

# STRANGE EXPERIENCES OF THE DOCTOR

by

Walter Lewis Wilson, M. D.

Copyright © 1937

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### THE ATHEIST DOCTOR

It seems both strange and sad that so many of our fine physicians do not believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. They do their work well. They are kind to the afflicted. They spend their lives in the service of others. They will go at any hour of the day or night where duty calls. They realize the seriousness and the danger of death, and yet make no provision for the safety of the soul who dies. They make no provision for their own souls. This story will relate to you the blessing that came to one such physician who was practicing medicine in a small town in Kansas.

Dr. White had graduated from a medical college in which there was a very fine Christian physician who gave lectures to the students. This professor's faith and his godly life had attracted and won the admiration of the young student. He had often said that this Christian doctor was his favorite teacher. In addition to being a good Christian, the professor was an excellent teacher, and was thoroughly versed in his subject of medicines, their character and their uses. He was able to impart his information to the students in such a way that they were able to retain the instructions.

The young medical student was not interested at all in Christianity; in fact, he was quite opposed to Christian doctrines and principles. The real reason for his opposition lay in the fact that he loved his sins, and did not want Christianity to hinder his free and easy way of living. Rather than get rid of his sins, he tried to blot out Christianity, thinking that thereby his conscience would be eased, and he could live as he pleased. He remained away from Gospel services, ignored the Bible, and made a mockery of Christian things.

It was my good fortune to be called to this little city where Dr. White lived, to hold a series of meetings in the Presbyterian Church. As is usually my custom, I inquired of the pastor concerning the spiritual life of the physicians of the town. He informed me that some of them were friendly to the Church, and would sometimes attend the services. Others were not at all friendly, and remained away constantly from services of every kind. He particularly mentioned the antagonism of Dr. White. He made known his atheistic doctrines and theories to his patients, and rather gloated over the victories he had won in private debates with Christians. He was aggressive in his unbelief and active in propagating his wicked theories.

The doctor should be a believer.

- He sees the miracles of the human body.
- He sees the wonderful workings of mental processes.
- He sees the tragedy of dying in the dark.
- He observes the cruel ravages of sin which wrecks the human body.

He should realize, above all others, that Christ Jesus alone can transform the heart and implant in the soul a love for righteousness and a hatred of sin. He knows very well that all he can do is for the body, and after that he can do no more.

- He sees the death of the saint, where peace and rest abound and comfort fills the heart.
- He sees the death of the wicked, where fear and dread and hopelessness pervade the whole soul and heart of the patient.

All of this should stir his heart to want to be a real Christian.

Having heard of the attitude of Dr. White, I presented myself at his office and requested an interview. This he readily granted. He took me into his private office, and as I entered the door, I was delightfully surprised to see, hanging on the wall, a framed picture of the Christian professor he had so much liked while in College. I said to him, "Oh, I see you have Dr. Wilson's picture hanging on your wall. Did you like him, and did you enjoy his classes?"

He replied with some joy, "Yes, Dr. Wilson was my favorite professor. He was a sane and sensible Christian, and was able to tell what he knew in a way that made me remember it."

"I am glad to know this," I said, "because he was my father. It is a joy to me to hear one of his students speak well of him." Up until now, the doctor had been somewhat formal and stiff in his attitude toward me, but now his whole demeanor changed.

"You cannot know how glad I am to meet you," he said, with much joy. "I consider it an honour to know a son of Dr. Wilson, whom I esteemed so highly, and I certainly am happy to have you call on me. Are you the preacher who is preaching over at the Presbyterian Church?"

"Yes," I answered, "and I came over to-day to ask whether you cannot spare a little time to attend the service. I believe you would enjoy it."

The doctor became quite friendly now as he invited me to be seated opposite his desk where he took his place in his office chair.

"Dr. Wilson," he began, "your father tried to talk to me about religion, but I never could see anything in it. I am an atheist. I do not believe that the Bible is true, nor do I believe in a God. Sometimes I wish it were not so, and that I could really believe what you Christians believe."

This frank response pleased me.

I saw that through the years, troubles, problems and difficulties had made him more thoughtful and more considerate. To me this was a good sign. It indicated that God was working in this man's heart, and that perhaps he would not be so difficult to reach as the pastor had thought. Sometimes we place men in positions of antagonism and opposition in which they really should not be placed. Oftentimes, we shall find that those who seem to be hard and difficult to reach, are not quite so antagonistic as we thought. Let us approach every friend that we would win for Christ with kindness and courtesy.

"Tell me, Doctor, what it is in the Bible that you do not believe. There are many things there that you must admit are true and accurate. Perhaps you just refer to certain particular things that are not pleasing to you, and which you hope are not true. Is that correct?"

Those who make the broad statement that the Bible is not true, should always be given an opportunity to tell just what things the Bible says which they know positively to be untrue. This will pin the friend down to specific facts, and will probably take the foundation from under his feet. It was so in this case.

The doctor replied to me, "I do not know any of it that I believe. It seems to me to be just a lot of fables and oriental stories with the colorings of the civilizations of that time."

