

Spiritual Superhighway

#0733

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1960

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

When this is done.

“...and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” Isaiah 40:3–5.

You see, dear friends, there is something that God is ready to do as soon as we have done what He has left for *us* to do. In ancient times in those oriental countries, it was customary when the king was about to visit distant parts of his dominions for the word to be sent ahead, and men got out there and repaired and fixed up the highways. That’s what this is talking about.

“...Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain...” Isaiah 40:3–4.

In getting ready for the triumphal entry of a king, it was necessary for the crooked places in the road to be straightened out, the rough places to be smoothed out. And it was also necessary for a work of leveling to be done, you see, “every valley exalted, every mountain and hill made low.”

My subject this evening is spiritual superhighways. You know, we’re in the superhighway age. The federal government, uniting with the states, is now spending billions of dollars to make a vast network of superhighways, in which you can go from state to state and one side of the country to the other without passing a single red light. We know something about it. Someday there’ll be a stream of cars like ants passing between us and the mountain yonder.

I was quite interested in talking with one of the engineers. There’s a whole swarm of engineers working on these projects, you know. And he tells me how that before they ever bring a bulldozer, or one of these great earthmovers, or any blasting equipment around, they have worked out all the hills and valleys, all the elevations, and they have that all planned out. And they know exactly how many cubic yards of

earth they're going to have to move here in order to fill up a valley yonder. They have that all figured out.

Now dear friends, that's a wonderful thing, of course. And human science and research, the skill of engineers, and all this modern mechanical equipment, they're all being brought to bear on solving the traffic problems. But that's not my subject. *Spiritual* superhighways, that's what I want you to think about this first day of the New Year 1960. God is in the business of building a great superhighway.

"Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway..." Isaiah 40:3.

"...a highway..." Isaiah 40:3.

I read it right here. Right up to the minute, isn't it?

"...a highway for our God" Isaiah 40:3.

Not for Eisenhower, friends, or some other world figure, but for God. God is coming, and He wants the highway prepared. And He's given you and me the privilege of being the workmen who are to accomplish that job. Shall we accept the assignment? What do you say?

Well, you'd just as well recognize it, friends, there are going to be mountains to be moved. That's what this suggests, isn't it? And there are going to be valleys that need to be filled up, and there are going to be crooked places that have to be straightened out and rough places that need to be made plain. Will you work on jobs like that? That's what God is calling for.

Why you know, these superhighways they're making now, they've planned them in such a way that you can drive along there at most any reasonable speed, and there's never a time when the curve is such that you can't see around it. And there's never a time that the level is such that you can't see over what's ahead. As far as you can see, there's the road. If it turns, it turns so gradually that there's no danger that you can't see where your car is going.

In this superhighway, this spiritual superhighway that God is building, that you and I are building in cooperation with and under the command of God, every rough place is to be made smooth and plain, my dear friends, every crooked piece is to be straightened out, every valley, as our dear brother just sang, is to be exalted, and every mountain and hill be made low.

What's it talking about anyway? I'll tell you what it's talking about, friends. It's talking about character development, character development. You see, as you and I are born into this world, we are far from being balanced. We do not receive through our heredity a balanced character.

Of course, character has to be developed anyway. If Cain and Abel had been born in Eden instead of outside the garden, they would still have had to develop character. But they would have had in Eden perfectly balanced minds in every way

to start with. But here we are down here after 6,000 years of degeneracy, and the human race is far from balanced.

And as you and I come along to the place where we begin to have something to do with developing our own characters, if we have any understanding of God's perfect ideal, we soon discover that we have some points that are strong and some weak; some stand up like mountains, and some, the very absence is like a great valley. What are we going to do with those characteristics?

Well, I'll tell you, friends, there are some people in the world that have so little idea of the thing we're studying tonight that they think that it's something to boast about to have some great outstanding characteristics that other people have to put up with. No. God wants the spiritual bulldozer to get in there.

But you know, if it's some trait of character that you've been proud of, it isn't easy to have that leveled off. You're liable to think that something very valuable and important is being taken out of your life when the truth is it's God trying to make ready the highway for His glorious appearing.

Friends, let us be willing to be leveled out and leveled off. What do you say? And of course, that involves building up our weak characters.

