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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There is a close connection between faith and a good conscience. Love out of a pure heart, out of a good conscience and faith unfailing. This love springeth only out of a good soul. Without real faith there is no good conscience. Without reconciliation of the conscience there is no true love. Faith is a practical thing. I preach that a shipwrecked faith is infidelity. The cause, that is what we want to talk about. Faith influences conduct. Faith without work is dead. If a man has faith in the Lord he is going to live it. You cannot say you have faith in Christ if you do not live it. So faith influences conduct. Faith on the other hand is influenced by conduct. The heathens have just as good a chance as any body. They don't want the religion of Jesus Christ. The first thing a missionary has to do is to create the desire. Then satisfy the desire. When I was in the Shian country, the Indians asked me to give them a feast. I told them I was feeding the souls not the bodies. Oh we feed them sometimes at a camp meeting. And one time when I was working among the savage Indians I made up my mind I was going to give them a feast. They wore civilian clothes but they were savages. But I thought the feast would get them together. I thought this is the time to show my pleasant feelings for them.
And then a medicine man went to the Indians and said, "Don't you go to hear that man, he calls us crazy. There it is, he did not want the Gospel. You have got to show them their need. The heathen is just like any body else. It is just through the mercy of God that we are not like the heathen worshiping the stars and the sun and moon. They have all kinds of worship. When they see what the Christian religion means they do not want it. I remember preaching to Jeronimo's band. It was at night the moon was rising. I said "is there anybody here who wants to be saved"? I can see those hands now against the dark sky. And yet when I told what the Gospel meant they did not want it. When they know that they can not have but one life and they can not sin, they don't want it. It is nice to have a religion that don't bother you in your sins. It is very comfortable to have that kind of a religion. I tell you the religion of Christ requires a cleaning up. Of all the hard headed vain people in religious life, the savages are the worst. It is terrible to see the wall of indifferent pride around them. They pride themselves to be wise and become fools. You take the people who run off into any kind of an "Ism" they come and talk to you like they know it all and like you were an ignoramous. Yet they are going contrary to God's word. I say confess yourself to be wise and you become fools. Insipid. They make God sick, if that language be allowed. I am sure these fools in religion are just insipid in God's sight. I say faith is influenced by conduct.
If Jesus is what he claims to be he is the divine son of God. God said, "This is my beloved son, hear him." If you want to know more truth live up to the life you have got. If you want to know more about his will, do his will. If you do what God tells you to do he will show you. If you are lost you will be to blame. Faith is influenced by conduct. That is the reason when people work in a church they will be saved by that work. One time there was an infidel at a meeting. The minister was preaching———Let him that heareth come, --- Whosoever wants to let him come———At the end of that service the infidel came and said, that seems like it is wide enough for me to come in. Of course it was wide enough and he accepted the Lord and was saved. And He will save anybody who will surrender and accept the Lord Jesus Christ. Men believe in God. Put your trust in Christ. All you have to say is that you accept Jesus as the divine Savior. That infidel confessed Christ. I know that man. You are not all saved in the same way. Walter Roe who is the best Christian I have ever seen said to me," I never had your experience, I felt it my duty to confess the Lord and I did it." He is always sincere. There was never any one better at his work or any man so filled with the holy Spirit as is Walter Roe. We are not all converted in the same way. Some are converted like Paul with great emotion. I know a man who said he hated to be saved because he hated the process. God converted Paul in a single day. Knocked him down and
blinded him. You don't think you have to have Paul's experience do you? Zacharias fell out of a tree and was converted. Moody says he was converted somewhere between the limb of that tree and the ground. Lydia was converted in her own quiet way. Each one is converted in his own way. We all have different opportunities and environments. Just think of Jesus being a Jew, we never think of that. He is the universal Savior. Step out and do your duty. A man once came to Moody and said, "I have doubts, if they can be explained I will be a Christian." Mr. Moody said, "Promise me this, that you will accept the Lord if I answer those doubts." Well that man thought Moody had trapped him. I tell you men are sensitive about their doubts. No sir, that man was mad. The next morning the man said, "I accept the Lord." Moody said, "Alright bring on your doubts." The man said, "I have not got any." God takes away your doubts. Trust Jesus. He says, "Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." I used to drive some oxen. And don't you know if those oxen were well trained they would come right along and stick their old heads under the yoke. Jesus uses plain words so that folks can understand him. Do you want to be led into the truth, take the little light you have, obey Jesus. Faith is influenced by conduct. A sure way to lose your faith is to commit and cherish a sin. You have thrown your
conscience away. That conscience told you you were going to do wrong. You did it. You are on the road to ruin. You did violence to that conscience. Some of you choke your conscience almost to death. You think you have killed it. The day will come when God will turn that conscience on you. The torment of hell is a soul torment. Fear God. Hence I say that the conscience is the judgment that tells us what is right and wrong. Not always. But if you live in the light you will do what your conscience tells you is right. The thing is that God looks at the spirit. You are trying to do what is right. Promise God if he will show you Jesus Christ divine you will accept him. It is just as easy as that and you will be saved. You run a ship by a chart and compass. On a dark night there is the little chart and compass to guide you and you go right along. A captain once said, I never run my vessel by my feelings. People come at you and say, "I don't feel saved." Sometimes we mistake our feelings. You take Jesus Christ and you are sure anyhow. That captain always run his ship by the chart and compass never by his feelings and he never failed to bring his ship to port yet. Your conscience is like that. If your conscience is not right you will go on the rock. The way to choke that conscience is to live in sin. As we live a holy life we will see God, we will understand more of his will and character and providential dealings with us. The seat of the Lord belongs to those that fear him. I will tell you the result of doing what you know is wrong and cherishing that wrong in your soul. That man is going to loose his life. I don't know of
