WRIGHT (FRANK HALL) SERMONS, 1916

Descriptive Summary

Title: Frank Hall Wright sermons
Dates: 1916
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Language: Materials are written in English.

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Biographical Note:
Frank Hall Wright (1860-1922) was an evangelist in the western United States.

Scope and Contents:
The Frank Hall Wright Sermons are typed, bound sermons delivered by Wright at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio in January 1916. These sermons were a component of special evangelistic services intended for both Christians and the general public.

Related Collections:
The Arthur Gray Jones papers at the Austin Seminary Archives include letters written by Frank Hall Wright to Arthur Gray Jones from 1915-1916.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Preferred Citation: Frank Hall Wright sermons, 1916, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Inventory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D006</td>
<td>Sermons:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“What it costs not to be a Christian: ‘He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it,” Matthew 10:39, January 12, 1916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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"What it costs not to be a Christian."

"He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

It refers to life in a double sense. The life here on earth, the natural life over against the eternal life. "He that findeth his life", that is this lower life. "Shall lose it", that is the higher life. The principle is life out of death. If you want to glorified you must see him first in the character of a Savior and then as an example. Throw a grain of wheat into the ground and it will bring forth fruit. Have you ever seen an apple orchard covered with blossoms. We wish that we always could have such a beautiful scene. It just lightens up the whole world around about. But if we would have the fruit the apple blossom must die. -- Life out of death. Yet the flower is not lost. You just take an apple and cut it transversely and you will see the form of the blossom in the center of the apple. I am glad we live in the land of the free, although I have heard an Englishman say we Americans are not as free as the English people. But every American can do as he chooses, he is free to be what he wants to be. If he wants to be an infidel, he is free to be one. If he wants to be a Christian, he is free. According to the dictates of one's conscience. God has
given us liberty. Through that liberty that sin entered the world. You have the right to do wrong, you have the right to do good. You have the choice between Jesus and the devil and hell. You can come to no good unless you suffer for it. A boy thinks when he has to be educated that he suffers. Has to go to school every time the bell rings. He has got to stick to it. I tell you you can't have everything. You have to surrender some certain things.

If you want to succeed in business you have to sacrifice your social life. You have to go to bed at a proper time. Your life has to be regulated if you are going to be a successful business man. That is the way, you have to pay for it. Why is it that everything that is up-hill is good. Because sin has ruined this world. Because the devil is the god of this world. I tell you Jesus Christ had to accept the principle of life out of death. In the garden of Gethsemane he had to fight it out. He had to die on the cross to save us. We have to repudiate the flesh and the devil. No man will ever be saved unless he accept the truth. The principle of life out of death.

There would never have been and advance of spiritual truth if men had not suffered for it. Men like Luther and Calvin and others. Men before us have had to suffer and die to give us our civil liberty. Phil.-1:29 ---- Ah Christian you needn't expect you are going to have an easy time in this world. Somebody is going to find fault with you. Somebody is going to give up your friendship because you are a Christian. It is the principle that our Master took. It is something
you have to accept if you are going to be a Christian. "He that findeth his life shall lose it." That is what it costs not to be a Christian. You say you don't want to be a Christian because you lose too much. First of all you lose this life. There are a great many people who are not Christians but they have a good time. They drink and have feasts and other pleasures. They don't have to go to worship. No conscience to trouble them. Very good people, some of them. Some are intellectual and benevolent and kind. They are happy and have a good time. But the happiness is built on the world. The things that make them happy will soon go away. They will stand face to face with death some day. Death will invade their family circle. They will then be shaken to the foundation of their earthly joys. If they come to death without Christ, they will have to say, "I have been a failure." There was once a man, a mere worldly man, who kept a diary for fifty-two years. In those fifty-two years he had smoked 628,715 cigars. Think of it. Made a regular smoke stack out of himself. That cost him something. It certainly was extraordinary. No doubt he made a record for himself for smoking. But what good did it do him? Was that something to comfort him that he had smoked so many cigars. In those fifty-two years he had had 28,786 glasses of beer, 28,085 glasses of spirits, costing him $5,350. Would it comfort him to know that he had made a hogs-head of himself. That would be a terrible thing to die by. He could say he had listened to so much music. Seen so much dancing, danced so much. Now die, what are you going to do. That is a fine thing to die by, is it not?
He had saved so much money together. Had it all piled up in the bank. If you die you can't take a dollar with you. That is a fine thing to comfort you. To think, "I have got to leave all this money, can't take it along." And then go into hell. I say, you will say, "I am a failure. People applauded me and approved of me. Is that going to comfort you any when you stand before God? Have you honored His son, Jesus. If you dishonor Jesus you dishonor God. You can't serve Jesus Christ if you don't confess him before God and before the people. I once asked a beautiful young woman if she wouldn't accept Jesus. She said, "No, it would cost me too much." It would cost her too much to be a Christian. Many people refuse Christ for that reason. You have to give up the ambitions of this world. You have to give up pleasures. And you know it, and you don't want to pay the price. I said to her, "Well are you going to run the risk of losing your life?" She said, "Yes, but pray for me." Now what good would it do to pray for her? I would not deliberately reject Jesus Christ. I said to her, "You can never tell what God is going to do with you." She went out that day and met a friend, a traveling salesman. They went driving. The horse became frightened and ran off and upset the buggy. She was dragged a hundred yards. But she was not killed. After that I went to see her again. I said, "God has been good to you, are you going to serve him now?" But the same old stubbornness was there. While she was being dragged along on the ground, she said she thought of what I
had told her. "You can never tell what God is going to do with you." You can never tell when God is going to call you. She was not willing even now to give up. But she asked me to pray for her. And I prayed the Lord to make her willing. But she stubbornly rejected Jesus. Some years later I heard that woman had died in New York City alone. Alone. I know a great deal more about that woman's life. But I don't care to tell it. It would have cost her too much to be a Christian. If you have anything like that in your mind. You had better be careful. I want to say to you. "You can never tell when God will call you". If you have rejected Jesus Christ you have rejected God. It is going to cost you too much not to be a Christian. You will lose the true peace. It is the grandest thing to know God's peace possesses you. God speaks peace to our troubled souls. Peace with God through faith. If you are not a Christian your may have peace but it will last only a little while. But the peace of a Christian is eternal. Isaiah 26: 3 -- "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

