

The Three Stages of Legislation

#0707

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—May 15, 1964

I'm glad it's our privilege, all of us, to be led that way. Aren't you, friends? But now, note what I'm going to read from the 20th chapter of Revelation. Turn, if you will, in your Bibles to this remarkable scene—wholly unnecessary, wholly uncalled for, but terribly true. The 7th verse of the 20th chapter of Revelation:

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them” Revelation 20:7.

Everybody that has ever lived in this world will be there, my friends. The only time in all the history of this world when everybody that has ever lived upon the earth is alive at one time upon its surface. Some are in the city looking out, others are outside the city looking in, and between is a great gulf across which no man can pass.

Above the city, appears the great white throne, as the 11th verse says, and all men are there to witness the final coronation of Christ. The righteous to enter into the joys of eternity in this earth made new; the wicked to receive their condemnation at the final judgment and suffer in the lake of fire and then die an eternal death.

Now, my point is, friends, this eighth verse says, speaking of the wicked:

“...the number of whom is as the sand of the sea”
Revelation 20:8.

The number of whom is as the sand of the sea. Were you ever down at the seashore? Have you ever picked up the sand and let it trickle through your fingers? How many grains do you hold there in your hand? Several. But look down the beach. Are there some more grains of sand? Oh yes, and if you walk a mile, are there some more? Some more? And this number, far beyond the computation of our minds, is the number of the lost and Gehenna.

And the thing that impresses me tonight, as I say, is that it's all together unnecessary. Not a one of those souls needs to be there. God has made full provision to save everyone. There isn't a one of those lost ones but what God would bankrupt the universe, if it were necessary and if it were availing, to save that one.

When He poured out all Heaven in one gift in Christ, He showed that the value of the soul is infinite.

But in spite of that, in spite of all that God can do, in spite of all that Heaven can do, there they are—millions, billions, trillions, of lost souls. I wonder why? Has God somehow failed to put the signs up along the way? Let me ask you another question. Do you think those people that are there at judgment day on the wrong side of the gulf planned deliberately to be there? A few did; many did not.

Here we have it plainly stated in Matthew 7:21–23 that:

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not...”
Matthew 7:22.

Done this, that, and the other thing. Why don’t you let us in? But what will He say? No. I didn’t know you. So there are going to be some great surprises and disappointments.

And as I look into your faces tonight, dear ones, some of you I have never met, some of you I’ve met this evening for the first time, some of you I’ve known for many, many years. But it could easily be that this would be the last time that we would meet together until this judgment day that I’m reading about. That could happen. It could happen either because of something that would happen to me or something that would happen to you. Am I correct?

Ah my friends, what can I say? These few golden moments this vesper hour that you will wish that I had said when *this* day breaks, and *I* will wish that I had spoken when I see you there.

Let me make it very simple, friends. You know, in the United States of America, there are three steps that are necessary in order to carry through legislation. A bill may be introduced either into the Senate or into the House. Certain bills must originate in the House; others can originate either in the Senate or the House. But whatever the bill, in whichever house passes it first—don’t miss this—whatever the bill and whichever house passes it first, when it has been passed by that house, then it must go to the other house.

If the House passes it, it goes to the Senate. If the Senate passes it, it goes to the House of Representatives. But that isn’t the end of it. When it has been passed by the Senate and the House, it goes to the president, and he can veto it. But if the House passes it and the Senate passes it, and the president approves it, then it is what? It’s settled, it’s settled.

And I’ll tell you the great difficulty with many souls, friends—they haven’t learned about this triangle in Christian experience. One part of it is God, and I’m sure we’ll give Him the president’s place. And one part of it is you or me. Phrase it as you will. But there is a third party, a third party. Oh, to know who that third party is, and to know how to cooperate in God’s plan of certainty and assurance.

And some people are trying to get along with just one part of the congress, one house of the legislature, but in God's great plan of guidance and direction, in God's great plan of security, it takes all three, all three.

Now, we'll all recognize, as I say, that God is the leader. He's the president. And you know, God could run this universe (He could run this world) without you and me having anything to do with it. He could run *us* without our having anything to do with it. Couldn't He? Sure.

The birds don't have to decide whether to sing or not. Listen to them. They sing by instinct. Don't you wish you were that way? Always do the right thing at the right time. Yes. Well, there's something nice about it, but there's something much more wonderful, friends, about love—intelligent love, choice of intelligent creatures, based upon a desire to please.

