WRIGHT (FRANK HALL) SERMONS, 1916

Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Hall Wright sermons
Dates: 1916
Accession Number(s): 1996-091
Extent: 2 inches
Language: Materials are written in English.


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

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  “Regeneration,” John 3:3-5, January 14, 1916 |

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"Regeneration."

We want to see the Kingdom of God, yet we will never see it unless we are born again. Born of water and of the Spirit. What does it mean? Can water save anybody? I believe it means the water is the symbol of cleansing. The symbol of the word the Holy Spirit uses to cleanse us. Psalm 119:9. How can a young man cleanse his way? John 15:3 — Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. —— By the word. John 17:17 — Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. —— Ephesians 5:26 — That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. —— I believe the water is the symbol of the Word. Hebrew 4:12 — For the word of God is quick and powerful. —— That is how the Bible teaches us. So that one time when we were preaching to some Indians, one of the old men said, "That man is talking about us; he is telling tales on us." No that is the Word of God. It fights with me in the innermost recesses of my soul. "Except a man be born again of water and of the Spirit." That the truth is the instrumentality, used for cleansing. So when you are where you hear the Bible preached you are right where God wants you to be, if they preach the word. You can never get to heaven unless you are born again. To join the church is not enough. This thing I am talking about is not a natural thing. I am not trying to make it easy for you. I am going to preach like I believe it.
Whenever a man is born again it is a miracle. It is wonderful to see a
dead soul raised to life changed in a minute. I will tell you exactly when it happens. "As many as receive him." That the minute you accept the Lord Jesus Christ you are born of God. You must have your heart changed. If the heart is not changed, you will never find God. You will never love God or Jesus or good things unless you are born again. God gives you a good heart. Now you love all bad things, then you will love all good things. There was once a young fellow by the name of Lucius he was an interpreter. He said to the Indians, "Now you must not have just one shirt. You must have one that you keep nice and clean for Sunday. Don't have just one suit. Put on nice clean clothes when you go to church. Make all clean, house, yard, everything nice and clean." A Christian's house, body and heart is clean. This is a clean religion. That is true. Where ever Jesus gets into the heart, you have a clean heart. And if the heart is clean you want everything around you clean. The Christian people are the clean people. Where ever the Bible goes, it makes a difference. Jesus is the inspirer of all good things. There are just two great classes of people in the world. The normalists and the abnormalists. A normalist is a man who believes everything started from one little nucleus. That then it developed higher until it came into the vegetable kingdom, then into the animal kingdom, and afterwards into humanity. Well if any man wants to believe that he came from a monkey, that's all right. Let him believe it. I don't believe it. I believe that God
created this world. A normalist don't want God. He don't call the Bible the word of God. He considers it a piece of literature. That is all right if he wants to believe it. He don't want to accept Christ as divine. Denies that Jesus was made flesh. So he cuts out all the supernatural elements. He always talks way back in such and such a century. Of course they have to go way back. Because we know the things believe never happen in this time. For instance I have never seen a goose turn into a hen. I never saw a monkey turn into a man. I knew of one great normalist who is said to have manufactured his last specimen. They talk about a missing link. We have got a sure thing. We have a heaven and a Father and a Spirit and angels. We know they are there because we believe this Bible, that is the word. How do I know there is a heaven? I have never seen it, never heard it, never smelt it, never touched it, never tasted it. I never saw London, never heard it, never touched it, never tasted it, but I know that if I would go over there I would find it. Why? Because I have read it, because somebody who has been there has told me so, and I believe it is there. How do I know about heaven? Because God gives us the testimony right here. The Bible. My conscience tells me it is there. My eyes might fool me. Once I shot at a coyote and I missed it. My eyes fooled me. Some times my senses fool me. Some times you think you hear something, you go and tell that person what you heard about her and you will get yourself into trouble. This
Bible never fools anybody. A normalist believes only what he can touch or see or hear or smell. "In the beginning God created." I believe in God. I am an abnormalist. He believes God made everything all right in the beginning. Then something abnormal happened. God revealed his son to us. Jesus left heaven and was born in a manger, lived on earth, was crucified, was glorified and ascended into Heaven. A normalist don't believe that. I am an abnormalist. There is another abnormal thing going to happen. God is going to change you, because you are ruined by sin. Sin ruined your mind, ruined your soul. So there you are ruined. Your affections are ruined. You love the things you ought not to love. If you sin you can not love him. When you boys and girls grow up you will hate God. What your mother taught you, that your mother prayed for you will not help you. Another thing is that sin has ruined our memories. We soon forget the Savior. You get sick, and you say if the Lord will only make you well, you will serve him. You get well and you forget all about that promise. You eat three meals a day and you forget to thank God. When you lie down to rest you forget to thank God. All since sin has ruined us. We are in a bad fix, we will never see God unless something happens. That supernatural thing is going to happen when you are born again. You must be born again. Because your father and mother are Christians is no guarantee that you are a Christian. Because your father and mother gave you to the Lord in baptism and taught you the word of God,
is no guarantee that you will be saved. They hoped you would come out and say you personally accept Jesus as your Savior. "To say, "I am willing to be saved and I accept Christ as my Savior." You cannot talk to any one else until you take that step. You have to do it yourself. You know better if your mother has taught you.