It is a beautiful thing to have a place of refuge. He is our elder brother, our advocate. That is what you lose. You lose joy and rest. It is true that you have satisfaction in one sense of the word. But the world can not satisfy you, can not give true satisfaction. A woman once came to me and asked, "Where can I find true satisfaction?" I told her to accept Jesus Christ. Later in a meeting she stood up and gave testimony. She had tried wealth and music and art and other
worldly pleasures. But she could not find true peace and satisfaction. But she had accepted Jesus and found true satisfaction. It makes no difference whether you are rich or poor, sick or well, if you seek the Lord you will have true satisfaction. When Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well: "He that drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but he that drinketh of the water that I give will never thirst." She asked him for some of that water. She thought she would never have to go to the well any more. Be relieved from her burden. The others might need water but she would not have to worry about it any more.

What a poor idea of Jesus we have. He tries to tell us spiritual things and we think of earthly things. Over every place of amusement, over every place of business you can write. "He that drinketh of this water shall thirst again." He that liveth without the Savior will never be satisfied. You lose the fatherhood of God. You can never be a child of God unless you accept the Lord.

I once went down to Sherman, Texas. I went into a factory where seamless sacks were made. When I went into that factory and saw the first steps of the process, saw all the threads going criss cross, I didn't see how they could ever be made into sacks. It looked like everything was going crazy to me. And when I went around to the back, there were the sacks coming out just as nice. Seamless, even had little fancy stitches on the edges. The man who invented that machinery had invented it to that end. Sometimes it seems like things are going
criss-cross in our life, everything is against us. But it is all the Lord's way. It is all going to come out all right. That is what faith gives to us who believe in Jesus. The father-hood of God is ours. God knows about every thing in your life. Not a sparrow falls without his notice. He knows every little thing in our life. Sometimes little things end in great possibilities. They grow and multiply. God controls them. Like a father pitieth his children, the Lord pities them that fear him. When a child comes to us and says he is sorry we are willing to forgive him. We will help him out the best we know. They have our love and sympathy. It may be that they need discipline and admonition. God is just like a father, just like that. He gives us what is best for us. He knows about your business affairs, whether you are sick or well. He knows it all. It is grand to have such infinite love. The sinner has no one to turn to. No one to pray to. Is it not sweet to know that in the end all will be right. When darkness comes to these eyes the light eternal will come to us. That when our feeling is fading and we can not feel the touch of our loved ones we will feel the strong arms of Jesus around us. And when these ears do not hear the voices of our loved ones any more, to hear the heavenly music. It is beautiful to be a Christian. God expects you to serve him. If you have not served him, get busy now.

