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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“Influence of Mothers,” January 7, 1916

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The Bible says, train the child in the way in which it shall go and he will not leave that way. If we want our children to know the way in which to walk we should teach it to them when they are yet children. So many children are not in the Sunday school or in the church, and so many that are in the church are not real Christians. Some times the fathers are to severe and some times the mothers are too lenient. It is where the father and mother work together that they come to that happy mean that goes to raise children. Where the father is not a Christian it is very hard for the mother to save any of the children. The chances are that one of the children will be lost. Most generally the son. Statistics show that where only one parent was a Christian fifty percent of the children were saved, and where both parents are Christians seventy five percent of the children are saved. And so after all is done and said a great many of the children are not saved. Statistics show that out of every six Sabbath school children two are saved. And this is found where the children are out of professed Christian families. A great many people are Christians but have their children lost. What a sad spectacle where the parents are faithful and yet the children are not saved. Some times it is due to the fact that the parents have become Christians too late in life. We have waited too long before bringing the children to the church. I know of a family where the father was a drunkard, but late in life became a minister. The only son in that family is not a Christian. One of the daughters
is trying to live a Christian life but another daughter is astray and brings sorrow and trouble to the mother's heart. And it seems to me that was because the father is reaping his oats. He became a Christian too late in life. You are bound to reap what you sow. It is a terrible thing to think of our children lost and yet if we have done the best we can and know, what more can we do. It is a very sad question. Some of you have sons and daughters that are not coming to church. And how many of them are saved when they do come. There seems to be no handle by which to reach them. The only handle to reach them with is to be a Christian when you are young. The Bible says to educate or nurture the children in the discipline of the Lord. And of admonishment and chastisement. Sometimes you have to do more than admonish children. Sometimes it takes chastisement. I don't believe that anybody but the parents can raise their children. Not even their grand parents. And God will hold the parents responsible for their children. Notice it speaks of chastisement. We have come to an age where people don't believe in chastisement. It says to chasten them while there is yet hope. Before the evil days come. We believe that we have come to where we have different methods. Whenever I think of that it makes me think of and old book we had that was called, "Gentle measures with the young." But some children need gentle measures. Some boys don't need brushing up. But some do need chastisement. I once knew of a teacher who every morning before starting his class would have the boys take off their coats and give them a whipping. One morning he was doing this.
And then one of the boys said, "But sir, we are the confirmation class."
But it is said that he did not quit. I suppose he thought it would
not hurt the rest of them to whipped now that he had gone that far.
I don't believe in that kind of thing of course. I don't believe in
punishing children when you are angry. I have noticed some people
never think of punishing their children until they are angry. Until
they are just about red hot. I remember of a time when my father
punished me very severely. He prayed over that punishment. And it
hurt him to have to do it. Praying and then punishing goes will to-
gether. We have the illustration of Eli the prophet who spared his
sons. He would only go out and say, "Now my sons it is not a good thing
that you do." But he was told that both of his sons were going to die
in one day. And they were killed in one day. And when Eli heard it
he fell from his chair and was killed too. That is the way it goes.
God dishonors the men who dishonor him. We can not get away from it.
Some times women come to me and say pray for my boy, and I want to tell
you many a time it is not "poor mother" but "poor boy", who never had
a real mother. You are to blame if that child is lost. / God holds
you responsible for the way you neglect your children or take care of
them. Some boys need the strong hand of the father and the mother can't
do it. I don't care anything about the ambitions of life but I won't
give God any rest until my children are saved. I purpose to use my
influence on my children. And I want to say that we certainly have to
commence young with them. I want to tell you that the spirit of God is
the author of regeneration in the child as well as in man. It says,
"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." Before the evil
days come. Some one has said that conversion is the adolescent phenom-
enon. Then if your child is not converted by the time it is sixteen
the chances are it will never be converted. If they have gotten to be
twenty and are outside they will not be saved. They will be forever
what they are at twenty, practically. Only about one out of ever
thousand souls are converted after they are seventy. Salvation seems
to be the time of youth. A man once came to me and said, "pray for
my oldest son. He wanted to be a Christian when he was young, and I
stood in his way. And now I can't get him interested." Oh, I would
rather err on the side of leading a child into the church too young,
than to err on the side of keeping them from it until it is too late.
When they join the church it does not relieve us from watching over
them. It does not relieve us from admonishment and chastisement and
educating them. When you stand between a child and Christ you don't
know what you are doing. You may forever discourage it. The forces
of sin may overcome it. Satan is never asleep on his job. Who is to
blame if that child is lost? We had better bring them in. No in-
flluence is as strong as a mother's influence. Like mother, like daughter.
And his mother's name was. It makes all the difference in the world
who your mother was. I have often asked children are your parents
Christians. "Yes, they are members of the church." Children said that.
They don't want to be pushed on it. They want to say all they can.
We often hope our friends are Christians, but we so often know down
deep in our hearts that they are not. I can see how the influence of
my mother's life acted on my life. The teacher's influence is one of
the best influences in a child's life. I know my teacher had a wonderful
influence over my life. I remember how she used to say, "Don't do right because some one is going to approve of it. Don't do right for fear of punishment. Do right because it is right." Many of you can look back to some woman who has been the spiritual influence in your life. Nothing is so blessed as Christian womanhood. You know I never did know the circumstances of my conversion. I started in a prayer meeting in my mother's room with a little Choctaw boy. I asked my mother what faith was. That prayer meeting grew. Other boys heard of it and wanted to come. It grew until some good woman took us all under her wing and taught us, and there resulted a revival that swept the whole community. I never knew how it started until one day, a friend of my mother's asked me, "Well Frank, do you know why you children were saved? We mothers got together and got to praying for our children. God heard our prayers and you were brought to Christ." Back of it all there were these praying women.

We who have Christian mothers and fathers ought to be ashamed if we are not Christians. I ought to be ashamed if I were not a Christian. I know that my mother was a Christian and I know that my father was a Christian. There are some who have not had that influence in their lives. And I want to say to you, all the more honor be to you, if you are a Christian. I hope you may think, "I missed what others have had and I want others to have the blessings of a consecrated life, in so far as I can give it to them." We who teach and preach have the deepest influence on the souls of our fellows. And it is up to us to get right with God, up to us to be faithful so that God's blessing may be upon the lives we reach.