God could have made us so that our dealings are only between Him and each of us. He could have done it that way, and that would have been a sweet and wonderful relationship. But ah, in His infinite wisdom, He chose to enlarge the plan, and He made it possible for each of us to be joined in fellowship not only with Him but with the great family of God, the great family of God.

And if you really want to be certain, be sure that the thing you plan to do has passed the House and the Senate and is signed by the president, my friends.

"Ah," you say, "that takes a lot of time and trouble." Yes, it does, friends, it does. And some bills go through all sorts of difficulties. They're having a hard time up there now agreeing on some things. Simple way would be to just junk the whole business and let somebody like Mussolini or Hitler take over and tell everybody what to do. We'd get on faster, wouldn't we? Very much faster, very much faster.

But some of us prefer the slower, more deliberate process. *God* does, and He's been waiting for quite a while now to get both houses to agree with each other and with Him. That's going to happen, friends. I'm not talking about the congress right now. I'm talking about this spiritual lesson. I'm talking about what God has set His heart on.

Do you know what that second house is? Do you know what that third party of the triangle is? Do you know? Well, let me read something here from Matthew, the 18th chapter, beginning with the 15th verse. The 17th verse is the one that I want to notice particularly, with the 18th, but we'll read the 15th to get the setting:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican" Matthew 18:15–17.

Now, notice how the president considers the importance of the united action:

“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Matthew 18:18.

There we have it, friends, and I want to tell you something. If you want to be really sure of eternal life, and if you want to be really sure of what to do in this world, keep seeking God on your knees and counseling with God and with your brethren until you and the church and God are all agreed, and they’re all voting for the same thing.

And just as when the House and the Senate and the president all agree, that’s settled, so when you and the church and God all agree, that’s settled. That’s it. But how much importance does God attach to this? Oh, He says:

“...if he neglect...” Matthew 18:17.

The individual.

“...to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican” Matthew 18:17.

Now, may I tell you that the Devil hates this verse of scripture, and the Devil does everything he can to cast contempt upon it, to ridicule it, to scorn it, to fight it and undermine its importance. And obviously, the person who needs it most will see it the least.

But my dear brothers and sisters, God is looking for those who voluntarily, sweetly, cheerfully, intelligently, gladly, choose this triumvirate, this triumvirate.

Now, let me look at the other side of this thing for a moment. There are organizations in this world that claim to be able to settle this thing entirely by church organization and leave the individual out of it entirely. They claim that God has established on earth an organization to whom He has given unlimited power and that all the individual has to do is to listen to that church, that body, and that will give him a passport to Heaven.

Do you believe that? No, I don’t think you believe that. And it matters not where the headquarters of such an organization would be, friends. It matters not on what river the capital of it might be found or what form of religion it might be. It would be just as wrong as for the individual to usurp the supreme and total decision. It’s just as wrong for the church to seek to regiment the individual as it is for the individual to ignore the church. But, ah, my friends, equally so, it’s just as wrong for the individual to bypass the church as it is for the church to ignore the individual.

“Ah,” you say, “but how are you going to do it?” Say, do you know what they have up in Washington when the Senate and the House can’t agree? Do you know what they have? Why, they have what they call a conference. That’s right. The Senate has voted the bill one way, the House has voted it another, but before that

thing can go to the president, representatives from the House and representatives from the Senate have to get together and see if they can find a common meeting ground.

Tell me, friends, if men of this world, many of whom don't know God, have got that much sense, why can't the children of God have it? What do you say? And if they, with all their natural prejudices and in many cases, lack of love for one another—if *they* can find some way to get on with their business and carry on the nation, why can't those who love one another... why can they not find Heaven's way of arriving at that unity for which Jesus prayed? Will you tell me?

Ah, dear ones, the difficulty comes that somebody comes along and sells them on the idea that if the individual—if he's misunderstood and abused and persecuted, will just take his Bible under his hand and his testimonies in his grip and follow his own way and his own guidance, that he will, at last, arrive in Heaven and then everybody will find out that he was right and the church was wrong.

Be not deceived, my brothers and sisters whom I must meet at the judgment bar. Be not deceived. Many will stand at the judgment and find out for the first time that God meant just what He said, just what He said. We need one another, my brethren. I need the church, you need the church, and the church needs us, the church needs us.

