

# Are Filters the Answer?

#0692

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 31, 1964

During recent weeks the newspapers, the magazines, and I suppose other media of communication have been taking note of the tobacco question, probably as never before in the history of the world. It's an interesting time to be living in, when some of the things that used to make us peculiar make us famous.

I clipped a full-page newspaper ad to bring to you tonight. We don't often bring the newspaper to this pulpit, but occasionally there's a text. And I want to study it with you tonight, for I think it has some interesting thoughts if we look at it.

This full-page ad says, "Smoke a certain brand of cigarette," which we'll not give any further publicity to, but it's the next line that gets my attention.

"Get the filter that made activated charcoal famous."

Now, you've heard of charcoal before too, but perhaps not in this connection.

"Fine granules of activated charcoal in pure cellulose."

*Pure cellulose, mind you, and activated charcoal.*

And so, as I looked at the ad, I fell to thinking, why filter tobacco smoke? Why it seems only yesterday that we were treated to the picture of famous singers and others telling us that certain brands of cigarettes have never hurt their throats at all. Am I correct? Or was that just a dream?

In fact, one brand of cigarette made the slogan famous "not a cough in a carload." But now, it's the tobacco companies that are spending millions to produce and to advertise filters. Has the tobacco changed? Has the smoke suddenly gotten something in it that it has now to be filtered out? I wonder why this all is and what it all means.

Why, of course, the answer is that science has discovered some things in tobacco smoke that cause cancer! Now, one might think that the obvious answer to the problem would be to stop smoking. But no, that's too simple and too expensive, that is, for the tobacco companies. And this is the vital point, it requires self-control and self-denial.

And so, an easier answer must be found. And here it is—filters, charcoal filters. And that solves the problem. Or does it?

And that brings me to my subject, are filters the answer? Are filters the answer?

Well, you will say to me two things.

You will say, "Of course, filters are not the answer, and why should you spend any time with this audience on the question? We all know that filters aren't the answer."

Are you sure? Do you really believe it? You know, there *are* other things besides tobacco smoke that are dangerous. And if you believe that the answer to some dangerous things is merely to get a filter, charcoal or otherwise, why should you deny the slave of tobacco his filter?

Did you ever hear of Sanka coffee? How many of you ever heard of it? That came several years before filters for tobacco. What's the difference between Sanka coffee and filtered cigarettes? Well in principle, there's *no* difference. The basic philosophy of the thing is precisely the same.

Now, don't misunderstand me, and don't mistake what I said. I didn't say that Sanka coffee was as dangerous or damaging as cigarettes with filters. I'm talking about the basic philosophy of the thing.

The philosophy is, "Here is something that the world is doing, and it's damaging, but oh, we want to keep on doing it. Isn't there some way?"

"Oh, yes, yes. Take out part of it, but oh, don't take it all out."

"Take out some of it; take out the worst of it, but try to leave in enough to get the thrill."

And thus, the scientists, and the research men, and the factories work along year after year on the problem of how to walk that narrow line. Take out enough so that people can at least think it's safe, but leave in enough to get certain effects, certain results—the thrill which comes from nicotine, or caffeine, or any one of a thousand other things, that enter the soul of man either through the bloodstream, or through the eye stream, or the ear stream.

Do you believe in gambling?

"Oh no, we wouldn't have such a thing around!"

Like tobacco, isn't it? But are there people that get a thrill out of gambling? Yes. I'll never forget the midnight in Reno, Nevada. You might wonder what I was doing in Reno, Nevada at midnight, but I had a perfectly good reason. I was on my way to the post office to mail a letter for a friend with whom I was traveling.

But I'll never forget that midnight as I walked down the streets of Reno, just as lighted up as though it were open for business everywhere, and it *was* pretty much. I'll never forget the expression on the face of one woman that I saw through a big plate-glass window. There were all kinds of these one-armed bandits, as they called them, these slot machines.

And some of them, you know, they put in dimes and nickels, but some of them they put in quarters and half-dollars, and some are run with silver dollars. And there she was. She was pouring it in, and pulling the handle, and pouring it in, and pulling the handle. And the expression on her face, she was intoxicated. But she was getting a thrill!

Well, some do it with those slot machines, some do it playing the ponies, some do it with cards, you know, these cards, little pieces of cardboard or celluloid, kings, and queens, and spades, and other things that I don't know much about on them. But listen, really, what we need to do is just to filter that whole thing, run it through the filter.