One day a young man came to Dr. Torrey. He wanted to be a preacher. Dr. Torrey said, "Are you a Christian?" He said, "Well I guess I am. I am not going back on my raising." "Have you been born again." He said, "I don't know what you are talking about." Dr. Torrey told him to read Matt. 22:37. -- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy strength and with all thy mind." "This is the first and great commandment." He said, "Do you do that? Do you put God first in your business, first in your pleasures." "No I can not say that I do." "Then what have you done?" "I have not loved God with all my heart and soul and mind." "Then what are you?" "I am the greatest sinner in the world and I did not know it." You have to come and confess Jesus yourself else you never will be saved. You are a child of wrath and disobedience. If you have never been born into the kingdom of God you may fall into hell this night.

"He that believeth on me is not condemned." "He that believeth not the son shall not see God and the wrath of God abideth on him." You have heard the story of the man who was bound down, could not move. He had a sword suspended above him by a horse hair. That hair twisted and twisted until it broke. The sword pierced the man's heart and he was
Some of you are already dead. Unless God comes and takes away your condemnation, you will die. I'll tell you how the Apaches once tortured a man. Those blood thirsty men. They staked him down to the ground so he could not move, then they caught a rattler and staked him down so he could just touch his victim with his fangs. The Indians knew that when the night air came that rawhide would stretch in the damp air and the snake would get its victim. The man would be dead. Ah to think that you are bound by your sins. Under the power of sin and satan. You are helpless, death is hanging over you. You are condemned already. You may never drink or steal or do any of those things, but Jesus Christ looks at you like at the drunkard in the gutter. Unless you be born again, you can not see God. The conditions of God have to be taken. Come to Jesus, call to him, say, "Jesus save me, I give my heart to you, save me." He is willing to do it. This regeneration I am talking about don't come by culture or education. A boy can be educated and cultured without being saved. Don't you believe that education will save you. Unless you repent you will not be saved. I knew of an Indian chief who had two children. He was a rich old man, and he sent his children to school. The boy got killed. That education did not do him any good did it? I have seen the Indians so surprised that the white people can know so much can read and write, and yet go wrong. One time some Indian men came to a commencement, and they said, "How is it that these white people can
read and know all these things and yet they are so bad." The man told him, "Well there are two classes among these people. One class the hearts are right. The other class the hearts are wrong and all the education won't help them any." I know of an Indian who lived a terrible life. He corrupted young men and women, he led men to drink. But he was converted. And after that he was a sad man. He was sad because he had ruined so many boys and girls. That man did everything to try to undo the wrong he had done. O how that man cried to the Lord. He told things about the Indian dances. All their dances were supposed to be more or less religious. But that man told us things that happened there. I tell you the Indians hated that man when he told all their terrible secrets. Nobody wants to have their sins found out. That boy had been educated but he served the devil until God changed his heart. If I had to choose between my boy and girl being educated and not saved and being an ignorant and being saved. I would have them saved. I believe in Christian schools. I tell you it was wrong to take the Bible out of the public schools. I don't see how you can teach morals unless you have the Bible. I say church schools for your children. What do you expect of your children unless you give them a chance. I believe what they will be they are by the time they are seven. The great majority of people are saved by the time they are sixteen. If we educate and refine our boys and girls will that be enough? No sir, they have to be born again. If they are cast out into darkness, who is going to be to blame? You can not make your
