Descriptive Summary

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

Full finding aid available here: http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1125

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, 1916:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Heaven,” 1 Peter 1-4, January 17, 1916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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No man knows anything about the future, no one knows anything about God, no man knows anything about God's love except what we see in nature. The future existence of the soul and body is based on the resurrection of Jesus. Christ had to rise to complete the work of redemption.

As I have said before the future life is not ghostly. Not merely the spirits without the bodies after death. The religion of Jesus Christ includes the redemption of the bodies as well as the souls. A positive life of holiness, blessedness glory and perfection of the body, like unto the body of Jesus Christ. What I know about heaven is what I read in the Bible. "In my Father's house there are many mansions, if it were not so, I would not have told you." "I go to prepare a place for you," So there is a body. But whosoever denies that Jesus Christ is come in flesh is anti-Christ. That body appeared to the apostles after the resurrection. A spirit hath not flesh and bones. He took meat and did eat it in their presence. That same Jesus shall come in like manner and we as Christians look for his coming. I want to live. I would like to see the coming of Jesus. And see him translate us. If we die before he comes, we will be with him. But the redemption is not complete until the resurrection. When the body has received the redemption of Jesus. As soon as the soul leaves the
body it goes to Jesus. Phil. 1:23-24. -- More needful for them to abide in the flesh.