Now, some people think that all you need to do to make the thing perfectly harmless is just to take the money out of it. Play for fun! Don't play for money, just play for fun! And so, there are thousands that do that. They run that whole system through the filter, and they filter out the money aspect of it.

But still, there's enough thrill left so that it satisfies some people, although only God knows how many people that get that thrill go on to the greater thrill of putting some money down. Do you know what I mean?

Have not we been told through the Spirit of Prophecy, has not the God that warned the king of Israel through Elisha about the plans of the king of Syria, has He not told us that our young people should not play cards, for the very reason that as they become expert in the handling of cards and feel the thrill of that game, that some of them will be led on out into the actual gambling for money? Haven't we been told that? Yes! So, apparently, that filter is not enough. No.

And so, some people feel that it needs a double filter. You know, some of the cigarettes today have a double filter. Did you know that? Yes, a double filter. And so, some have felt that we should not only take away the playing for money out of it, we also ought to take those kings, and queens, and spades, and aces, and other things off the cards. And of course, when that's done, nobody could find any fault with it at all. Could they? No.

And the beauty of it is we thereby arrive at that wonderful happy medium. We have extracted enough of the poison to satisfy at least the careless. And we have left enough of the thrill in it to thrill the hearts of the people that gather around the tables and play cards.

Well, of course, you must explain that the pictures on the cards are different from those that are in the gambling dens.

Are filters the answer? Think it through, my friends. Think it through.

Now, there's another answer besides filters that are being suggested in this tobacco problem today, and that too leads us to some meditations. This next answer I got from the *Newsweek*. I don't often bring this to the pulpit either, but this was so good that I thought it ought to be a text, too.

This is in two full pages devoted to the question, "To smoke or not to smoke?" And it's from the issue of January 27, 1964. That's right up to date, isn't it? All right.

And after telling about the surgeon general committee report, and the reaction from different ones, this *Newsweek* magazine quotes a southern tobacco farmer over here in North Carolina who owns 305 acres, as to his reaction to this whole scare over tobacco. Owns 305 acres of tobacco.

"Some good may even come out of this," he said.

"I think they'll find a cure for cancer."

Well now, that *is* the answer, isn't it? Think how simple it is. Here millions of people have been puffing away for years on things that are now proved to cause cancer, but some good is going to come out of it. What's the good? Oh, a cure for cancer is going to be found, and obviously that will eliminate any problem. The tobacco companies can go right on making the cigarettes, the farmers back of them keep growing the stuff, and the people at the other end keep on smoking the stuff. And added to that will be an army of people curing the cancers.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? Isn't it? Do *you* think that's the answer? Come now, do you really? Is that *your* answer? Is that *God's* answer? Is that the answer of this movement?

It seems to me, I catch in that answer the echoes of a voice that was heard for the first time in this world 6,000 years ago in the branches of a tree.

And he said, "Go ahead and eat this forbidden fruit, and there's a way out. You won't surely die. You can get the thrill without the kill."

Do you believe it? Do you believe that? Well, the one who said it was both a liar and a murderer, friends. But almost everybody has believed him down through the years and has followed with the deepest interest his repeated experiments, some in the name of science, others in other directions.

And do you know that Satan has been seeking earnestly, and shall I say sincerely (if we can think of the Devil as sincere), to find a way whereby men can continue in disobedience and not reap all the penalties? He's been experimenting. And the human race is his guinea pig.

But I ask you, is that the answer? What if Satan *could* succeed in finding a cure for cancer caused by tobacco?

Would *you* say, "Well, go ahead then and smoke. Get cancer, and we'll cure you? That's the answer."

Would *you* say that? Are you saying it about anything else?

Do you really believe that the answer, the only answer, is to quit sinning? Is that why God allows men, now and then at least, to get some measure of the results of sin in this life so that they can flee, not merely from the results of sin, but from sin itself? Is that it?

My dear friends, does it make a world of difference whether we are seeking to find a cure for sin so men can keep on sinning, or whether we're seeking to find a cure that will keep people from the sin that causes the results? Does it make a difference? Which is the Gospel?

