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

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish." Should not perish—that is the key. When it comes to the love of God, we know nothing about it. We certainly can not find it in the laws of nature. There is just one thing about the heathen religion, it is fear. I have seen an old Indian chief light his long pipe to smoke. He would take the stem and point down first. God is a good friend he would wait, but the devil is an enemy and must be served first. Then he would point to God. Then to the east and the west and the north and the south. If there was any god anywhere, he did not want to impolite to anyone. That is their superstition. I want to say to you friends there is a great deal of foolish about God. People say God is too good to damn any body. But I say to you he is the God who destroyed the world before the flood. All but eight. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. He destroyed Jerusalem, he destroyed the people of Israel. He is the God who cast out the angels who sinned against him. This is the God that the Bible reveals and yet he is the God of love. Many a time a woman has come to me and said pray for my son. And I have not felt sorry for the mother but sorry for the son who most likely had no mother. I went
to school with a boy who had a mother who was too good to him. She
thought she was being good to him. She would say, "O he don't
like to go to school and I don't like to make him go." So she let
him do just as he pleased. You mothers who put the napkin around
your little son's chin, make him take the fork in the right hand and
the knife in the left, or around the other way if you like. You
tap him on the hand when he doesn't do just right. "Now son don't
put the napkin in the coffee, don't walk on the table, don't go to
sleep on the plate. You keep after him until it is a nuisance. Seems
like it anyhow. You don't allow that boy to be unbiased on anything
but religion. That boy became a liar and a thief, that is what
became of him. He could do as he pleased. Finally his friends got
tired of him and killed him. I knew that boy. It would have been
good if that mother had compelled him to do things. Folks talk
about the fatherhood of God. That he is the God who created us and
he will let us do as we please, that the kindness of God allows them
to anything they want. For instance, they break the Sabbath day,
turn it into a holiday, a party day. They steal and lie. And then
they say God is too good to damn anybody. He will make it all right.
That is the kind of a God some people have. We have gotten so
smart we bring religion down to suit the moral mind. I want to
tell you there is nothing in man to tell us what to do. If there
had been we would have no need of this Bible. Man was given four
thousand years of trial. If I don't preach the word of God, I
claim you have the right to personal opinions as well as I have to mine. A God of love but a God of compassion and yet a God of justice. God is certainly going to punish the wicked. There will be no transgression of the law of God. You have got to keep the conditions if you want to be saved. The law of God convict us of sin. It is a school master. It shows us our own condition. It leads us to Jesus Christ. So if we will trust Jesus God will save us. It is a rule of faith and practice, that is the idea. Jesus kept the law, I could not. I could not pay the debt. Jesus paid that debt. It is perfect obedience. If I am accepted before God it is because I trust Jesus Christ. This salvation is a won-

ful thing. Your conscience don't tell you what is wrong and right. The Indian has a conscience. He may do what is wrong and think it is right. We depend upon the Bible. The Bible enlightens our con-

science so we have enlightened judgement. I don't say that we are perfect, but our reason tells us God hates sin. You can not violate the laws of nature and not suffer. You can not violate the law of God. The heathen have a fear of that unseen God. The hea-