When Luke quotes this verse that I have just read here in Isaiah 40, in the early part of the third chapter of his book, Luke 3, he puts it:

"...Every valley shall be filled..." Luke 3:5.

Well, that's the thing you do with a valley, when it comes to highway building, you fill it, don't you? And sometimes it takes a *great* many tons of material to fill a valley, tons and tons and tons.

What about the valleys in your character? What about the weak points in your character? Are you going to build those up or allow them to stay there?

Are you going to say, "Well, it's just too bad, but if there's any highway along here, it's just got to follow the dips of my mind, up and down and round and round, and up and down and round and round"?

No, friends, that'll never do for the 144,000. Each one of those is going to be a gloriously-balanced character.

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low..." Isaiah 40:4.

You know, friends, if we're willing, God is going to lead us through the experiences in 1960 that will level out these characteristics in our minds and dispositions. He's going to give us experiences that will abase the pride of man and lift up our weak points. Let's let Him do it. What do you say, friend? Oh, that He may do it.

And do you know that every experience that will come to you this year, if you're willing, if you're letting God run your life, every experience that comes to you will be deliberately planned by God to accomplish this very thing? That's what these experiences are for. It's earth-moving equipment at work, trying to level out these dominating, predominating things that are over much in our lives, and trying to fill up and bring up the weaknesses in our lives. Oh, I repeat, let's let Him do it. What do you say?

You know, this work ought to start right away with the children. Parents are to make a study of their children's characteristics. And some parents do. And do you know what I'm sorry to say some parents do? If they find some strong point in the child, *that's* the thing they develop, they work on. If the child has some wonderful gift or something that they *think* is a wonderful gift, then they want to pour a lot of time and money and effort into developing that strong point in the child. What for? To show it off, I suppose to show what wonderful parents the child had.

But my dear friends, that is not the way to get a highway ready for God in that child's life. No, no. Listen, *Child Guidance*, page 206:

"Children must have constant care... Learn the disposition of each... Seek to correct their faults by encouraging opposite traits..." *Child Guidance*, page 206.

"There are few well-balanced minds because parents are wickedly negligent of their duty to stimulate weak traits and repress wrong ones... They are under the most solemn obligation to watch the tendencies of each child" *Ibid.*, page 414.

And do what with the weak traits? Stimulate them, stimulate them. So parents, study your child. And when you see that he has a strong point, perhaps instead of stimulating it, what he needs is some pruning, some pruning. Give some attention to the weak points.

Speaking of showing off our children, do you know that the greatest, most wonderful child that ever lived in this world spent 30 years in a little obscure Galilean village, and through all that time, He never did anything spectacular. His name was never on the front page of either the newspaper or the church paper. He was content to do humble things in a humble way and to develop gradually, symmetrically that wonderfully balanced character.

Child Guidance, 332:

"The faculties of the mind need cultivation, that they may be exercised to the glory of God. Careful attention should be given to the culture of the intellect, that the various organs of the mind may have equal strength, by being brought into exercise, each in its distinctive office. If parents allow their children to follow the bent of their own minds, their own inclination and pleasure, to the neglect of duty, their

characters will be formed after this pattern, and they will not be competent for any responsible position in life" *Child Guidance*, page 332.

Now watch this sentence:

"The desires and inclinations of the young should be restrained, their weak points of character strengthened, and their over-strong tendencies repressed" *Ibid*.

There you have it. It isn't just wickedness that needs repression, friends. Wickedness needs more than repression. It needs suppression, doesn't it? It needs not merely to be pruned, it needs to be cut out—the axe laid to the root of the tree.

But besides this most important work of cutting out and killing out the sinful tendencies, there are over-strong tendencies that need to be repressed. And along with it, there are weak points of character that need strengthening.

There you have it. In the words of our text:

"Every valley shall be..." Isaiah 40:4.

What?

"...exalted..." Isaiah 40:4.

Filled, brought up to level.

"...and every mountain and hill shall be made low..."
Isaiah 40:4.

Brought *down* to level, and thus, a highway for our God is to be prepared.

Oh, when that highway is completed, the glory of the Lord is going to be revealed. We'll be ready for the thrilling scenes of the loud cry in which Jesus, through His people, will once more walk this world and carry on His wonderful, miraculous medical missionary program. I want a part in it, don't you, friends? Let's get the highway finished. What do you say?

