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.

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

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"Fitness for Heaven."

Who will get there? We have talked about it as a place which is prepared for us. A place Jesus wants us to see. Where he has prepared a home for us. Everything God creates is beautiful, so heaven must be a glorious place. A place where love is, a place of increased knowledge, a place of rest, of reunion, of no separation. A place that fadeth not away, kept in heaven for us, and now the question is, "Who is going to heaven?"

I once read about a gambler who was going to Coney Island. He was late and so he had to run and just jumped on an outgoing ferry boat. Then he heard strange singing, and he asked the captain what kind of a boat that was. The captain said, "This is a Sunday School picnic boat. Well that man tried his best to get out of that boat. He was out of his element. He was going to the races, and here he was in a Sunday School boat. Well what do you suppose you would do if you got to heaven and had never been born again. You have to prepare for business and everything else. Man's actions regarding heaven are as if it were a matter of no importance. Whereas this is a matter of great importance. Fitness for heaven. First you have to have a title for heaven. No use building a house until you have a title. You get a title for land. No use talking about fitness for heavn
until you have a title. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that is your title. Then your title is settled. Then you are fitted for heaven. A great many folks believe that God has nothing to do with that. You can tell whether we are acceptable to enter into heaven by the plans we make. Col 3:1-3 -- If ye then be risen in Christ seek those things which are above. Are you doing it? How many are seeking the things which are on this earth, and not the things above. Set your affections on the things above. You can tell what a man's plans are by his affections. Are you making any preparations for heaven. --As a man thinketh in his heart so is it.-- There was a place for Judas, do you suppose he went to Jesus? No he went to his own place. What other place but to hell could he go to. One time there was a missionary who had served the Lord devotionally. But when he came near to death the devil whipped him out. That is the way, he tries to take advantage of your physical weakness and tries to keep you from heaven. This old man thought he was lost. Thought he had committed an unpardonable sin and was going to hell. Some other missionaries gathered about the death bed. And one of these men had a sense of humor. It is good that folks have sense of humor. Sometimes if a man can not see the funny side of things he would be overwhelmed. A missionary has to have a sense of humor. This man said, "Brother Hotchkins what are you going to do when you get to hell?" The old missionary said, "I am going to hold a prayer meeting." You could not put that man into hell. He had the work of Christ in his heart. But just for the minute the devil had obscured the light of his faith.
One time a rich man was dying and he blamed the pastor for being lost. But the pastor said, you have always been a very generous man. The rich man said, "You are to blame, you never warned me." Is it not terrible? The time comes to all when opportunity is ripe. Every opportunity you had for doing good is a serious proposition. If we could look at ourselves as God looks at us it would be a serious matter. He said the preacher was to blame. Although men live out of harmony with God some of them think when they die it will be all right. If you don't want to take up the cross and follow Jesus now do you think it will be different when you get over there? If your heart is not right you will get to the place where you belong. If you have never changed your soul you will never see the kingdom of God. The joys of this world are worldly. Some people are satisfied in worldly joys. They will be so absolutely unprepared for the heavenly joys. The companionships of heaven are ennobling. Your companionships if you have not been saved are ungodly. You will not be changed if you get there. You preserve your own personality. You have to have the change right now. Christ is over there. What do you think will happen over there if you have rejected him here. -- Not any one that say to me, Lord, Lord, but he that doeth the will of my Father that is in heaven. That is the man. A great many people think that death changes you. It changes your place of abode, but it does not change you. Death has no power to change you. The change the Bible
says is that you must be born again. Your mind is destroyed, your conscience is destroyed. Ruined by sin so that you can not serve God. You will be the same there, you will be yourself, death can not change you. You have to be changed now. A great many people entertain the hope that when they die it will be all right. What is death going to do to you but change your place of abode. You will go to your own place. There will be no change in your character. If you are not ready for heaven you will not get there. One time a bad man died. They got a preacher, a man right out of his own sphere. That man died in his sins. The preacher said, "He is in hell right now." It actually happened. The man preached as he believed it. And the widow backed him up in it. She had lived with that miserable man. You can not preach a man into heaven. Of course we entertain a hope. But if we know how he lived and know that he died like he lived you can know where he has gone. Of course there is the possibility that he turned to God in his last hour. I am not a firm believer in death bed repentance. What time has a man for that when he is about to die? In these piping days men are so sensitive when a man dies we do not let anyone in to talk to him about it. The doctor says no, the nurse says no. So the man has no chance to save his soul. It would be better if somebody got into that room and warned him. I say it a possibility but not probable. How we delude ourselves about this business. Death has no power to change your character.
If you neglected Him and refused Him how do you expect it will be there? If you have any body who is unsaved, it is time you should talk to them about their souls. Pray for them. Do all in your power to save them. Unless you would have records that you have not done your duty. That is a great question. How can you stand to see friends about you going down and not have any interest in their souls? One time I was asked to a funeral of a young man who had gone down in drink. The mother asked me and said, "Won't you preach at his funeral?" I said, "Madam, what can I say?" And the woman cried and said that he was a good boy. Well I did not want to argue with her but I knew he had not been a good man, but a very bad man. His own preacher told me, "Mr. Wright five minutes before that boy died his mother and another woman were trying to find something to alleviate his suffering. And that boy said, "If those damn women don't get that stuff here soon, I will be dead and in hell." Do you believe a man like that was going to heaven? What could I say at that funeral? I said this to the men standing around in the yard," There is just one thing, did we do all we could for this man while he was living? "Are we faithful Christians? Have you prayed for their souls? That is a very serious question. We needn't hug any delusions about it. If that man dies and with his last breath repudiates Jesus Christ do you think death will change his soul? No sir. So we must be born again to be prepared for that land over yonder. Just
to love Jesus and to be willing to work for him. It is fellowship. Heaven is filled with ennobling folks. Saved through Jesus Christ. He kept the law for us. We are saved by trusting in Jesus. Over there there will be no sin in us. We will be perfectly holy. It is a prepared place for prepared people. Heaven is home to the saved man. Body mind and soul glorious in the kingdom of God. That is what we are coming to. Give yourself to Jesus, be humble and penitent. Promise God you will serve him until you die. I tell you you will never get saved unless you repent. God's law about this matter is that you believe on him. Through faith you shall be saved. Unless you have Christ you shall die in your sins. It is an awful thing, it is sad. I once stood at the grave of a young woman who had died in her sin. I asked is the mother a Christian? No. Is the father a Christian? No. Was the daughter a Christian? No. Think about one of your loved ones in a Christ-less grave. No use entertaining any hope. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is my beloved son, hear him. How many are saved, believe your soul is redeemed? How many are seeking the things above? You will have to answer that question in the presence of God. I don't know your heart. -- For many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able. -- If you have any doubt about it, I beg you to get right with God before it is too late. May God save your souls.