then prays to the four winds. Thank God we have got the Bible to tell us how to worship the true God. The judgement day makes us know God hates sin. It is a matter of divine compassion. I once saw a consumptive on his death bed. He was ready to die. He wanted to be with Jesus. He saw a glass of water on the table,
he was so thirsty but he could not drink it. That is one of the terrible things about that disease, you can't drink or eat, you might say they die of starvation. He had no means to feed his body. He was glad to find Jesus, he was saved. He had the hope of God the hope of heaven in him. Because he had a spark of that divine love. That is what sends missionaries out. God's love never changes. It don't change toward anybody. He loves the sinner. He loves his enemies. It is a strange kind of love. It is divine compassion. He knows that we are under the power of the devil and his compassion goes out to us. One day I came home and I heard an animal crying. I found a nest of little rabbits. The little mother rabbit had come back and there was a hateful serpent devouring those little rabbits. Devouring her little ones. What a pitiful battle it was. She struck at that snake with her little paws. You could see the fangs go out to that mother rabbit. That snake threw the poison through those fangs into that little rabbit. The little mother was poisoned night unto death. Her eyes were blazing yet she hit again. And those fangs struck into the body again. What an unequal fight it was. How glad I was to destroy that snake. What a pitiful sight to see the helplessness of that little rabbit. Friends that is a beautiful picture of our helplessness. We have the poison of sin in our souls. We are dying with that poison. The results of sin are tremendous. There
broken hearts. There lives under the power of sin. Men with wonderful capacities, brilliant men gone down in drink. We can never know what God hears from the tyrannized the oppressed, the weak the down trodden. There goes up an awful cry because of the poison of sin. God listens to the cry of humanity. He so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son. -- There is a peculiarity about the love of God. When you consider it, it is not strange. I tell you about these mothers who let their boys do as they please. I didn't have that kind of a mother or father. About the last time my mother punished me it was going with that very boy who was killed. Just because your child joins the church you have not given up the responsibility. You have got to pray for that child just as long as there is breath in your body. I have prayed for my son all my life. I prayed for him when he was in school. When he finished school I prayed the Lord to give him a job. And then I had to pray the Lord to help him keep it. I guess I will have to keep on praying for him. My mother loved me, she would not let me ruin my soul going with that boy. One time I told a lie. My teacher said I did so it must have been so. My father was not the kind that would jump on you in a fit of anger. He waited until Monday. I tell you I had a hundred punishments before that punishment came. I would a great deal rather have had him punish me right away and get it over. But he waited and then
he talked to me about the sin of lying. He said, "My son I have to punish you, I don't like to do it." That was an old chestnut with him. I guess every boy thinks that is a chestnut. "I hate to do it." I tell you it did not look to me like he hated to do it. He did the best job I had ever seen or heard of. When he got through punishing me he hugged me. But it didn't look like he loved me very much. Then he whipped me a second time, and then he hugged me again. I tell you I didn't know how it was going to come out. I was astounded. When I had quit crying enough to look at him I saw he was crying too. I tell you that was unusual. You could not get tears out of that old Indian father. It made a profound impression on me. It hurt him to his soul. It was the last time he ever had to punish me. He loved me and he did not purpose to have me go on lying and be lost. God loves us with just such love as that. One time I went into a hospital and saw a poor mother bring in her child. It was a beautiful child, but right on the side of its head there was a great knot. There was a surgeon there and he said that knot had to be cut out. She said, "But I must consult my husband first." And the doctor said, "You are running the risk of losing your child if you do that." And she said, "If I let you operate on my child will you promise me that it will be all right?" But he could not promise that. She wrung her hands and wept. She loved that child enough to give
her life for it. I saw her take the garments off that child and
give it to the surgeon. Then she rushed out of the room. I tell
you it was a terrible thing to see that mother. The operation was
successful. The doctor sent me to tell her. I reckon he had noticed
that I had been interested in the woman. I wouldn't be surprised
if I had not shed a few tears. I went to where that woman sat with
her eyes covered. Afraid of what the news might be from that room.
And you know I can talk pretty fast, but all I said to that woman
was, "Madam you child is all right." Was not that good news to
carry to that mother. That mother was willing to let her child
suffer that it might have a longer life. One time a mother
and her child were traveling in a stage. It was cold and the
child was wrapped up in a shawl but the mother was ill prepared
for the cold. The driver saw the mother becoming benumbed with
the cold. He said, "You get out and walk a while." He kept
the child with him. And when the mother was out of the stage, he
set those horses running and left the mother. And she ran scream-
ing after the stage. That is just exactly what the driver wanted.
The forces of her blood set back into circulation. He saved her
by making her suffer. He wanted to keep that mother from dying
from the cold. We allow the people we love to suffer. Be sure
if you are a child of God you will be chastened. He knows how
to save a mother or father. He takes a little one to glory that you may be saved. One time I saw a caravan coming along the road we were traveling on. There was an old cow following that caravan. My companion said, "Mr. Wright do you know why that cow is following that caravan? They have her calf in there and she is following it." That cow had the mother instinct. She never left the caravan. At night when they stopped to rest, she would stop too and in the morning she would go on with them. It is a homely but a beautiful illustration of how God gets folks. Some times he takes a little one out of your home so that you may be saved. It is the love of God. You will find that God loves you in a most marvelous way.