I don't like to talk about my personal affairs, but I do it because it gives God the glory. He answered my prayer when I was in trouble. He knows your financial troubles. There may be some one here today in
financial distress. You may think "well it is all right about our souls but what about the daily things of life. God knows you need shoes and clothes. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Put God first in your business and you will find pleasure in your service. If you can do this you are on praying ground. Well, I had lots of trouble. Don't I know what financial trouble is? When my wife and I started out in life we laid aside a little nest egg as you call it. So that when we got into a bad pass we would have something to fall back on. But our trouble came too soon and swept all that away. God wanted to learn me a lesson. God is the father that looks after you. My health was taken from me, the money on the bank was gone, and there I was with a wife and two children. There was one good thing about it I had a good mother-in-law she helped us. But where would the clothes come from. What about the medicine? Well I just prayed it out of heaven. I believe in praying. There was no other way but to trust to God. I have the old time religion. That's good enough for me. I needed money for medicine. I needed thirty dollars, and I didn't know where to get it. I had faith, I was on praying ground. A few days later I received a check for thirty three dollars through the mail. I sought the Kingdom of God and his righteousness first. I'll tell you about another time. I needed one hundred dollars. A man paid me fifty dollars for a little piece of land. I needed fifty dollars more.
Worry is what kills folks. Work never kills anybody. God knows every one that faileth. You come to Jesus, God will make you his child. One morning I got out of bed, and I said, "Lord this is the day." That was the day I needed that money. That was not much of a prayer but it did the business. God gave me the faith to expect that money. I don't have to depend on faith for anything like that now. I can go out and work. God has given me back my health and I can fall back on my work. The man who won't work ought not to eat. But I had done the best I could. I had served the Lord and here I was in trouble. I went out into the park and sat there all day. When I went home, my mother-in-law said, "Frank there has been a man waiting to see you." It was an old friend of mine. I had helped him out long before. He said to me, "My people never can pay you in money for what you have done for them. But they want me to give you this." He handed me a check for one hundred dollars. It happened when I asked for it. I believe that is an answer to prayer. God is the one who watches over you and takes care of you. That is the reason I may seem younger than I am. I can go around here preaching and singing, when I reckon I ought to be so by now I couldn't sing. I believe I ought to be having the signs of death by now. I trust God and some-how or another he takes care of me. I know a story about a child trying to cross a stream. He was standing there and crying. An old man came and asked him what he was crying about. And he said, "I am afraid to cross the stream." The old man said, "I will carry you across." But the child
said, "Yes but I have a bundle." The old man said, "I will carry you and your bundle too." God can carry you and your burdens. That is what you lose by not being a Christian. You lose something else. You lose the opportunity for doing good. I once read of a man whose son was going to die. And the mother said, "Father you will have to tell our son that he is going to die." The father went in and told the son. And the boy said, "Father I can't die, I am not ready to die. Father pray for my soul before I go into eternity." But the father could not do it. He had to let that poor soul die and he could not pray for him. He never got that chance back again. There is another story about a boy who had to die. The mother said, "Father you go in and tell our son, he will have to die." The father went into the room and he commenced to cry and he said, "My son you have to die." But the boy said, "Father I am not afraid to die, don't cry. I am going straight to Jesus. Ever since I was a little boy you have tried to lead me to Jesus." Is that not a sweet testimony from your child. To have him saved because you have done your best. There are so many broken hearts that need binding up. So many that would know the light if you would only tell it to them.

When your time comes to die, you are going to die, I don't care how rich you are. Your riches can not hold you, they can't ward off death a single minute. You lose your soul. What profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?

One day a lady, a good Christian lady asked me to come and have supper with her and to have a talk with her husband. He was a good moral man but he was not saved. I went to her house and after supper we went
into the parlor. The man, and his wife and I. I could not talk to that man. I lost my chance. Some time later she met me again and asked me to come and talk to her husband. I said I would come, but she would have to promise me that after supper she would go off and leave us alone, and give me a chance with him. Well after supper she went up to her room. I knew now was my chance. I said, "Don't you want to be a Christian?" He said, "Why should I be a Christian, they profess to be Christians and don't live up to it." He was a good man. If ever a man would have been saved for being moral, he would have been saved. But I said, "You know that isn't so." I said, "Mr. M. have you anything in the other world. If a man has everything in this world and nothing in the other world, there is nothing in it." With all your prosperity, there is nothing in it. It don't satisfy you. I said, "If that is so I want you to surrender to God." He gave me his hand and said, "I'll try." He wept like a child. God comes in and speaks such peace. He blesses you with love and peace and satisfaction. Won't you let Jesus in? The husband and wife were bound together with ties that could never be broken. God rejoices over you. There is nothing in it if you are not saved. Once there were two great men talking. They were multi-millionaires. Living in a palace. What do you suppose they were talking. Money, just money, money. They were so rich but they were still wanting more. There was an uninvited guest coming into that room. Closer and closer. Carrying a long scepter in his hand. He comes on unseen, closer and closer to that millionaire.
They were talking money, money, more money. And the scepter came closer and closer. And finally with one convulsive gasp the great man fell dead on the floor. "What shall a man profit if he gain the whole world, if he lose his own soul?" That is what you lose. You lose your soul. "He that findeth his life shall lose it."