Is there a danger that human beings will feel that the cross of Christ, and the death of Christ, and the Gospel of Christ are for the purpose of drawing the fangs of the serpent, somehow stopping the painful results of sin so that people can keep on getting the pleasure, the thrill of sin, without suffering the sad and bad results? Is there that danger? There is, friends.

There are millions of people today that suppose that the purpose of religion is to get somebody that knows how to get their traffic ticket fixed, so they won't have to appear at judgment and go to jail, pay the fine.

Do you think for a minute that our Lord Jesus is in that business? I say no, my friend! The Gospel of *this* Book, the Bible, is first of all a cure for *sin*, to help people quit *sinning*, and then and only then to cure us of the results of sin.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him..." Isaiah 55:7.

Oh, friends, I'm so glad we're not given by Jesus any picture of the father of the prodigal son loading up the chariot with all kinds of things that would make things easy and comfortable for that prodigal son and carrying them down there to the far country so he could keep on with his wine and harlots. No, he didn't. He let him stay there till he arrived at the hog pen, and his stomach was close against his backbone, and hunger made his mind clear so he could think.

And he came to himself, and he saw himself not merely as a fool but as a sinner. And he came home repentant, friends, and sobbed out his confession on his father's shoulder. And then and *only* then, were the bells rung, and the robes brought, and the house filled with joy:

"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found..." Luke 15:24.

Now, there's another answer, friends. That's the answer of moderation. Why, even some of the tobacco companies are telling us that perhaps some people would be better off if they'd smoke a pipe instead of a cigarette. At least the ones that manufacture pipe tobacco are telling us. Some suggest cigars might solve the problem; people that smoke pipes and cigars don't usually inhale, so they don't get so much of the nicotine and tars down in there.

What do *you* think about it? Is moderation the answer? In other words, here's a man been smoking three packs a day. If he can gradually cut that down to the place where he's only smoking, we'll say, a half a pack a day, that shouldn't kill anybody. What do you think about it? Is that the answer? Do you think moderation is the answer on tobacco? No, not on tobacco, but on some other devilish things, it's all right, isn't it?

A number of years ago, I was with Elder Neal in the state capital of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, that great, tall building that stands as a monument to Huey Long. And up there in a government office, we were discussing some matters with a state official. And in the course of the conversation, he mentioned this. It had no reference to the matter we were discussing, but we were just visiting, as men will do sometimes.

He said, "You know, I had a wonderful father. He came over from the old country. And we grew up, we boys, here in Louisiana, and with our sisters."

But he said, "You know, my father was a wonderful man. He taught us temperance. He had a cellar and in that cellar was wine. And he taught us how to drink."

And he said, "I never saw my father drunk once in his life."

And he said, "Not one of my brothers or sisters have I ever seen drunk in all their lives."

Quite a testimony, isn't it?

Do you go along with that doctrine? You do not with liquor. You do not with tobacco. Are you *sure* that in every other department, you are equally committed to the definition of true temperance, and that is *total* abstinence from every harmful thing and moderation in that which is good?

Remember friends, moderation is to be applied only to that which is good! There is no such thing as true moderation in that which is bad or damaging, like alcohol, or nicotine, or caffeine. No such thing. And right there, we draw the line with the Devil.

And we say, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him step over here and quit this dillydallying with the enemy."

And oh, I wish that we had come to the hour when it would be appropriate to go right down the line and name all the things that this applies to. But it would offend some people here tonight if I were to do that. And so, I must leave it with the Holy Spirit, my dear friends, to rightly interpret and apply this principle.

But I beg you to search your hearts, for there's something more in this tobacco agitation that is filling the minds of millions today than merely the tobacco question. We need to think through the question of what our philosophy is.

Do we believe in filters? No. Do we believe in hunting a cure for cancer as the way to solve the tobacco question? No. Do we believe in moderation? No. Not that kind of moderation.

Say, if you want something interesting, look in the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 446, and find this principle of moderation, so-called, as it applies to fiction, high-class fiction, “good” fiction. Read what inspiration says about it. See if you dare to apply this principle to the question of reading.

Take another area. “Moderation?” “Yes.”

Did you ever hear this little proverb expressed as a couplet, “A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men”?

Did you ever hear that? And it’s used to excuse or defend what some good man does for a good cause in acting like some comedian. A little nonsense, a *little* nonsense now, you know. Oh, of course, we wouldn’t want too much of it, but there has to be some spice. Why yes, even fruit juice in some parties has to be spiked!

