

# All Things

## Part 1

Speaker	Frank Wallace
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*Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.*

[00:00:00] Now we turn please to Romans chapter 11 and we'll read from verse 33.

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God, how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out. For who hath known the mind of the Lord or who had been his counselor or who has first given to him and it shall be recompensed unto him again. For of him and through him and to him are all things to whom be glory forever. Amen. For of him and through him and to him are all things to whom be glory forever. Amen. Now the epistle to the Ephesians chapter 1 and we'll read from [00:01:02] verse 11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. That we should be to the praise of his glory who first trusted in Christ in whom he also trusted after that you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that you believed you are sealed with that holy spirit of promise which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of his glory. Now chapter 3 and verse 8 unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given that i should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of christ [00:02:04] and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world had been hidden god who created all things by jesus christ to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of god according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in christ jesus our lord. Now lastly in revelation chapter 21 and verse 1 and i saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first death were passed away and there was no more sea and i john saw the holy city new jerusalem coming down from god out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and i heard a great voice out of heaven saying behold the tabernacle of god is with men [00:03:07] and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and god himself shall be with them and be their god and god shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying neither shall there be any more pain for the former things that passed away and he that sat upon the throne said behold i make all things new and he said unto me right for these words are true and faithful.

Now for those of you who haven't been here the two previous evenings we've been considering a term that's often found in the new testament two simple words all things and on wednesday evening [00:04:01] we considered the term in relation to the holy spirit and on thursday evening we saw it in relation to the lord jesus himself and tonight we're attempting from the scriptures that we've read together to speak about the term in relation to god himself now i think you will acknowledge that the scriptures that we've read together are profound and yet most encouraging and i do not presume to attempt to expound them in every detail that's too large a task but just to draw from these passages

something to strengthen our faith i know that and you know too that in the new testament there is a mass of instruction regarding our individual pathway of responsibility and our collective pathway of responsibility tremendous amount of material [00:05:07] to help us in those two fields and of course when we consider them we have to bow our heads in shame and say well we've all failed both individually and collectively and without shirking the responsibilities that belie that belong to our responsible pathway individually and collectively good to be occupied for a little while with the wonder of what god is doing and of course when he sets himself to accomplish things it would be blasphemy to suggest that he'll never be able to accomplish what is his will we know that because of who he is every detail of his plan and will will be accomplished in spite of any failure on the part of man even in relation to israel and we think of the appalling failure as we read in the historical books of that nation [00:06:07] we know that in the end god's purpose in relation to them will be fulfilled in every detail and so it is with the assembly i just want to make three references to other scriptures very very briefly because the fact is there are so many references connected with god and they're all so attractive very very difficult to decide which scriptures to use but i just want briefly to refer to three and the first is an encouragement to those who are engaged in any form of evangelical work and you remember the disciples said to the lord jesus after a certain incident who then can be saved and the lord said with god all things are possible and in the realm of reaching the [00:07:01] unconverted that's a good thing to keep in mind because when we look at people and we reason naturally we say oh so and so is a fine upright young man he would make a nice christian the truth is that the most depraved person would make a fine christian if they come if he comes to the lord jesus so with god all things are possible and do not give up in your tract distribution or in any form of evangelical work keeping that in mind that it's god it's god who works all things according to the counsel of his own will i'm using that statement because it's in another context but it's true it's really god who works in the hearts of the unconverted affecting their conscience and bringing them to a place of contrition and repentance the other one is most encouraging and it's found in romans chapter 8 where you remember among other things paul says the god [00:08:07] who gave his son shall he not with him freely give us all things now note it's with him and the all things that we get are wonderful things and not one of them would in any way dishonor the lord jesus it would be blasphemy to think that god would give us anything that would bring any disrespect or dishonor upon his own beloved son so we can say and we ought to have said this at the beginning that each mention of all things has to be considered in its context it doesn't always mean the same thing but we believe there in romans chapter 8 it's the whole scope of divine blessing that we get in association with christ with him all things [00:09:02] what a tremendous scope that is lastly and this is a very solemn one and you remember in hebrews chapter 4 it speaks about the god who knows everything and all things are open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do now that's a very very sobering scripture we cannot possibly exclude our movements from the eye of god we cannot shut ourselves out from his piercing eye he knows everything about us even our thoughts are far off he knows every detail of our lives oh what a sobering scripture that is all things are open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do good for us if in transparency of motive and deed [00:10:06] and word we can walk before him in a way that is pleasing to him now we consider briefly the scriptures that we've read together this passage at the end of romans 11 is a remarkable one a doxology to our god a bursting out from the heart of the apostle praise and worship to god he's been taking account of the movements of god with jew and gentile and he has shown how god has had mercy on them all not a question here of the church a question here of the position of testimony in this world for either jew or gentile and how when failure came in the jew was set aside and the gentile was brought in and when the gentile was set aside or rather when the fullness of the [00:11:03] gentiles came in then the jew is said the jew is brought in again into the place of testimony that term the fullness of the gentiles i think we said this on thursday evening refers to the completion of the church and the end of that particular feature and so when paul takes into account the