Now, that's about the children.

Gospel Workers, page 144, this is talking about grown people:

"The characters of many who profess godliness are imperfect and one-sided... Some who have learned to imitate Christ in meekness, do not show His diligence in doing good" *Gospel Workers*, page 144.

There you have it. Here's a person that's very meek and humble. If you'd hit them on one cheek, they'd turn the other without a murmur. You could walk all over them, and they wouldn't do anything about it. But friends, they're not very active.

I read on a church bulletin board one day as I drove along the road this sign. I've never forgotten it.

It says, "Hell is for two classes of people—those who will do anything, and those who won't do anything."

All the people that are lost won't be people that have done wicked things. The curse of Meroz was because they didn't come up to the help of the Lord. And this says:

"Some who have learned to imitate Christ in meekness, do not show His diligence in doing good" *Gospel Workers*, page 144.

What do they need to do with that valley, that weak point? Bring it up, get active. Be zealous, as well as meek. Be energetic, as well as humble.

Again:

"Others are active and zealous, but they are boastful; they have never learned humility" *Ibid.*

Ah, there you have it. What's the matter with them? There's a big mountain there. What needs to happen? One of these great big bulldozers and earthmovers needs to just come right in there and level that out.

But ah, does the boastful, active worker appreciate that? Not as a rule. And do you know one of the hardest jobs that God has is humbling the pride of earnest, energetic workers? But God will do it if we let Him. And we ought to be down on our knees, friends, humbling ourselves.

And as *Early Writings* says, "Some prayed to God to humble them, but if they understood it, they'd be humbling themselves" [a paraphrase of *Early Writings*, page 120].

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low..." Isaiah 40:4.

"Others are active and zealous, but they are boastful; they have never learned humility. Still others leave Christ out of their work. They may be pleasing in their manners; they may show sympathy for their fellow-men; but their hearts are not centered on the Savior, and they have not learned the language of heaven" *Gospel Workers*, page 144.

Oh friends, what a tremendous valley. What a great, gaping canyon in our lives if we leave Christ out of our work. Oh, what a great fill needs to be made.

“Others are plastic and yielding, bending this way and that to please their fellow-men” *Ibid.*

You could never build a highway on that sort of a program, could you, friends? No.

Now, I found a statement here that I think is the most encouraging, one of the most encouraging ones I ever read in my life. It's *Volume 2*, page 511. Now, this is talking about ministers, and it says they are in danger of losing their own souls:

“If they would watch, they would become acquainted with their weak points, where they are most likely to be assailed by temptation. With watchfulness and prayer their weakest points can be so guarded as to become their strongest points, and they can encounter temptation without being overcome” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 511.

Isn't that marvelous, friends? Do you have a weak point? Yes. Has that weak point given you difficulty again and again? Probably. But with watchfulness and prayer, God says that those weak points can become your what? Strongest points. I say isn't that wonderfully encouraging, friends, wonderfully encouraging. Praise God for that great promise.

So, tonight I thank God that what Isaiah wrote 3,000 years ago is soon to come to pass in the lives of all God's people.

“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together...” Isaiah 40:4–5.

In *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 57, we are told that wisdom will lead us to give special attention to the development of the weaker traits. So, what are you going to concentrate on this year? Well, friends, God wants you to concentrate on the weak points, not on the strong points. What He wants you to do about the strong points is to prune them, tone them down. What He wants you to do about the weak points is to study how to build up on that.

Now, in order that that may be so, we need a personal interview with the Master every day. He's the only one that knows us as we really are. It's good sometimes to get the counsel of friends who are willing to be critical, who love you enough to tell you the truth. It's a good thing.

In that wonderful book, *Historical Sketches*, Sister White, in speaking to our workers in Europe, told them of the experiences in the 1844 movement when they expected the Lord to come in just a few days. She said:

“When we met together, the question would be asked by one and another, ‘Brethren, have you seen anything in me that is not right? I know that we are often blind to our own faults, and if you have seen anything wrong in me, I want you to tell me’” *Historical Sketches*, page 213.