There are other things besides alcohol that spike parties. And foolishness, folly, nonsensical mirth are some of the things that intoxicate. Read about it in *Counsels to Teachers*. Read the description of worldly parties conducted in Battle Creek by Seventh-day Adventists. See if that instruction is out of date.

Proverbs 24:9 says:

“The thought of foolishness is sin...” Proverbs 24:9.

Ephesians 5:3–4 tells how often to have jesting and joking. The third verse says not once, not once! And I’m not talking, my dear friends, about pleasure. I’m not talking about happiness. I’m talking about nonsense. And the soul that finds its pleasure in nonsense would never be happy in heaven, for there’s not going to be any nonsense there, friend. Not a bit! Not one little tiny cupful!

“Ah,” somebody says, “Brother Frazee, you just kill all the joy.”

Well, that’s what the people say when it comes to prohibition. That’s what they said when you wanted to take away whiskey and rum and wine and gin.

And a lot of them said, “Well, it’s all right to take away some of those hard liquors, but you must at least leave the beer and wine because if the people have that, then they’ll be content. Have a little. Moderation.”

Oh, my friends, read Ecclesiastes 10:1:

“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom...” Ecclesiastes 10:1.

And I hope, oh, I trust that we will be so *settled* on this principle that we'll never make nonsense on behalf of a good cause and that we'll never laugh when those who should represent God act like clowns. Those who love lies, as well as those who make them, are going to be outside the city, friends.

And I rather think that not only those who make nonsense but those who love it, unless they get converted, unless they get cured of this devilish doctrine of moderation in things that are unlike Christ unless we're cured of that, friends, heaven will be no place for us. We would find it dull and uninteresting. We would be groping around and moping around, longing for something to liven up Saturday nights. For after people have been good and sober all day, certainly they need something to put a little life into things on Saturday night.

What's *your* answer to that problem? Filters, or moderation, or what?

Ah, friends, thank God there's another answer entirely, a better one. Isn't there? But before I come to that, I have one more of the world's answers. It's the answer of homebrew, homebrew.

Whiskey, and rum, and gin are bad; they're commercial, you understand. And even beer from these breweries, that's not so good. But a little homemade wine or cider never hurt anybody—homebrew.

"Well," you say, "that's absurd."

But now, wait a minute. I want to read you something, *Messages to Young People*, page 399:

"In many religious families, dancing and card playing are made a parlor pastime" *Messages to Young People*, page 399.

Now, what am I reading about here? Dancing and what? Card playing. Where?

"...A parlor pastime" *Ibid.*

"In many religious families..." *Ibid.*

All right. Now, listen:

"It is urged that these are quiet, home amusements, which may be safely enjoyed under the parental eye" *Ibid.*

Homebrew, you see. Watch:

"But a love for these exciting pleasures is thus cultivated, and that which was considered harmless at home will not long be regarded dangerous abroad" *Ibid.*



Oh, then homebrew isn't the answer, is it? No, no, no. Now, this audience will go along with this fine. There won't be any problem with that. There's nobody here, I'm sure, that has any thought of conducting dancing, or at least what's called dancing, in your home.

And I don't think any of you are going to get out any of these cards, at least not the ones with spades, and kings, and queens on them. So, we can put that reference away. Or can we?

I wonder friends, if there is something basically and inherently wrong about dancing that makes it wrong, even if it's in the home and leads on to the dance hall, if there is something basically and inherently wrong about card-playing that makes it wrong, even if it's in a religious home around a table and leads some people eventually out of that, on out to the gambling places. Tell me friends, what about bringing a theater right into the home?

And do you know what some mothers say?

"Well, at least I know where my kids are."

Yes, you may be *sure* they know where they are—glued to that glaring, blaring thing.

Do you know what the average per day that all the children and youth of America, the average hours per day that they're spending in front of the TV? It's frightening, my friends. But it's all right because it's homebrew, isn't it? Well, at least it's in the home. It's hardly homebrew.

I ask again, is the theater all right if you have it in the home? Is drama all right if you have it in the home? Is worldly comedy all right if you bring it into the home? Is scandal all right if you eat it in the home? Are hamburgers all right if you eat them at home? Is what is bad elsewhere good in the home?

Shall we take the music of the honky-tonk and put it in the home and say, "It's in the home. Is it okay"?