complexity of god's workings his wisdom his knowledge how untraceable his ways he breaks out into this marvelous statement at the end of chapter 11 for of him and through him and to him are all things to whom be glory forever i hope you don't think that this is a simplification of the epistle to the romans but i present it to you for your consideration just search it out and i think you'll find that [00:12:01] what i'm going to say is true two little prepositions can give us the character of the epistle to the romans and they're found here of him and to him now just look through the epistle to the romans it's always good when you're searching for something specifically in the bible it makes it far more interesting now you go through and notice how often things are mentioned of god that is they originated in him they proceeded from him and of course man is the object of them great wonderful unfolding of god's salvation and what tremendous blessing is involved in it but then that's not the end when we come to the end of the epistle it doesn't end up with saying oh we're all going to heaven and we're all going to be like christ and it's going [00:13:04] to be very wonderful that's true and that is wonderful but it doesn't end that way the last few verses of the epistle to the romans says to him to him be glory and i believe in those two prepositions we have the thrust of the holy epistle what proceeds out of god and of course comes to us through christ and then what returns to him in praise and worship and also bond men to god yielding our bodies to god that is the response of those who in any measure appropriate what has come out from god and so i believe if you look into this very carefully in the epistle to the romans you will see its import but now let's consider it for a few minutes wonderful statement again i say paul is talking about god's dealings with jews and gentiles and if we tried to unravel [00:14:06] the complexity of the matter we would get lost because we are unable to take into account the moral complexities that exist failure here failure there humility here humility there and a host of other things all bound up in god's dealings with the jews and the gentiles but paul says you can safely leave this in the hands of god let me read them again oh depth of riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of god how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out there paul is taking account of the inscrutable dealings of god that man is unable to apprehend well maybe apprehend a little certainly not able to comprehend but paul is referring to the greatness of god who is able to take account of all the different things that are necessary [00:15:03] in those two great companies jews and gentiles because you know that chapters 9 10 and 11 of romans are dealing with this very important matter that if there were jews who were converted to christ and to god it was quite right and understandable for them to turn around to paul and say oh it's all right paul you're telling us about this heavenly blessing you're telling us about this great company the church the body of christ but what about all those promises that were made to abraham and all through the old testament and to the prophets what about them are they all to be forgotten are they all going to fall to the ground and paul says oh no and so in these three chapters he unfolds how eventually all israel will be saved god's purpose in relation not so much the church exactly but to the gentiles will be fulfilled all will be according to his [00:16:05] mind and will no wonder the paul paul breaks out in this great doxology we get all mixed up if we bring the church into this because the jews were never in the church i mean as jews the nation of israel they weren't grafted into the church neither were the gentiles grafted into the jewish nation it's a question of the testimony here upon earth given to jews and gentiles at different times if we keep that in mind we won't get mixed up now just again these three prepositions of him isn't it marvelous to think that it's the great eternal living god who is working things they're proceeding from him his plan and his plan cannot fail an impossibility [00:17:03] and i feel that's tremendously encouraging when i look at my work i have to say well things could have been done much better we all know this in our work whatever we do for the lord we're all conscious it could have been much better but when we think of god it's impossible to think that anything can be better that he does it's perfect must be so all that comes of him originating from him must be perfect in every detail so there is the plan the origin if you like of all the workings of god then it says through him and i understand this means the agency and we find that very very often the term is used in relation to christ and we