While in the body we are absent from the Lord. That is what it teaches us. Stephen said, "I saw the heavens open and Jesus standing at the throne of God." In other words officiating in the capacity of high priest for us in the presence of God. Stephen saw him and no doubt many another Christian has seen him. Appearing in the presence of God. The angels are there. The Bible tells us it is a place. John 17:24. -- Jesus will never be satisfied until every Christian is with him. The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ we have never conceived. Only by the spirit of God do we have the faintest intimation of this. What perfection of form, color, sound and odor and all things that we know about that appeal to the sense of beauty. We are entranced with the odors and sweetness, we are carried away with the colors of earth. What will be the colors where Jesus is, where sin has never entered to defile. We hear beautiful music in this world. I have stood out in the mountains, and called to one of my friends and heard the echo brought back to me. It sounded like a thousand heavenly voices. It was enlarged and more beautiful. Then I sang the song, "Man of Sorrows." And the echo came back so beautiful, so mellow, so sweet. I could hear the very words. It sounded like a thousand angel voices. Friends that is one of the most beautiful sounds I ever heard. What beautiful sounds we have heard. But they are all limited. Sin has limited
this whole world. But yonder. And he wishes that we shall see it. Everything God makes is beautiful. This old world is still beautiful. I have gone out in a Y.M.C.A. camp and what beauty we saw there. Those boulders, the rushing waters. And then when I looked out in the morning and saw those three crowned hills, crowned with snow. Those mountains that seemed so near and were so far off. How beautiful it was. But think of heaven. I have sat by the sea and seen the waves come in, the waves capped with white caps. The blue sky over the green sea. God made that seas. God makes beautiful things because he likes beauty. I have gone hunting for deer and was so entranced with the beauty of the scenery that I forgot to look for deer. I have dipped down into a dark valley where the remains of the snow still lay. And there was the first sign of spring. A beautiful violet. I thought how beautiful it was and wished I could transplant it. But I tried it and failed. I love the song of the cardinal bird at night. After the storm is rolling to the east. That is when the cardinal bird sings. God made that bird. God made that sky. God loves flowers, God loves beautiful sounds. This old world ruined by sin is still beautiful. What must it be in heaven? It is a place. Rev. 21:27 — And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh, a lie, — It is a place of congenial and ennobling society. Have you ever had a friend who always made you put your best foot forward. A friendship that was so pure so sweet, so ennobling. Think of heaven with friends
like that sanctified. Have you ever had a woman friend when you were with her you wanted to put forth your best. It is a friendship worth having. You are ashamed that things that are base in you might come to the surface. You did your best because of the influence of such friends. Nothing that defiles comes into that land. Your political influence, your social prestige will never get you to heaven. No oath, no lust, no anger, no malice. Love rules there, no hate. No contrariety of God's will. Perfect obedience. One of the sweetest things in the world is a home where the Christian religion is. I was once in a home in Texas like that. We had meetings during the week, but none on Sunday. And we were at this home on a Sunday. And the father said, "We will just pray at home." And the father prayed, and the mother prayed, we men prayed and the two children prayed. Little boy twelve years old prayed like a man. And the little girl prayed her childish prayer. It was the sweetest prayer. She commenced, "Dear Lord, we thank thee for the sunshine," And then she went on praying for us men. It just made our hearts melt. What a beautiful atmosphere where the love of God reigns. Where we get a glimpse of nobler fellowship. Heaven is a place of congeniality, a place of knowledge. 1 Cor. 13: 9. -- For we know in part, we prophesy in part.--- Is it not a wonderful thing. A place of increased knowledge. We are going on to know more and more. Ah, the infinite character of God. A revelation to know more than we ever knew about his providence and dealings with us. You will know some day, what you
can't understand now. I knew of a man who lost his boy. And one day another man met him on the street and asked him to come into his office. And he told him that when he lost his boy, he felt the same way. But one night he had a dream. He visited his boy in heaven. The boy introduced him to the Savior and showed him the glories of heaven. And when he was ready to leave, he asked the Savior if he could not take his boy along. And finally he persuaded the Lord to let his boy go back with him. And as they were ready to leave, the Lord dropped a scroll which he had in his hand. And it fell open at his feet. And the man saw there the story of his boy's life. Saw him in his childhood, saw him at school, saw him studying at night, then saw him taken into heaven. Then he saw his boy leave heaven with him. Saw him go off to college, saw him fall in with evil companions. And there he lost his boy. And then he said, "Lord keep my boy." What a comfort it is to know there is a place where we will understand all. God does it all for the best. He is going to show you some day how his actions were best. You might have lost your boy if you had kept him yourself. One day a man lost his little girl, and he was so angry with God that he raved. Angry with God for taking his little girl. Finally he fell asleep exhausted with his own raving. And in his sleep he saw a beautiful river and a shining band coming to this river and in this band was his little girl. Then he knew that she was saved, beautified and glorified, with Jesus and when he awoke from his dream he asked God to forgive him. He had fought against the love
of the God who knew best. To have the knowledge of the providence of God. All the perplexities will be made clear. A place of increased knowledge. When we die we know that we shall be like him, we shall see him. It is a place of rest. The rest of which the Sabbath day is a token. A rest for the child of God. If you abuse the rest of the Sabbath, you will soon wear out your soul and body. You cannot live out your full days and break the Sabbath day. You are made that way, that you require the rest on the Sabbath day. I don't know what your idea of rest is. My idea is change of employment. When I go on a vacation I play golf, go fishing and keep active all the time. I guess if you saw me you would not think I was resting. I have never found, doing nothing, very restful. That is one reason I make Saturday a day of change of employment. I used to shoot a bow and at night I would unstring that bow, and the next day when I had it ready for use again, it would sound like a fiddle bow. If I did not do that it would be punk. Turn over the day to rest and you can enjoy with greater zeal your worldly employment. Monday is just sweet to me. Heaven is a place of rest. Some men who work from morning to night say it is just rest. Nothing else. When Sunday comes it is such a blessing. I once went into a Kansas City packing house and watched the work there. One man's business was to cut off the sides of the swine. He no sooner cut one side and the other swine was right in place before him. If he had to stop to whet his knife he would have to reach way over yonder to cut off the side. He could not take his mind off of it. I thank God that Heaven is a place
of rest for men who work like that. The mother who has to work to make ends meet, to provide clothes and shelter for her child. Won't it be a sweet place of rest for that mother. It is a place of pleasure. The Bible says, -- At thy right hand pleasure forever more. Some people think that Christianity is a kill joy. That God who made you capable of pleasure don't mean it that way. You have an erroneous idea of God if you think it gives him pleasure to afflict his child. Do you think he limits you and takes pleasure? More that you may die to the worldly things the lower things and have the higher things. It is the price you must pay in this old world. Constituted as it is. Some of you have come so low in your pleasures. You take Jesus Christ and let him transform you. I tell you it will be different with you then. There are Christian pleasures that the worldling can never know of. Some of you may have the gift of music, but you never cultivate it. You are satisfied with ragtime. Others cultivate the same gift you have so that they can appreciate those deeper things. You have the capacity of joy in you. Have you let Jesus take hold of you and cultivate you? You will find a joy the world will never know anything about. A strange thing is that the joy of the Lord is in our emotions. The joy of the Lord is not in your strength, not in your culture. The devil, someone has said, offers you his best first and his worst last. Jesus offers you his worst first and his best last. You take the illustration of love.
I am certainly sorry for you if you can't love. I say when you have the capacity of love you have a great gift. But there are limitations. Sin has ruined us. This very best gift may be your ruin. Over yonder there is no sin. The love there is a pure love. It is sad to bury hopeless folks. With us it is as tho Jesus puts us to sleep when we die. Jesus will be there. How sweet it is to be a Christian. The dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Then who live shall go up together with those who are dead in the Lord. That is the comfort of the Christian, that we are going to be united with the ones we love. One time some men were waiting for a ship to come in. One of the men was crying. He was asked why he cried. "These are not tears of sadness but tears of joy," I said I would send for my wife and children and now they are coming." He saw them, he counted the children, and thought one was missing. He said to the other man, "Do you not see the fourth one." But then he saw it too. At last they were all there coming to be reunited again. We are going to be with those we love. With those asleep in Jesus. We will see that mother that father, that sister or friend. What would we do if it were not for the Christian religion. It is a place of reunion, no separation. It is hard to say goodbye to those who are taken away forever. But isn't it sweet to know that a brighter day will dawn, when you will be gathered in the heavenly family. Then we will never
say goodbye. Forever with the Lord. I hope we are getting ready for that beautiful place. There are affections on earth. But the affection that binds us to Jesus Christ is real and we are one great family in Christ. I once visited an old hermitage. A great big old house. I saw the slave quarters going to decay. I saw a tree and under that tree two marble steps leading down to what must have been a canal at one time. Now there was no water. I could imagine the lady coming down the path with her servants around her. I could just see her get into that barge. How beautiful it must have been there when everything was life and beauty there. Now everything was crumbling and in decay.

Now another instance. When after a number of years I went back to my college. I was shocked and saddened, all around there was change and decay. But over yonder there is none of that. No sin, no corruption, no decay. We shall be forever with the Lord. Let us give our hearts to Jesus that we might be saved.