Or shall we take the music of the opera and bring *it* into the home, whether by radio, by TV, or by tape recordings?

What is our philosophy? What do we believe? What are our convictions based upon?

Oh my friends, God wants us to learn to think, to think, to think through the reasons for things.

A professor friend of mine told me of a certain educational institution, and this really happened, and I tell it to you not to get you to smile but to get you to think. This was several years ago.

The students became quite interested in what should be done for recreation and amusement. And some brought up the question of baseball, and they looked through the testimonies, and they found some pretty strong things against baseball. So, they decided they wouldn't have baseball.

But then, somebody said, "What about basketball?"

And they looked all through the testimonies, and they couldn't find a thing about basketball, so they decided to play basketball instead of baseball.

A good Baptist told me once that he would quit tobacco if I could show him from the Bible that he shouldn't use tobacco.

I say to you, friends, God wants us to think, to think.

And back to this question of the home. I wonder friends, and oh, I wonder how plain and definite I ought to be. I trust that the Holy Spirit of God is going far beyond anything I'm saying tonight, friends. And putting His finger on things in our lives and in our homes beyond what *my* poor words can point out.

But I wonder if anything has ever happened in a Seventh-day Adventist home, in a vain attempt to ape the fashions of the world that some people would have thought was clear out of place if the person had gone out of the home to do it, or have it done.

I ask again, "Is homebrew the answer?"

Well, I leave that with you, friends, I leave that with you

Now, I come to the real answer, and it's not filters, it's not moderation, it's not finding a cure so that we can keep on with the world. It's not homebrew. The answer is in Ephesians the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 18<sup>th</sup> verse, and we'll read with it the 17<sup>th</sup> verse:

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5:17–18.

That's the answer. The Spirit of God is the answer, and there is no other answer. We will never be able to solve the problems of this world through filters, or moderation, through homebrew, or cancer cures. There's only one thing that can solve the problem, and that is Jesus. Jesus is the answer.

As He said to that woman of Samaria, "If all you do is drink of this water, you will thirst again."

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" John 4:14.

And Jesus wants every Christian, I was about to say every true Christian, to be a walking advertisement of the efficacy of the Gospel, a walking advertisement of the fact that Jesus satisfies, that we don't have to have a bottle of whiskey up in the closet shelf to take a nip occasionally in order to keep going. That we do not have to have some idol hid somewhere, but that Jesus, *only* Jesus, satisfies.

In the book *Ministry of Healing*, this wonderful book that contains the wisdom of the Great Physician, we're told on pages 246–247:

“For those who would regain or preserve health there is a lesson in the words of Scripture, ‘Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.’ Not through the excitement or oblivion produced by unnatural or unhealthful stimulants; not through indulgence of the lower appetites or passions, is to be found true healing or refreshment for the body or the soul...Let not the attendants upon the sick hope to benefit these patients by granting them frivolous, exciting indulgences. These have been the curse of their lives. The hungry, thirsting soul will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it seeks to find satisfaction here” *Ministry of Healing*, page 246–247

Why friends, the better the filter works, the deeper the dissatisfaction that it brings to view. Am I right?

“The hungry, thirsting soul will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it seeks to find satisfaction here. Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. They mistake hilarity for strength, and when the excitement ceases, their inspiration ends, and they are left to discontent and despondency” *Ibid.*

Now, comes this matchless statement, and I'm very anxious that we all get this. And so, may I ask you to cooperate with me a minute? Will you all stand for a minute?

“Abiding peace, true rest of spirit, has but one Source. It was of this that Christ spoke when He said, ‘Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’ ‘Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you.’ This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself. It is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him” *Ibid.*

How do we get it? Oh, by receiving Jesus. Thank God, friends, we're not going to have to keep on smoking and get some filters. None of these things enable people to go on with something they're used to. They need not a modification of that old life; they need a new life altogether—new diet, new dress, new reading, new

music, new work, new education, new thinking, new joys, new pleasures, new satisfaction.

Thank God, friends, oh thank God, the things we're talking about don't have to be taken in through a filter. And thank God they leave no sad after effects, no cancer of body, or dissatisfaction of mind. Christ is the wellspring of life.