know of course that the ultimate blessing of all people no matter who they are is because god works through christ but here it stands related to god himself not only does he make the [00:18:06] plan but he's the worker to fulfill it and my when we think of the mighty power of god irresistible omnipotent tremendous power which he puts forth for the fulfillment of his plan who's going to thwart it satan impossible man impossible god will fulfill his plan in every detail and then it says of him through him and to him praise god that the end result will be eternal worship and praise to god as we mentioned in prayer it's a great triumph that here upon earth in the midst of so much that is contrary to the mind of god and conscious too of so much failure in ourselves in simplicity and i trust in sincerity [00:19:04] we can praise god not only when we gather together but in our homes in our lives lifting our voices in deep thankfulness to the god who has blessed us in such a wonderful way but both from the jewish nation and from the gentiles many many untold numbers that will be converted to god in the time of tribulation and the church every conceivable circle will provide its quota of praise and worship to the god who worked to fulfill his own plan and dear brethren we are part of that everyone here tonight who belongs to the lord jesus is part of that great plan and so we have to ask ourselves are we sufficiently thankful is there sufficient praise and worship coming from [00:20:02] our hearts as there ought to be day by day and two when we come together while of course when we gather to the name of the lord to remember him there is an ideal situation for praise and worship to god but i believe every occasion prayer meeting ministry meeting bible reading any time we come together is an opportune moment to raise our voices and praise and worship to god wonderful wonderful opportunity of him through him and to him to him says the apostle are all things to him be glory forever well i think the all things here would take into account what we're saying god's dealings with his ancient people israel his dealings with the gentiles who were brought into the church and also the gentiles in the future who will be blessed when the great [00:21:05] deliverer comes and that will be a wonderful moment when he sets up his kingdom now we move on to ephesians chapter one on thursday evening we were talking about everything that was headed up in christ which we believe will be expressed in what we call the millennial kingdom the world to come when everything that failed in the hands of men will be expressed publicly in this world for the glory of god and two to express the pre-eminence of christ but then paul says we're not exactly waiting for that to take place before we have blessing and so he goes on to say in whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated or marked out according to the [00:22:01] purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will we have an inheritance now we've obtained it now he says in whom also we have obtained an inheritance and that is our position heirs of god and joint heirs with jesus christ and this has been accomplished by the one who works all things after the counsel of his own will now if we just think for a moment how god set aside his earthly people because they were his inheritance in a past day he blessed them took them out from egypt and said that they would be his people his inheritance oh how they failed until god said not my people but then god wasn't frustrated [00:23:03] because he works all things after the counsel of his own will and he secured his eternal purpose as it says here in setting up the assembly in christ christ and glory his body here upon earth his eternal purpose marvelous thing but he says those who form that company have obtained an inheritance in christ that is that when the inheritance the earthly kingdom of christ comes into being then you'll have part in it but before it comes into being you have the earnest of it now in the possession of the holy spirit my that's wonderful the god who works all things after the counsel of his own will has decreed that we should receive the holy spirit who is the earnest or the pledge of better greater deeper things to come [00:24:06] there's a very sordid story in the old testament the story of judah and tamar and yet that sordid story is perhaps the best passage that you can turn to to understand what is meant by the earnest the pledge and you remember that judah gave to the woman whom he thought was a harlot was a harlot his pledge that when the time came she would receive something from him i think it was a goat and some money and what he gave to her was the guarantee that she would receive this it's a

