

Consider Your Ways

by Charles E. Fuller

The sermon emphasizes the importance of prioritizing God's work and reflecting on our spiritual lives to receive His blessings.

Duration: 50:37

Topics: "Obedience"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher starts by leading the audience in singing a hymn and encouraging them to shake hands with each other. He then talks about a news article he read about a wealthy entertainer who left behind a large fortune but did not give any money to God's work. The preacher emphasizes the importance of putting God first and giving to His work, promising that God will provide for those who honor Him. He also shares testimonies of people who have been blessed through the ministry, including a young man called to be a missionary and a mother whose daughter was saved at one of their services.

Transcript

We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Spread the tidings all around, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Christian Heritage Ministry, in cooperation with Fuller Seminary, proudly presents the Old Fashioned Revival Hour, a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles Eaton.

Jesus saves. As the broadcast is just about to get underway, let's join the Old Fashioned Revival Hour, and while we do that, put a marker in your Bible, in the Book of Haggai, Chapter 1. Fill brims for Jesus in the lowland of sin, Hoping that we at last the life crown may win. Serving the Master through the morning are we.

Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Heavenly beauty makes the shadows to flee.

Glory is waiting when the Spirit is free. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Strangers but happy in this vineyard today.

Trying to help our Lord and Savior away. Serving the Master through the noontime are we. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see.

Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Heavenly beauty makes the shadows to flee. Glory is waiting when the Spirit is free.

Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Nearly a foot's away the battle is won. Trusting the promise that we'll hear His roundel.

Serving the Master all the evening are we. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see.

Heavenly beauty makes the shadows to flee. Glory is waiting when the Spirit is free. Sunset is coming, but the sunrise we'll see.

Sunset is coming, we'll see. Every day with Jesus, He's sweeter than the day before. Every day with Jesus, I love Him more and more.

He will save and teach me, and He's the one I'm waiting for. Every day with Jesus, He's sweeter than the day before. Every day with Jesus, He's sweeter than the day before.

Every day with Jesus, I love Him more and more. He will save and teach me, and He's the one I'm waiting for. Every day with Jesus, He's sweeter than the day before.

All right, please let's stand and sing Heavenly Sunshine. Do your good. Folks out in the radio audience across the nation are waiting to hear you sing from the Long Beach Pedestrian Auditorium.

Heavenly sunshine, heavenly sunshine. Glory, glory, glory to God. Heavenly sunshine, heavenly sunshine.

Hallelujah to God. Now, if any of you missed a handshake on that, you come up and shake hands with me at the close, especially. I'll give you a double handshake.

That's fine, but sing it once more and really lift it up all together. Heavenly sunshine, heavenly sunshine. Glory, glory, glory to God.

Heavenly sunshine, heavenly sunshine. Hallelujah to God. On Jordan's stormy banks, I stand and cast a wishful eye.

To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie. We will rest in the fair and happy land by and by, far across on the evergreen shore. Sing the songs of Moses and the land by and by, and dwell with Jesus evermore.

For all those wide extended plain shines one eternal day. Let God the sun forever reigns and scatters night away. We will rest in the fair and happy land by and by, far across on the evergreen shore.

Sing the songs of Moses and the land by and by, and dwell with Jesus evermore. When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed? When shall I see my Father's face and in His bosom rest? We will rest in the fair and happy land by and by, far across on the evergreen shore. Sing the songs of Moses and the land by and by, and dwell with Jesus evermore.

I just wonder if there are any here that have ever heard that oldest melody on Jordan's stormy banks. That was new to me, and yet I understand it goes way, way, way back. Well, this is the old-fashioned revival hour, anyway.

We sing some of the songs, and just in a few moments the chorus choir is going to sing one of my favorites, What a Friend We Have in Jesus. I tell you, it means everything in these dark and distressing days to have a friend in Jesus. To you outside of Christ, you are without hope, without Christ, without God.

May you come today and kneel by faith to the foot of the cross and know this friend of all friends. All right, we're all having a good time, aren't we? Amen. I don't know, we don't know just hardly how this program goes across, but somehow we get it across in the 60 minutes right, as they say in the radio parlance, on the nose.

Well, anyway, go ahead and sing What a Friend We Have in Jesus. What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear What a privilege to carry Everything to God in praise we often forfeit Everything to God Every trial and temptation Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be dispirited Make it through the morning when we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness Make it through the morning when we find a friend so faithful All right, now sing one verse of Sweet Hour of Prayer, 131. Would you do that, please? Remain standing for prayer.