"When the sunlight of God's love illuminates the darkened chambers of the soul, restless weariness and dissatisfaction will cease, and satisfying joys will give vigor to the mind, and health and energy to the body"  
*Ibid.*

Now, will you turn in closing to the 16<sup>th</sup> Psalm, where we'll read verses 8–11:

"I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me..." Psalm 16:8–11.

What?

"...the path of life..." Psalm 16:11.

Not out of a bottle, not out of a pack of cigarettes, not out of a worldly party, not out of a TV, not out of the music of this world, nor the folly of this world, nor the literature of this world, nor anything of this world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" 1 John 2:15–17.

"Thou wilt show me..." Psalm 16:11.

What?

"...the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"  
Psalm 16:11.

I appreciated so much that song Brother John led us in the song service, "Peace, Wonderful Peace." Could we sing it?

"Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight,

Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm,  
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls  
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

[Refrain]

Peace, peace! wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father above;  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,  
In fathomless billows of love."

*Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #466, first stanza.*

Dear friends, if we've tasted this peace, we have nothing to boast about in ourselves, but we ought to have something to rejoice over. If I've come in rags and He's given me something to wear, nothing for me to strut about, but I can be happy about it, can't I? Yes.

And so, tonight let's witness for our Savior, humbly but confidently, if Jesus has satisfied our hearts, if all we want is more of Him, if instead of being pulled toward the world, we desire to get as far away from its folly and vices as possible, not in selfish isolation, not in pharisaical exclusiveness, but oh, like Enoch to be withdrawn from the vice and impurity, the folly and the shallowness of this wicked age.

God grant, dear friends, that our witness shall be firm and uncompromising, and that we shall carry a certain sound in our trumpet notes that Jesus satisfies and that as we get more and more of Him, we find that He more and more satisfies.

What is your witness?

[Testimony meeting followed.]

[Following are comments by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

...and that apostasy is not apostasy if you make it slow enough.

...as I see the Holy Spirit witnessing to hearts. God does not take sin and put it through the filter, see. The filter is the endeavor of the world to take enough out of their program so that people will still keep on using it. God calls us away from the whole thing, filter and all.

Now, in doing that, of course, He has to clean us up, and that's what you're speaking of, and I appreciate that.

"...Except your righteousness shall exceed the  
righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in  
no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:20.

...There's a lot going on here tonight that can't be measured, and I have no desire to measure it. I don't need to. God is handling that.

Isn't it a joy, friends, to know two things: that the world's way is not the way; that God's way *is* the way?

Who else?

...after the service, I want to give opportunity for anyone here that would like to seek God. There may be somebody here that doesn't have this peace, and you've been trying to get it some way or another. You may have been trying to get it in the world; you may have been trying to get it with God. But wherever you've been trying to get it, if you don't have it, why not seek for it tonight where it can be found.

Jesus says:

"Come unto Me...and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you..."  
John 14:27.

"This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself. It is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him" *Ministry of Healing*, page 247.

Can we sing that song?

"Come every soul by sin oppressed,  
There's mercy with the Lord,  
And He will surely give you rest,  
By trusting in His Word.

[Refrain]

Only trust Him, only trust Him,  
Only trust Him now;  
He will save you, He will save you,  
He will save you now."

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, #279, first stanza.

And if there's somebody here tonight that needs that gift of peace, and you want to come and seek Him, just come, and we'll seek God here at His altar with you. And I know Jesus will give you that thing you seek for, because He says:

"Ask, and it shall be given you... For every one that asketh receiveth..." Matthew 7:7-8.

"...Seek, and ye shall find... and he that seeketh findeth..." Matthew 7:7-8.

"...Knock, and it shall be opened unto you" Matthew 7:8.

So, tonight Jesus says:

“And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:13.

And remember, you not only will find peace, but you’ll bring a great joy to the Savior. He loves you so much that His happiness and yours are bound up together. And when you find that gift of peace that He gives you, oh, the joy, and the peace, and the satisfaction it brings to Him.

Let’s make Him happy tonight as we seek the gift of happiness that He offers us. Shall we?

Let’s stand, friends.

“Come every soul by sin oppressed,  
There’s mercy with the Lord,  
And He will surely give you rest,  
By trusting in His Word.

[Refrain]

Only trust Him, only trust Him,  
Only trust Him now;  
He will save you, He will save you,  
He will save you now.”

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #279, first stanza.*

[Recording ended in progress.]

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