They were so anxious to be ready for Jesus to come because they expected Him right away. So, it’s a good thing to take counsel with those who, as I say, will love us enough and be frank enough to point out our faults, to point out what are our over-strong tendencies and our weaknesses that those weak points may be built up. But first of all, and most of all, and through it all, we need those personal interviews with our Lord.

You remember that as they approached Gethsemane that last night before the cross, Jesus said to His disciples:

“...All ye shall be offended because of me this night...”
Matthew 26:31.

What was Jesus seeking to do? Oh, He was seeking to help those men to see themselves as Christ saw them.

But you remember that all the disciples said, “No, we will never be offended because of you, and we will never leave you” [a paraphrase of Mark 14:31].

Jesus kept speaking to them, telling them that serious trouble was ahead and that they would be tried. And do you remember who among them all was most eloquent and most vociferous in expressing his loyalty? Who was it? Peter.

And he even said:

“...Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended” Matthew 26:33.

You remember that. What was the matter with Peter? He didn’t know himself. He had some strong points and some weak points. He was very strong in defending the Master. We’re told that Peter would have made a very valiant soldier and would willingly have laid down his life if he could have *fought* for Jesus.

Did he prove that? Yes, yes. Did Jesus commend him for that? No. He reproved him. That was a mountain in Peter’s character, and it needed to be brought low. Was it? Yes.

But Peter’s weak point was that he was afraid of ridicule. Was that brought to light that night? Yes. And he went out to Gethsemane, and some earth moving took place.

After the disappointment of the betrayal and the terrible experience of the denial, after passing through those experiences, as Peter heard the cock crow and then looking in the direction where Christ was standing, happened (oh, glorious happening), happened to see the face of Jesus turned toward him. As he read there that love and that pity, he knew that Jesus was doing just what He said He had done. He was praying for him.

He remembered those words uttered just a few hours before:

“...Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” Luke 22:31–32.

He remembered how he had slept when Jesus was praying as the bloody sweat was poured from His pores. And in bitter anguish, Peter walked and ran and stumbled all the way to the olive trees. And there, in the very place where Jesus prostrate on His face had poured out His soul in prayer, Peter wept bitterly. He got a view of himself such as he *might* have had alone with Christ in prayer a few hours before.

And thank God, dear friends, some mountains were leveled, and some valleys were filled. And all the rest of Peter’s life, he watched those points, he watched those points.

We’re told that sometimes he needed just a gentle word of caution, but he was willing. He didn’t get upset when John laid his hand on his shoulder and said, “Now Peter, remember. Be careful.

Peter didn’t turn and say, “Well, I guess I can take care of myself.”

No. Neither did he say, “Well John, can’t you forget that? It happened years ago. Do you have to keep bringing up my failings to me?”

No. He was glad for the cautions. He knew he needed them.

And a humbled Peter became that vessel that was filled with the Spirit of God and through which heaven spoke at Pentecost, and 3,000 souls came forward to accept Christ and be baptized into the apostolic church. Wasn’t it a glorious experience, friends?

So mightily can God work when men submit to the leveling process, and remember, dear friends, leveling isn’t just abasing pride. It’s filling up the valleys. Oh, that we might realize that our holding back is as fully sin as doing some wicked thing.

We’re told that there are some who love ease and they shy away from bearing responsibility. The Spirit of God calls it an idol. That attitude is an idol. It’s like worshiping Molech or Baal; holding back from doing the thing that needs to be done.

Why?

“Well, I’m so humble, I’m so humble.”

Ah, my friends, God is looking for men that are humble enough to do what He says, humble enough to take the sling and the five stones and meet the giant instead of drawing away. Humble enough to follow Jesus and with Him meet every problem, knowing that there’s an answer and a solution.

“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low...” Isaiah 40:4.

And what did all this cost? What *has* it cost? What is it *costing*? What is the cost of this highway?

About ten billion are to be poured into building this system of superhighways over the nation. But ah, my friends, this that we’re dealing with tonight is of infinite cost. It has cost heaven long ages of sorrow.

And the Son of God has been sacrificed to fill up the hollows and pull down the mountains. The Son of God has given His life, and all heaven has been drawn into the work and harnessed to the task. If you and I’ll be willing to join forces with our unseen heavenly allies, this work can be quickly done.

“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together...” Isaiah 40:5.