Let's sing this in the spirit and then remain silent before him for a few seconds before I have our son lead us to the throne of grace at the close of the first verse. Sweet hour of prayer Sweet hour of prayer And all the earth aware And in the earth my Father's power Gave power, love, and grace and power Receive the love which is as the free My soul, my heart, and heart believe In the endless prayer Jesus, sweet heart Head bowed, join with us in the radio audience, stand if it's possible by your radio Join this congregation here in Long Beach Ask God to forgive you of your sin Let's remain silently in prayer for a few seconds Oh, our Father, we do thank thee for the wonderful privilege that we have of coming to thee Through the Lord Jesus Christ And how thankful we are that thou art the God that dost hear prayer And that thou art the God that dost answer prayer according to the good purposes of thy will Father, today we would come to thee confessing our sins And thanking thee for the forgiveness of sins So that we can have access to thee by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ We pray today for the missionaries in the foreign fields who are carrying the gospel To a world which is so often indifferent and sometimes hostile And Father, if perchance they may hear the broadcast today Through the foreign shortwave stations in Luxembourg, in Quito, Ecuador, or in Formosa We pray that they may be strengthened thereby And oh, Father, help us here who remain at home To remember that we are always to be witnesses to Jesus Christ And Father, if our vision of a lost world has been dampened Oh, Lord, we pray that thou would revive it today As we catch afresh a glimpse of Jesus Christ For we ask it in his name and for his sake. Amen Work for the night is coming Work through the morning hours Work while the dew is sparkling Work midspring in flowers Work when the day grows brighter Work in the glowing sun Work for the night is coming When man's work is done Work for the night is coming Work through the sunny moon Fill brighter stars with labor Rest come sure and soon Give every flying minute Something to keep in store Work for the night is coming When man works no more Work for the night is coming Under the sunset skies While their bright tints are glowing Work for daylight flies As beam faded Faded to shine no more Work while the night is darkening When man's work is all Friends of the radio audience, I do not know of a time in the many years of my radio ministry that there's been such a need for a program like the Old Fashioned Revival Hour.

I'm sure that your hearts are made to rejoice as the letters are read each Sunday telling how the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts as the word of God goes out to needy souls from week to week, some that we cannot read over the air. It just seems that some by accident tune in on the hour and are saved and receive hope and courage, but are of such personal nature that we do not feel that we should read them over the air. And God has entrusted us with a tremendous responsibility by giving to us these open doors

Notice verse 7, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Consider your ways. Chapter 2, verse 15, And now I pray you, Consider from this day and upward from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Lord. Consider your ways.

And then in verse 18, it occurs twice, Consider now from this day. And the last two words, Consider it. Haggai's mission as a prophet in speaking on behalf of God to the people was highly successful and blessed with success.

Twenty-four days after he uttered this prophecy, the people turned from their own selfish pursuits and began to rebuild the temple. Haggai himself labored with his own hands, laboring with the faithful remnant. And this prophecy of 38 verses is plain, curt, businesslike.

Haggai is plain spoken. He calls a spade a spade. He doesn't mince words, but he goes right to the heart of the matter.

And he said to the faithful remnant, Consider your ways, for thus saith the Lord. I am giving you, Haggai says, the word of Jehovah. And so in chapter 1, verses 1 to 11, we find the first message, Consider your ways.

We find a very stern message of rebuke. Will you note it, please? Notice in verse 2 how God speaks to the faithful remnant. His blood-bought covenant people.

Notice the word. Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people, not my people, this people, as much as to say, my people have departed from me, have backslidden, have gone after their own sinful ways. And he doesn't speak of them in that tender, loving tone.

My people. No, this people. And he goes on.

The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built. And then in verse 4, Is it time for you, O ye that dwell in sealed houses? That speaks volumes. Because instead of building the temple, that temple representing God's presence with them in that temple at the brazen altar, at the laver, at the table of showbread, at the candlesticks in the altar of incense in the Holy of Holies.

Instead of building that so that he might dwell with them, they were building houses, paneled, if you please, highly decorated. And it speaks volumes. They were taking their earnings and their wages and spending it upon things for self.

Instead of the house of God and the things of God. And so he goes on. The sixth verse.

If so much and bring in little, ye eat but ye have not enough. God knows how to withhold blessings when you withhold things that belong to him. Therefore, consider your ways.

And this blood-bought covenant people were occupied with their own desires, not giving God the just and right place. Does not the Scripture say, listen, seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you? Does it not say to give Christ the preeminence in all that we do and whatsoever we do to do all to his glory? Certainly. But here in Haggai, in the days when he prophesied, this people had departed, becoming selfish, self-centered, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

Hence, consider your ways. I stop and ask you the very pertinent question. Is God first in your life? And the calamities which have befallen this people are stated in verses 6-11.

I read it just a moment ago in the sixth verse about having little. And the thought seems to be the utter folly of spending our whole income on ourselves and our family needs to the entire exclusion of any thoughtful provision for carrying on God's work. Verses 9, 10, and 11.