Somebody put on a bulletin board, C-H-blank-R-C-H, and added, We need you in the church. See? C-H-*U*-R-C-H. It can't be spelled without "U," and that's not a play on words. Perhaps it's a play on letters, friends, but it's the truth. If God thinks the individual is so important that He gave His only begotten Son and would have to save just one, the church can never be satisfied as long as *one* of the sheep is missing; as long as *one* of the children is absent at the table. Ah, how the heart of God yearns and longs for unity!

So, however sure you may be that you are the Senate, remember there's a House of Representatives where that bill should go for consideration. Remember that above us all is God, keeping watch above His own.

"Well," somebody says, "if we'd wait for that, we'd never get anywhere." Listen, friends, listen. Among all the things that you are sure of, aren't there at least a few that you know that you and God and the church are perfectly agreed on? Tell me that. May I repeat that?

Among all the hundreds and thousands of things that *you* are sure of, are there not at least a few that you are certain that you and the church and God are all agreed on—no question about it? Then I ask you, would it not be well to take up those things that have been passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the president and carry *them* out, and if there are some things that are still being considered, wait until everyone has given his report and made his decision? Wouldn't that be a reasonable thing?

Let me read it to you, not in the parable that I have been using, but in the straight language of the Spirit of Prophecy. *Book 1 of Selected Messages*, page 167:

“Let us confine our public efforts to the presentation of the important lines of truth on which we are united, and on which we have clear light” *Selected Messages, Book 1*, page 167.

“We have a great work before us, and we have not an hour to lose from the essential work to be done... Let us not agitate questions that will reveal a marked difference of opinion... let all speak the same things. Let the discourses be simple, and treating upon vital subjects that can be easily understood” *Selected Messages, Book 1*, page 167.

How simple that is, friends. And so, as I approach the word and I find there hundreds of truths, I may find that there are somewhere there are differences of opinion, differences of understanding. The final unity on all subjects has not yet come.

Where shall I find my greatest interest? What is the thing that attracts me most? What is the food that out there on the feeding tray that makes me fly on rapid wings? Is it to discover some subject of controversy? Or, is it to find the great and sweet and precious truths that have been settled and made eternally certain by this threefold union of God, speaking to His church and to the individual and confirming us by the united testimony of the body and our own reason and intelligence?

Take the Sabbath. We're settled on that, aren't we? Take the seal of God and the mark of the beast. Take the judgment. Take the precious plan of salvation of Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Going to Heaven as our priest, pleading His blood to cover and blot out our sins, and coming soon to redeem His people.

Are not those great central pillars eternally settled by this threefold testimony? Would it not be well, my dear friends, to spend our time in emphasizing and agitating and promoting and preaching and persuading people to listen to these great truths on which there are unity and agreement? Would there not? Would that not be in harmony with the plan? Ah yes, yes.

Down through the history of this movement, there have been men that have come up against this thing that we're studying tonight, and they've missed the way. Wiser men than you and I, brighter men, smarter men, more talented, occupying leading positions in this denomination. Men like Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, Elder A. T. Jones and various others.

Oh dear ones, when we stand together at judgment day, what a wonderful thing it will be if we've gone all the way with God's threefold plan.

Now, in harmony with this, I read in closing this little statement from *Steps to Christ*, page 111:

“...give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light. By the grace of Christ, perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding, and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt” *Steps to Christ*, page 111.

I believe, friends, that enough things have already been settled by the House and the Senate and the president to keep us working for at least a few days. What do you say? Meanwhile, we can continue to study and to counsel one with another and pray God to quickly bring that glorious day the prophets have foretold that Jesus prayed for. That prayer will soon be answered.

Shall we kneel together as we seek God? Our dear Father in Heaven, as tonight through the telescope of Thy word, we have looked into the future and have seen the universe summoned to Thy judgment throne, we know that we should all be there. And oh we pray, through the blood of Jesus, through the merits of our Savior that we shall all be on the inside looking out instead of on the outside looking in.

Oh, my Father, keep us, we pray from that willingness to let some organization decide everything for us, which will lead us, at last, to be deceived and lost. And oh, equally, presently we would pray, keep us from that type of individual independence which is willing to pursue its individual conclusions without reference to the faith and decisions of the body.

Oh, for Thy mercy's sake, help us to see the balance in it all! Quickly bring the day when the watchmen shall see eye to eye when the unity for which Jesus prays shall be fully established. Meanwhile, keep us busy with that which is settled and earnestly praying and fervently longing for the day when everything in Thy plan shall be fully carried out and Thy will done on earth as it is in Heaven. We ask it in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray:

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen”
Matthew 6:9–13.

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