Now, this New Year’s Day, as we sit here in meditation on these themes, I’m sure that there are many of you that are just longing to express your determination to go right at this work in 1960, and you’re going to pray that God will help you to understand the strong points in your character so they can be restrained, and the weak points so they can be built up.

The time is yours to speak as God impresses you.

[Testimony meeting followed.]

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

...Where do they get the earth to fill these valleys on these highways? They get it out of the mountains that they make low. And if there’s anything we need to learn, dear friends, in our character building, in our lives, it’s this. The only way to have more time for some things is to have less time for some other things. That’s just getting it right down to earth and to earth moving.

... That’s right. And oh, I thank God for the many things that are being moved out of the lives of the remnant people, who are deeply in earnest about getting ready to heaven. There are just some things that the world seems to have all kinds of time for that just have to be moved out, and the time that would have been devoted to

those worldly things (not necessarily bad things) is now being devoted to the one work of getting ready for heaven.

“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low...” Isaiah 40:4.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it...” Philippians 1:6.

The margin says, “Finish it.”

“...until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6.

There are two things about that that impress me. One is, friends, it's going to take all the time till Jesus comes to get the work finished. So, we shouldn't get discouraged if it doesn't look finished tonight.

But the second thing is He has promised and pledged His Word to get it done by the time He returns. Let's rejoice in the certainty of that.

...It is not given to us to see the perfection of the highway in our characters. No, no, no. When Daniel was a man that heaven called “greatly beloved,” he got down on his knees and in true humility confessed his sins and the sins of his people, and he included himself right along with them, didn't he? And that wasn't any stage performance. That wasn't any acting. Daniel felt that way.

John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said:

“...There hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...” Matthew 11:11.

John said of himself, in his relation to Christ, he said:

“...Whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose” John 1:27.

And Paul said:

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus...I press toward the mark...” Philippians 3:12, 14.

He said:

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing...” Romans 7:18.

“Paul? You mean there's nothing good in you after all these years? Well, what's the hope for me, then, if that's the way you are?”

Ah, he says:

“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...”
Romans 7:25.

Our hope and trust and expectation must ever be in what *He* is and what He has promised to accomplish. While we’re to examine ourselves to find our weak points and work with God to correct them, to find the strong points and level them off, dear friends, we can never this side of heaven stop and say, “Well, I guess it’s done. I guess I’m all leveled out, and I’m ready now for Jesus to come.”

Heaven will know when we’re ready, friends. Heaven will know, and we can leave it with heaven, and in our simple faith, keep trusting in Jesus to finish the work.

Is there another now wishes to speak? We’re glad for every testimony. I imagine there are several others. That’s right, sister.

“All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live;

[Refrain] I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.”

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now;
[Refrain].

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #309, first and second stanzas.

Let me help some soul if I can, by being very specific, but the Spirit of God may talk to your heart about something that I don’t mention. But you know, dear friends, suppose there’s somebody here tonight that his problem is—I don’t know what I’m saying, I’m just taking what would be called a stab in the dark, but if God is bringing that arrow to your soul, you can thank God it’s meant for you, although I may know nothing about it.

But suppose there’s somebody here that has gotten angry and lost his temper and hurt somebody, hurt them either physically or hurt their feelings and tonight that thing is on your conscience and you know that unless you make that thing right that there’s a cloud between you and the Lord.

Oh my friend, if that’s your experience, come up here and kneel down and ask God for help to get that thing right.

Is there somebody here that has the tobacco problem, that terrible thing that’s killing thousands of people with lung cancer, and many other conditions, defiling the temple of God?

Oh, friend, do you need help to break from that tobacco habit? Come up here and kneel down and ask God to help you, and we’ll pray for you.

Is there somebody else that's got the gossip habit? Is there somebody that has been wounding others by letting your tongue run loose, telling things that hurt the reputation of others?

Ah, James says:

“...The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... and it is set on fire of hell” James 3:6.

And that if anybody can master that, he can master the whole body [a paraphrase of James 3:2].

Dear friend, if there's somebody like that here tonight, it seems to me now is the time to come up here and seek God to get the victory over that thing. What do you say?

Is there some child here that's been disobedient in the home or the school? You've been a problem or a disappointment to your parents or your teachers. Has your influence been on the side of disobedience instead of obedience?