When Lazarus' sisters came and said, "He whom thou lovest is sick." Jesus did not go to him. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters. That was for the glory of God as we know now. He raised him from the dead. That is the power of God he can raise the dead to life. -- He that is asleep in Jesus shall wake and go to be with him forever. There is a purpose for everything that God does. You need not be discouraged because you have sorrow and sickness. It is a love that is active. Not a mere sentiment. A person that shows active love is a friend. -- A friend in need is a friend indeed. --

You have heard of the man who went to the dying soldier and wanted to read out of the Bible to him. But the man said, "I am so thirsty" and the man gave him water. Then the soldier said "I am so cold" and the man took off his coat and gave it to him. Then the dying
man said, "Now you can talk to me, if you please." The active love, that is it. That man did all he could for that soldier. How do we know that God loves us. When we look on the cross we know it. If you do just what God tells you you will be saved. When God told the people to make a serpent and nail it on a pole. He said, "As many as look at this serpent shall be healed." There were two classes. One said, "I don't see any sense in that, how is that going to heal my snake bite?" How was anybody going to be cured by looking at that serpent? A great many people are condemned because they will not look on Jesus. Look on him and be saved. -- Whosoever believeth shall not perish but have eternal life. No matter where those men were, if in the uttermost limits of the camp, if they looked on the serpent they were saved. If their eyes were already poisoned by the snake bite, if they could not see the cross but just looked in that direction they were saved. You do what God tells you and you will be saved. It is a love that is active. Abraham obeyed God. Isaac was his only son. He took the wood and the fire and his son. And the son said, "Father here is the wood and the fire, where is the lamb." How Abraham must have felt. He said, "God will provide himself a lamb." They built the altar together. And then the time came. Certainly Isaac was obedient. He let his father tie him and bind him. And Abraham laid him on the altar and took a knife and then the
angel called to him. "Abraham lay not thy hand upon the lad. For now I know that thou fearest God." He was willing to offer his only son. When we look on the cross and hear Jesus crying, "My God why hast thou forsaken me." And God in love and compassion let Jesus die for you. If you look on Jesus by your faith you will be saved. I say God's love is an active love. Not a love of mere sentiment. He is not a vengeful God. He is a God of justice. He must punish the wicked. The wages of sin is death. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is a gift. There are souls that pass the limit of God's affection. There are some that resist the Spirit of God once too often. As I live I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. If a man is not a Christian and is lost in hell, God takes no pleasure. Come to Jesus now. It is a love that rejoiceth over the saved sinner. There is love over the one sinner that repenteth. The shepherd left the ninety nine sheep and went out into the mountain to seek the one that was lost. And when he had found it, he said, "Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep." More joy in heaven in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner than over the ninety nine. If you will accept the Lord the angels will rejoice. Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Won't you say, "Lord Jesus I trust you, I am a sinner and don't know much about it, but I will trust you." And there will be joy over you in the presence
of the angels. It is a love that can be rejected, a love that can be refused. When you reject Jesus you reject the one who died for you that you might be saved. I say it is a realm of affection. I know a woman, way out yonder in a new town. She endured the hardships with her husband trying to make a living. She bore a burden. We young men used to go there. She would invite us in, when the dust was flying, we sat down to a nice table. How we enjoyed her hospitality. It was peaceful there. Then later I was in that place again and went to see her, and lo and behold the husband had been untrue. The love in her soul had been killed. Her eyes were hardened. She said if it were not for the child she would leave him. A ruined home, a faithless husband, all because he had sinned against the one that loved him. It was a greater sin because he sinned in the realm of affection. But there is a sadder thing than that, when a child breaks the heart of a mother. If God has blessed you with a mother don't you fail her. I once knew of a boy whose mother tried to take him to a revival. The boy left home. She wrote to him, and he refused to answer those letters. If you have a mother don't you fail to write to her. There is no body in this world loves you like your mother. Finally she grew ill and sent for the son to come home. But the boy did not go home. By and by a little spark of love awoke in him, and he decided to go back home and see
his mother. He got off at a little station close to home and his heart began to misgrieve him. He was afraid it was too late. He could not go home, so he went around to the cemetery. And there on the family plot was a new grave. Then he knew that his mother was there. All that remained of her was there. He fell on his face across that grave and cried to God. When morning came his soul was redeemed. But too late to bring any comfort to that dear heart. How glad it would have made her just to see him coming home. She would have taken him into her arms, a glad light would have been in her eyes. Would it not have been sweet if he had done that a little sooner. Don't put it off, do it now. He broke his mother's heart. A greater sin because it was in the realm of affection. It is a greater sin when a soul rejects Jesus. Because you reject God. Tonight if you will give your heart to Jesus God will rejoice over you. He will forgive you sins, he will bury them, he will burn them. That is the way God shall forget. Then you commence with a clean life. What a hope for the sinner. If you have been a vile sinner, God says, "whosoever" that means you. Whosoever shall believe shall not perish but have life.