wonderful thing to get down on our knees every day and ask God to write this law in our minds. Is that what He promises to do? But you must give God time. I fear that some people would like to run through one of these Photostat copiers and get it all done right there. Heaven has no arrangements for that. Some people are waiting for that, they’re expecting some marvelous work sometime in the future that will miraculously do something for them. I say to you, my dear friends, your opportunity is now.

“Behold, now is the day of salvation” 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Today is the day to get this law written in your mind. And God says He’ll do it if you’ll give Him the time. May I be very practical, friends? I suggest, if you’ve not already formed this habit, get down on your knees with the law of God, the Bible, and the Spirit of Prophecy. Don’t read these books like you read the newspaper or a magazine. This is an appointment with God to get this written in your mind. It takes time. It takes the Holy Spirit to write this law in your mind. If you do this, God will begin to show you things in your life that need changing. Then, by His precious blood, those things can be taken away. Will you do it?

May I illustrate this? How many of you, sometime during the last 10 years, have found out something wrong that you were doing in your life that you didn’t know 10 years ago? Why nearly this whole audience. Do you think there’s anything left that you need to discover? This is the great x-ray in the heavenly hospital. I want to ask you another question. Are there any of you who think you could have learned it faster than 10 years if you’d given God more time? Would you like to speed up the work so He can finish the painful ministry, close the sanctuary, and come and take us home? Give Him more time, friends. And I don’t mean just on your knees. If you’re in the right kind of work, your very work can help to write this law in your mind and heart. If you’re in the kind of work that doesn’t help you in this, get out of it fast. For some people need some instruction in how to let useful work be one of the means. There are some, I’m sorry to say, who have the idea that if they could only be hermits and do nothing but read and study and pray they could get ready fast. If that helped, God would arrange it oh so quickly. But the way Jesus succeeded in this way was to spend a lot of time in the Carpenter shop and with the home duties at Nazareth. The early morning hours were often by Him spent in quiet study and prayer. In the fields, under the trees, or in some other quiet place. It’s this combination of study and activity—deep devotion and earnest work to help others—this is what will write this law in our minds.

But now, look again at that 16th verse and tell me, where does He want to write the law besides our minds? In our hearts. To write it in our minds means that we know it. To write it in our hearts means that we love it.

I want to ask you a question. And I don’t want this audience to think that I’m crude or rude about this, but I want you to get a lesson you’ll never forget. Suppose

I say to this mother with that darling little baby in her hands, "Why don't you kill it?" Suppose she says, "Don't you know, there's a law against that? And if I'd kill the child, the police would come and put me in prison. I might have to die. At least I'd have to spend maybe all my life in jail. And I wouldn't want that." sometimes the child is such a bother and a strain to me, and I wonder what in the world to do, but when I think of the police and the penitentiary, I'm kind of careful."

Is that why the baby is safe? Is that it? Let me go a step further. Suppose that when I ask her why she doesn't kill the baby, she says, "Don't you know there's a law in the Ark in the temple of God in Heaven, and the Sixth Commandment says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' And if I break that commandment and kill the child, I'd go to hell and burn. And I don't want that. And so I just pray so hard to keep from killing that child. I just pray so hard, sometimes I'd just like to clench my fist. But when I think of those awful flames of hell and that law up there, so far I haven't done it." Is that the answer? Where is the law that says to that mother, "Thou shalt not kill"? It's in her heart. Is it in that law in the Temple in Heaven? Same law? Isn't that wonderful, friends? The same law that's in that ark in the Temple in Heaven is written in that mother's heart. Don't you wish all of the rest of the law was written there just as strong as that, just as deep as that? I think she'd be ready for Heaven if it were, don't you? I wonder if it can. I wonder if the same hand that wrote some things in her heart can finish the work.

Notice it isn't just a matter of knowing, it's a matter of loving. That's what I want you to see in this closing moment. Oh my friends, when you kneel down every day in this time with Jesus that I hope you're all going to be taking when you come to the sanctuary and look into that Most Holy Place and see that law magnified by the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, ask God, plead with Jesus, not only to write it in your mind but in your heart. Ask Him to give you not only a knowledge of what is true but a love for it.

Suppose somebody were to come in here tonight and tell that mother that unless she kills that baby, he will kill her. Do you think she'd get nervous and start wondering whether she ought to kill the child or not? Why no. That wouldn't happen, you say. Soon, every child of God is going to face that question over the Fourth Commandment. They're going to say, "You either break that Fourth Commandment, or you die." And the remnant church, without exception, I mean the true ones, thank God, every one of them is going to stand up and face death rather than give up that Fourth Commandment. Why? Not because they're afraid of hell, not because they're so anxious to go to Heaven, but because, through the blood of sprinkling, this law has been written in their hearts, and they love it. They'd rather die a thousand times than disappoint the one who gave His life for them. This is love, my friends.

And when you have that love, it isn't hard. If you love somebody, it isn't hard not to kill them. Husbands, if you love your wives, it isn't hard to keep from committing adultery. Men and women, if you love your fellow men, it isn't hard to keep from stealing. It's easy. That's what Jesus says, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Don't you wish it were all easy? It can be, it will be if we'll keep going in the direction that Jesus is leading us.

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org