sordid story but it perfectly illustrates what the earnest means the pledge that better things are to come praise god there's nothing sordid about this [00:25:02] form of truth it's marvelous that each of us has received the holy spirit which enables us in some measure to understand the principles that will obtain in the world to come and we enjoy them the earnest of the inheritance the pledge of it there are two other features of this of course you remember eshkol's grapes that were brought back from the land that was a pledge of what existed in the land that once they possessed it then they could enjoy the fruits of the land also the gold and silver things that rebecca obtained from eliezer they were a pledge of the greater things that were in the hands of isaac given to him by his father they were pledges of the great things that would belong to her once she was married to isaac so wonderful that we have the holy spirit now that gives us some anticipation [00:26:07] and some enjoyment of the inheritance that is to come god works all things after the council of his own will and that great object was that we should be to the praise of his glory who first trusted in christ that is there were jews who trusted in christ then ye there were gentiles who trusted in christ but in this context there were those who trusted in christ before the kingdom was set up because then there will be a whole host of jews who accept the lord jesus christ as their messiah and will worship him as such but we have preempted that in this our day in that we have believed in christ and we are getting the gain of the inheritance [00:27:04] before ever it arrives isn't that wonderful and says paul this is the god who works all things after the council of his own will that we should be to the praise of his glory so here again you have both sides first of all the blessings that we receive and then the praise to the praise of his glory what does it say who first trusted in christ well i'm not competent to enter into all the details of this passage it's a profound one but it's most encouraging if we just take account of that one phrase that means so much in connection with what we're saying tonight he works all things after the council of his own will by that's wonderful he's not going to be [00:28:02] thwarted he's not going to be turned aside because of the failure of man or the opposition of man or the power of satan he works all things after the council of his own will we can safely leave these things in the hands of god he knows what he's doing he's wiser than we are and oh how thankful we are that things will work out for this great point in view that we should be to the praise of his glory who first trusted in christ just one word here about receiving the holy spirit in whom you also trusted after that you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that you believed you were sealed with that holy spirit of promise sometimes a great deal of discussion about this passage when do we receive the spirit [00:29:03] when was it that we believed was it at the time of the gospel or was it afterwards and i may be simple but i feel there's a very very simple answer to it if we just take things as they come and read the account in the acts of the apostles when the ephesian believers received the holy spirit and when did they do that we read about it if i remember rightly in acts chapter 19 and you remember paul went to ephesus and he found there were 12 disciples there and they had been baptized to john the baptist or rather they had been baptized under john baptist baptism that's perhaps the more accurate way to place it and says paul did you receive the spirit always never heard that the spirit had come and so paul spoke to them about christ told them about the lord jesus his death his resurrection and ascension [00:30:04] and they believed and what happened they received the holy spirit now it seems to me that that's the clear historical explanation of this passage that they received the holy spirit the ephesian believers when they received what paul preached to them now it says paul it's the earnest of our inheritance unto the redemption of the purchase possession unto the praise of his glory and we believe the purchase possession is when the lord takes possession of what he has secured as his death you remember it says that he tasted death for everything and the time will come when he'll take possession of it and that of course involves our bodies too being changed but principally the whole universe will come under the sway of this glorious man he is the earnest of that [00:31:02] and surely that should encourage us and raise our spirits in anticipation of that day when we shall have part in that inheritance according to the purpose of him who works all things after the

counsel of his own will marvelous statement and we can be absolutely sure even suppose everything goes to pieces upon earth suppose the enemy appears to take full control and everything belonging to the lord is shattered to pieces suppose that were to happen we can rest absolutely on this statement he works all things after the counsel of his own will and everything that he has purposed and especially in relation to the inheritance will come to pass now chapter three unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given that i should preach among [00:32:03] the gentiles the unsearchable riches of christ and so on the statement i want is at the end of verse nine who created all things by jesus christ to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of god according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in christ jesus our lord i think this is one of the finest passages that we can read to let us know why this world was created god has always a reason for what he does and the creation of the universe wasn't by chance it was part of the eternal purpose i often quote this in christ connection that when old shakespeare said [00:33:02] all the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players he was stating something that was profoundly true although i'm sure he didn't understand the full implications of what he said but this is what god is telling us in this passage that he created all things by christ jesus that there might be demonstrated on the platform of the world his eternal purpose and that of course preeminently involves the incarnation of the son his marvelous pathway of perfection his death and resurrection and ascension to glory and the formation of the church principally because it's his eternal purpose which was purposed in christ jesus and you know that the purpose in relation to israel is connected with earth from the foundation of the world but when we read about the church the eternal purpose in connection with that [00:34:05] it's before the foundation of the world his eternal purpose marvelous thing to consider that the creation of the universe was not by chance it was not something that evolved as man says it did it was deliberate power on the part of god that he might have a platform where he could display his eternal purpose and thank god he has displayed it well what a marvelous thing that is and we're not talking about ourselves as being players far from it we're an integral part in the purpose of god and any part that we play now is for his pleasure and his glory and says the apostle that the all varied wisdom of god might be seen in the working out of the [00:35:02] church here upon earth and when we say that we almost bow our heads in shame and think of all the havoc that's been created in the church the divisions the enmity the hostility the blasphemy the things that have taken place in the professing body upon earth is far from expressing the all varied wisdom of god yet dear brethren this is the eternal purpose of god and although we can't see it i believe it does work out that there is that in the bosom of the saints in the heart of the saints that demonstrates the greatness and glory of god's wisdom and his eternal purpose let us read those words again to make all men see what is the administration of the mystery which from the beginning of the world had been hidden god who created all things by jesus christ to the intent [00:36:03] that now and to the principalities and power places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of god according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in christ jesus our lord may be one of the distinctive ways in which the wisdom of god was seen was the complete setting aside of distinctions between jew and gentile something that could never have happened by human regulation or by human administration but did take place through the work of christ on the cross the enmity was set aside and jew and gentile were brought together in one body in christ and that certainly was wisdom of the highest possible caliber and then in the working out of that there is the all varied wisdom of god let me say [00:37:06] just one word of a practical nature in first corinthians chapter 12 you remember that various gifts are mentioned and it says to one the gift of wisdom so that in any company of christians gathered to the name of the lord bowing to the headship of christ and free to receive the actions of the holy spirit amongst them we can expect wisdom to prevail wise decisions wise counsel what for to promote the interests of christ and of god to promote the interests of all concerned wisdom what a wonderful thing it is here mr mcbroom used to exhort us continually