I continued my question by asking, "Do you refer, Doctor, to things that the Bible says about ants, and trees and gravitation and precipitation? Do you think that what the Scripture records about the rise and fall of certain kingdoms is not true?"

"Do you also question the veracity of the statements in the Bible about birds and their nests, sheep and their lambs, the evil results of sin in the human life? Do you believe that the Bible gives incorrect instructions when it says that the husbands should love their wives, and that the children should obey their parents, and that kings should rule in righteousness and equity? I can hardly believe, Doctor, that you deny these basic principles."

His answer was not long in coming. "Oh, no, I believe all of that. I do not know a better code of ethics or standard of morals than that which the Bible gives."

"Thank you, Doctor," I said, "this relieves my mind considerably, for now I see that you are a believer in part, and that you do admit that some parts of the Bible are quite true and dependable. Tell me, Doctor, just exactly what particular thing in the Bible you feel is untrue and inaccurate."

He answered at once, "I do not believe in a God Who would punish anybody. The Bible says that God will put people in Hell and burn them forever. That idea is repulsive to me, and I do not want anything to do with a God of that character."

"Doctor, what would you do with the vile, filthy people of earth? Would you expect to find all the people in eternity enjoying the same blessings and privileges? Would it be in your mind that if there is a God, He should overlook all the sins and wickednesses of men, and take them all into His own great home to live with Him as His companions?"

“Do you think that this would be right?”

“Certainly not,” he said, “that would not be right at all, but I do not believe that they should be punished in Hell.”

The doctor was becoming more earnest by this time. He was meditating more carefully, and I could see that my kindly and logical answer or question was causing him to do some very serious thinking.

“Doctor, what would be your idea of what God should do with vile sinners?”

He answered, “I think that there should be degrees of reformation after death, but I cannot see this eternal burning business.”

I saw that the doctor was not as firmly fixed in his convictions as some had thought he was, and I felt happy to continue my conversation, and began to do so when a patient entered the front office, and the doctor said hurriedly, “When can I see you again?”

I answered him by saying, “To-night I will preach at the church on the subject ‘Will a good God punish wicked sinners?’ This sermon will be exactly what you want, and I believe it will help you.” He promised to come, and said he would lay aside everything else to come and hear the son of his old favorite professor.

As I sat on the platform in the church building, I watched the door anxiously and eagerly, waiting for the coming of Dr. White. As the second song was given out, he entered the auditorium and took a seat near the back. The pastor and I had agreed that we would pray for this friend, and look to the Holy Spirit to bring the light into his dark heart.

In my message that evening I called attention to the fact that God would judge the sinner and would punish him according to His own estimate of that sinner’s sin. Man judges and condemns according to man’s estimate. Man would like to make God judge and punish the sinner according to man’s estimate of the guilt.

One of the illustrations used struck home to the heart of the doctor, and I watched his countenance as it took on a decided change in expression as I told the story of a little girl. The story was as follows: “Suppose, my friend, that you should tell me that you have a lovely little girl ten years of age with beautiful brown eyes and lovely, attractive brown curls. She is your only daughter, and you love her deeply and devotedly. As you come home from your work some evening and pass along the walk that leads down to your house, sitting back in the woods, you hear a loud scream of agony and fear, with other screams of fright and of terrible pain. The voice sounds like the voice of your beautiful little sweetheart. You drop your packages and run as quickly as possible to the clump of bushes from which the sounds emanate. There you find a brutish fiend choking, beating and assaulting that lovely little body. He is injuring her terribly and treating her with cruel beatings.

“What would you do now to reveal your heart of love, and to prove to us that you are a kind, devoted, loving father?”

At this point in the story I hesitated a few moments in order that the audience might fully realize the seriousness of the scene and the mental processes of that father. I was particularly interested in the face of my doctor friend.

The story had gripped the audience, the answer was quite evident. I continued by saying, “Would you not at once attack this human monster, and with the greatest force subdue him? Would you not deliver him to the officers of the law in order that he might be properly and severely punished? Perhaps your own hatred and vengeance would completely wreck the brute, and you would leave him lifeless on the ground while you hurried with your baby to the nearest hospital. You would do all of this as a proof of your love for the treasure of your home, the little girl. The severe treatment you would give her assailant would be the measure of your love for your daughter. Let me ask you, my friend, what, in your judgment, should God do with those who hate His Son, revile Him, mock Him, cast Him out, and participate in His crucifixion? God’s own answer is, **‘He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on Him’**” (John 3:36).

I could see that the doctor had made a decision in his heart. His question was answered. A good God, Who loves His Son, WILL punish the enemies of His Son. Those who follow Satan, who is the archenemy of Jesus Christ, must suffer the vengeance of an angry God.

I went to the doctor’s office the next morning to find him a believer. He had seen that the logic of his reasoning was all wrong. He had accepted God’s estimate of sin, and had believed in the righteousness of God, and had accepted the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I left him with that beautiful passage, 1 John 5:12, **“He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”**

God can never use nor bless anyone who argues with Him, nor will He save anyone who disagrees with Him. **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”** So may you.

~ end of chapter 13 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*