He looked for much and, Lord, became little. When ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why saith the Lord of hosts? Because of mine house is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

Therefore, the heaven over you is stayed with you, which I read to you a little while ago. Let me read to you some passages from God's Word. Blessed is he that considereth the poor.

The Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive. And he shall be blessed upon the earth, and thou wilt not deliver him into the will of his enemy.

The Lord will strengthen him. That is, if you honor God first with your substance, God says, I will honor you. And I turn to Proverbs, the third chapter.

Oh, there is much in the Word of God regarding these things. But I want to give it to you. Verses 9 and 10.

Honor the Lord. Proverbs 3, 9 and 10. Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Talk about a program that will fill the land with prosperity and peace is this. And it will not come by man-made plans or schemes.

It will come first by the people honoring God with their substance first of all. And not through any planned scheme by the politicians in Washington. Proverbs 13, 7. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing.

There is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. Proverbs 22, 9. Notice what it says. That he that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed, for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

Malachi 3, 10. Bring all your tithes into the storehouse. Prove me now, saith Jehovah, while not pour out a blessing that you can't contain.

I'm going to read the 6th chapter of Luke, verse 38, and give you something from the New Testament. Copy these references down, if you will. Because this is God's Word.

Luke 6, 38. Here it is. Give, and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed down and shaken together, running over, and men shall give into your bosom, for with the same measure that ye meet wherewithal it shall be measured unto you again.

And I say to you that the Christian people of America are face to face with one of the most serious situations. With the increase in the price of food and goods, and at the same time taking more of our income to pay the bills, the question is coming, how much are you going to give to God? But I say to you that no matter what happens, if you will honor God first, He'll see you through. And your barns will be filled.

And I've proven it time and time again. 2 Corinthians 8, 7-12. Oh, I'll not have time to read all of that.

But here it is. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Then it goes on and says, See that ye abound in this grace also. You put God's work first. I tell you, if you put it first, sending out the Gospel, home and foreign missions, even by radio, the only money you will save is that which you give for God's work.

Recently, one of the top entertainers of the entertainment world died here in California. And the paper said that he left four million or more. And in among it are the requests to charity, commendable, and the world applauses.

But I say to you, what a shame! Not one penny for God's work or the Gospel. He left it behind. What you spend for God, you will save.

The second message, and I must quickly, the first message of the Lord's rebuke has the desired effect. Verse 12 are these beautiful words. Will you see it, please? How God works.

Notice it in the 12th verse. They obeyed, and then they went to work. Here it is.

Ye obeyed my voice. And then, here it is. With all the remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the words of Haggai the prophet as the Lord their God had sent them.

And the people did fear the Lord. And then it speaks of their being obedient. You'll hear what God has to say.

You'll hear through His ambassadors the Word of God that's been given to you. And then obey. And God comes back and says this, I am with thee, but not until obedience.

Not until you come back to the place of confession and obedience that you have the words, I am with thee. God's work was stirred up. The Lord stirred up the spirit of these men.

And He began to build the house of the temple. And no sooner had God's people started the work of building the temple, the note of discouragement comes in. How true it is that you attempt some work for God after obedience, after hearing the gracious words, I am with thee, you start to do a work for God.

And in the 2nd chapter, verses 1-9, comes a note of discouragement. As the people labored, they became disheartened for the fact that owing to their poverty and the fewness of numbers and the lack of skilled workers, the temple was bound to be inferior to Solomon's temple. I must close.

God says, I will fill this 2nd temple with My glory and it will have more glory than all that Solomon's temple ever had. And I leave you with this thought. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you may be the weakest of the weakest, but if you will dedicate and present your life as a living sacrifice, you will have the greatest of all glory, Christ in you, the hope of glory.

What a privilege to come by faith, accept what God has done for you in Christ, and be reconciled to Him, brought nigh by the blood, Christ in you, the hope of glory. And while we're bowed in prayer and just before the chorus sings the invitation number, out in the radio audience, will you give your hearts to Christ and come back through compassion and obedience and hear God say to you, I am with you. My peace I

give unto you, not as the world gives, to have Christ in you, the hope of glory.

God bless you. God's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And while our heads are bowed here in this splendid visible audience, how many will quickly put their hand up and say by the uplifted hand, Brother Fuller, pray for me.

I here now want to accept Christ as my personal Savior and be remembered in a word of prayer. Will you put your hand up in any place in this room and say pray for me. God bless you.

God bless you. Quickly and quietly as the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, I have to bring you to a close. This is Charles E. Fuller bidding you goodbye and God's richest blessing upon you.

Continue in prayer.

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