a single expression better for that than throttled convictions. You resisted him, you procrastinated, you put off until tomorrow. If there is anything that you cannot conscientiously do, quit it. If you want to have light you want to keep the light shining in you. If you want to see the perfect day. There are three steps to take. The first of these is avoid bad company. -- Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. -- That is the first step, bad company. It ruins a multitude of souls. Your conscience tells you what is good but your friend appeals to your love of pleasure and he encourages you to do things and the first thing you know you have done it. Stop and listen to that conscience. You try to make excuses for what you know is wrong, and you are losing out already. "Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." You will notice that when a man starts doing wrong he is ashamed at first. His conscience tells him he is wrong. When a boy first swears it brings him shame, but if he goes on after a while there will be no shame in his heart. You are asked to do a questionable thing, you know your duty and yet you do it. I tell you it brings shame to your soul. It ought to. You live below your light. God calls you to service. You allow a questionable thing, you know that it is questionable. I tell you that is the way to lose your faith. Just do what your friend tells you to do. And the result will be you have taken the first step to perdition. The first step is not easy. You are asked for example to break the Sabbath. You are asked to go to play golf, maybe you are asked to go to the theater on Sunday. You know you ought not to
do it. Some ungodly person comes and persuades you to do what you know is wrong. You go there. Your conscience is true to you. You do it with unrest. But the time will come when you will lose your conscience on that thing. That is a sure way to be lost. You lose your conscience and your light. God will not give you any more light if you don't use it. You are asked to take a drink. You know it is wrong for you to drink and yet you take it. You are ashamed the first time. It is your conscience. You don't go down without a struggle. Then the first step to perdition is to do a thing that you know is wrong. You are asked to allow a wrong, you know it to be wrong and yet you allow it. That will lead you to the next step. The second step is standing in the way of sinners. Now he is so that he can take pleasure in doing wrong. He is hardened. Like cement. Very soft at first you can do anything with it, but after a while it is hard and you can not change it. You are settling in your life. You are settling your character. Keep a good conscience if you want to keep your faith. One of the last serious symptoms of spirit death is a loss of a quick conscience on the matter of doing wrong. I once knew of a woman in a happy family. There was the mother and father and a large family of children. So affectionate and so loving. One day that mother fell ill. An operation was performed. The next morning the family asked the mother how she was feeling. She said, "I have no pain." O they were so glad that the mother had no pain, she was better. But later in the morning the
doctor came and he went to see the mother. And he said, "It means death." The whole family was overwhelmed. Their confidence was shaken in a moment. In their ignorance they had misinterpreted the symptoms.--- You say "I used to believe in the Bible and Jesus, I don't believe any more. I used to pray, I have lost my praying spirit." You flatter yourself that you have outgrown it all. That did very well when you were a child. You think you have gotten so wise now you don't believe it, it don't amount to anything. And lo and behold you have misinterpreted the symptoms. I say the judgment is closer this very day. You are nearer death than ever. The change is in you. You have lost the feeling and you flatter yourself. The most serious symptom of Spirit degeneration is the loss of a quick conscience on the matter of Christian doctrines and morals. Then the third step,--- Blessed is the man who sitteth not in the seat of the scornful. When a man comes to where he can make sport of religion he is coming to the last point. You had the light and you refused the light and the darkness has come. You have lost your faith. You are shipwrecked. It is sad to see a shipwreck. Nothing has ever awakened the world like the Titanic. That magnificent ship. There over a thousand souls went to the bottom of the ocean, there tonight the sea holds it dead. All the world stood aghast. It is a most terrible thing to see a shipwreck. I tell you it is more terrible for one person to hit the rocks.
You allowed it, you committed it. You did not repent and the little light you had went out. By degrees your feelings went down and out. You are going to lose your faith. God will take the light away from you because you refused it. You will lose your muscle if you never use it. If you do not use your eyes you will lose your sight. If you don't use your soul light you soon will not have any light. God gave you a little light, follow that light. And it will grow brighter and brighter. You will get more light. I will give you an illustration. One time a little Japanese boy went to an American school. He read the American books. He heard that the Americans knew the true God. He wanted to know the true God. He said, "My father cuts down a tree and makes a table out of part of it and out of the other part he makes a god. I can not worship that god." He stole away in a ship. That ship landed in China, he had a little sword and he traded it for a Bible. Then he stole away in an American ship. The ship landed in Boston. When it came to port the owner of that ship heard about the little Japanese boy. He took that boy to be his own. He gave him a college and a seminary education. That boy was converted. He found the true God. That boy was Joseph N. Hardy. Now a missionary. That is the kind of a God we serve. If any where in this old world there is a human soul crying for the true God. God will not let that child go down in darkness. Down in the way of dark superstition. That is the kind of God we have. If you will only follow the little light
he will give you more. If you want to lose your faith, commit a sin
cherish a sin in your soul and you will be a shipwreck on the shores
of eternity. It may be that I am talking to some one who started
out in a Christian family, and now you are ending in darkness. You
started by doing what you knew was wrong. You cherished that wrong
until you are where you are now. Unless you repent you will be lost.