with all you're getting get wisdom wisdom is the [00:38:06] principal thing and so we believe that wonderful thing to have in any company of christians someone who can impart wisdom in connection with any problems that exist no matter what they might be to the end that god may be glorified through his beloved son and so praise god here is god's eternal purpose christ and the church the great truth of the mystery administered here upon earth so that all might see and principally principalities and powers in heavenly places while there might be a demonstration publicly to people upon earth the main thing is to see it working out to the intelligences above oh how wonderful that is we might be very very much concerned about our walk before men and well we might be [00:39:06] in our public witness but to consider that there are heavenly intelligences looking on as to how we comport ourselves in relation to these great truths is a very very humbling and challenging matter indeed our behavior in every way our dignified comportment that is pleasing to the lord in a demonstration of divine wisdom in a practical way oh how wonderful that angels heavenly intelligences are looking on to this well may the lord help us in relation to these things now just for a few moments in chapter 21 of revelation what a wonderful vision john saw a new heaven and a new earth completely new [00:40:03] something that had never been seen before everything that belonged to the old order completely removed every evidence of all that had come in through adam through the fall and through all the failure down through the centuries even in connection with israel and also in connection with the church every vestige of it gone forever not a single thing remaining that would remind people of the fall and its consequences the heavenly city the time of administration was over but there in all its perennial freshness is the bride christ's body that which is precious to his heart oh what a marvel that that company will be for his pleasure and glory throughout eternal ages and dear brethren we'll be there we'll be part of it [00:41:08] how thankful we are that we can see this that they're coming down from heaven place that it belonged to coming down in all its glory and all its beauty and you remember in ephesians it says he'll present it to himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing and it will maintain that freshness and that blameless character that sinless character throughout all eternity and will bring joy and gladness to his heart and so we hear from the voice of god himself i make all things new we are so constituted that day by day we see evil all around us and unfortunately [00:42:01] we know only too well its workings in us and how difficult it is to anticipate a scene like this where neither sin or sorrow nor anything evil can enter no distracting thought no evil intrusion everything new oh how wonderful behold i make all things new oh how wonderful to anticipate that day when we shall be there there's another passage that anticipates that day you remember in first corinthians 15 when the lord jesus hands back the kingdom to god without any deterioration attached to it no enemy from the outside outside attacked it or destroyed it or affected it and no dissension from the inside affected it the lord hands it back to god as he received it or perhaps even better than he received it [00:43:07] because he reigned until every enemy was put down under his feet but he hands back the kingdom to god and then it says that god shall be all in all and i believe this is the scene that we are contemplating and that's the great thing we might get occupied and rightly so nothing wrong with it at all the fact that there were no more tears and no more pain and no more sorrow i remember a bible reading at fin docty once and they were talking about this great day and someone said well you know you shouldn't be looking forward to that scene simply because you've got arthritic pains and remember brother joe mears who knew a great deal about arthritic pains well he says that might be true but you'll be very glad when you're there and you won't have the pains and i think we would say i'll say amen to that but that's not exactly the point the great thing is that god will be all [00:44:07] in all now god is always all he cannot be anything less than all but the fact that he is all in all is a marvelous consideration that in every created intelligence god is supreme in their affections and their understandings and also they are responding to him in a way that is worthy of himself dear brethren that's wonderful we are all conscious of our weakness here in our response oh would that our responses were warmer and fuller and deeper and more sincere but

they will be in that day i don't know of any scripture that tells us about the power of the spirit operating in that day and perhaps mr darby's hymn is the nearest to it by the spirit all pervading hosts unnumbered [00:45:06] round the lamb and we believe yes even as creatures we will always need the power and service of the holy spirit even that eternal day but the great thing is all things new never to deteriorate never to grow old never in any way to be affected by any adverse power oh how long for that day it will come and so we live in patience well may the lord help us now i commend to you this study of that term all things you'll find many many more in the new testament and they're very very interesting there are many many more in connection with ourselves and they're very very interesting too so search them out and you'll have a mine of wealth may the lord bless us for his namesake