child religious, by sending them to church. Unless they are born again they will get out when they are old enough. We feel it is a joy to go to church and to read the Bible. Another thing, salvation is not reformation. I am glad when a thief becomes honest, I am glad when a drunkard reforms. But a man can cut off all his bad habits and not be saved. If I had a spring of water and a dog died in it, I would not go and try to cleanse the water. I would throw the dog out. Then the rest of the flow would be clean. You can cut off all your bad habits and not be regenerated. No man can live a white life if his heart is black. No use going to church and going through all the forms unless you want to be saved. If this church is dark, how do you suppose you can get the darkness out. You can not talk it out, you can not blow it out. You will have to turn on these lights. You need to let Jesus in, he is the light. What we need is regeneration, then reformation will naturally follow. Then the thief will quit stealing, and the drunkard quit drinking. I tell you the world expects it. God expects it. If you enthrone the Lord Jesus Christ you are born again that minute. Then you change your life. Many people join the church, many have gone into the church and have never been born again, they are lost right in the church. You ask them "Are you a Christian?" They say, "I am a member of the church." One time an old man went up to a young woman and asked her if she was saved. She said, "I am a minister's daughter." The old man answered, "That's nothing, I have seen many like that go to hell." No matter who you are or how good a member of the church, unless you
are born again you can not be saved. I know I am saved. It is a terrible thing if you can’t stand up and say, "I know I am saved." You say, "Well I hope so." "I trust so." But there are people who can stand up and say they know they are saved. I want you to get this fact seriously, without being pushed to it. Some of you don’t mean to do wrong, but when you are asked to stand up you do it to save your face. I know I am saved, not because I am good, not because I am a preacher. My hope rests on Jesus Christ. Christ redeemed us. He paid your debts on the cross. When you can say, "Lord I surrender." Then you have the right to know that you are saved. "But him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." He means what he says. If you come,—that is it, that’s the point. Won’t you come now? He will save you right now. I know I am redeemed because I gave my heart to Jesus. I don’t trust my feelings. Here is how you know you are saved. — "This is the record that God hath given us eternal life." — Don’t I have to earn it? I could not earn it because I did not deserve it. It is given to us. — He that hath the Son hath life—He that hath not the Son hath not life.— It is not presumption to take God at his word. I never had rest until I had rest in Jesus Christ. He can speak to the troubled heart. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Make peace with God before it is too late. If you have not surrendered, do it now. It is not baptism, it is not catechism, it is not joining the church, it takes place when you surrender your heart to Jesus.
It is the work of the Holy Spirit. -- By the word.-- What will you do with Jesus? When you get this regeneration I talk about, your victory is a forgone conclusion. Shall I continue to sin because His grace abounds, because God is going to forgive me? No, when you are born again, you will turn your back on the world and the devil. Rest on the finished work of God. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ you will not live in sin. You love him because he redeemed you. Faith is the victory that overcometh the world. You can be sure of triumph over death, over sin, over the devil, through Jesus. We keep our eyes on the risen Christ. I can look on this world and have nothing, I look up and have Jesus. I have no religion to boast of, nothing to boast of except my love. I know I am not fit for heaven. Jesus is my fitness. He is my advocate and intercessor. He is my hope, my all in all. He is real to you. Is the Christian life a real love for him, then it is the real life. You can not seek him in this half-hearted way. It is whole-hearted or not at all. It was George Fox who came into a meeting dead drunk. There were other men testifying how they had been saved. And George got the idea in his soul, "This is the Savior I need." When a man gets there he is close to salvation. He did not know how to pray, he had been so sinful, but he prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner." God heard that broken hearted prayer. When he had left home that night he had taken the last dime to get a drink. His wife said, "Don't take that dime, the
children are hungry." And he cursed her and took the dime. When he came home his wife said, "For God's sake George, where have you been." And he said, "I have been to a new place." There was to be no more taking the last dime to get rum. The dear children must suffer because that cursed stuff is sold. Now we ought to hate it. Jesus came and cleaned George Fox up, and put joy and happiness in his home. You are not as far gone as George Fox was, God can save you too. He can make you a new man or woman. Say you love God and hate sin. -- Whosoever is born again overcometh the world.