Oh, dear child, why not seek God and get help to make that thing right with parents and teachers and all, and get on God's side this first day of the New Year? Why not do that? Why not do that?

Is there anybody here that's been robbing God in tithe or offerings? If your life record would close tonight, there's a debit balance on your account.

Oh friend, why not pledge God right here tonight that you're going to get that thing right? And why not come and get some *help* on it, friends, because without God's help, all your resolutions will be like ropes of sand.

I could mention other things, friends, but God is desperately in earnest with human souls. Does Jesus help you to see that there's something in the road, some stumbling block? Some great big boulder?

“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low...” Isaiah 40:4.

But I'll tell you this, friends, somebody brought out in his testimony we have something to say about this. God will never level us off without our consent and earnest, active, determined cooperation.

So, if God has spoken to some soul as we make this appeal, friend, why not come up and kneel at the cross and plead with God for help with that thing that has been in your life? Come, as we sing.

“All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine;
[Refrain].

All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel that sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name!
[Refrain].

Ibid., third and fourth stanzas.

Now, we're going to have prayer as we close this meeting, friends. And I thank the Lord for these souls that have come to seek Him. Is God hearing their prayers? Is God hearing your prayers in their behalf? Is God hearing the prayers of His own dear Son, as up there at the mercy seat He lifts His wounded hands and prays for them? Is He?

Is there some soul that hasn't come forward that's having a real battle and wants special prayers for you tonight? Will you raise your hand where you are? Yes, my dear brother. God bless you.

Is there somebody else? Yes, yes, yes. Thank God, yes, my boy. Oh, my heart goes out to every one of you. Jesus loves you. Friends, He's ready right where you stand to put His arms right around you and lift you heavenward.

Right now, as we have this closing prayer, oh, let every heart go out to God in behalf of these who are kneeling and these who have raised their hands.

Will you pray with me?

Our Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts for the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. And bless these kneeling ones and these who have raised their hands. Just now, assure them that Jesus would have come from heaven and gone all the way to Calvary for just one, just one.

And may every heart open the door just now and let Jesus come in and sweep away all the pride and folly and worldliness, every sin that has stood in the way.

And Lord, with these kneeling ones and these who have raised their hands, with these bless us all. As we are here before Thee in the divine presence, write Thy holy law in our hearts and send us out from this upper room this first day of this New Year with the determination that this year shall be God's year in our lives, and that we shall accomplish the mission of heaven.

We ask it in Christ's name, amen.

Now, just a moment before we're separated, I want to invite every one of you, all your visitors from near and far to the services tomorrow here in the Sabbath school and church and out in our branches in the various places.

And then, next Friday night at five o'clock we'll meet again in the vesper service, and every one of you is welcome.

And then, as Brother McClure asked me to announce, the ordinance service will be celebrated at five o'clock, one week from tomorrow afternoon.

This closing word, you know, several years ago when we were just starting this work here, we used to meet down in the little building across the valley from the sanitarium. A few of you can remember that.

And you know we kept meeting in that for a while. And finally, under the blessing of God, as souls accepted the message and others came in to help us, we literally spread out through the walls of that little building. And the last meeting we had, people had to be outside the windows and outside the door, looking in and listening.

We moved up to the place where the print shop and supply are now. Well, we kept packing that until this building was ready. Now, we've been in here for a while.

Do you know what I see tonight, friends? Oh, I see something, and it thrills my soul. We had to bring in some seats tonight and put in the aisles. And I'll tell you, the way this building is, we won't be able to have people standing outside the windows. You can see that.

What do you suppose must be happening in the plans of heaven? Do you suppose there might be plans for a bigger building to carry on a soul-winning evangelistic program? Seems to me tonight I see in this audience the evidence that God is planning some things for us. Will you pray about that?

Shall I tell you this? Tonight at the close of the old year and the beginning of the new, we have around \$3,600 in the fund to build an evangelistic tabernacle. Isn't that nice? That's a nice little nest egg to start with, isn't it? There'll be some more necessary besides that. Will you pray and plan and work, all of us together, that God may give us the thing that all heaven is interested in, the ingathering of many precious souls? Will you join me in that?

God bless you and a Happy New Year to you.

You're dismissed.

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