

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

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CHAPTER SEVEN

FROM THE PARLOR TO THE KITCHEN

Mr. Manchester was not altogether happy in his home life. He and his wife were at odds with each other about religion. He had been taught that the Lord Jesus puts away all the sins of the sinner when the sinner trusts Him with his soul. His wife would not agree at all with this position. She had been raised to believe that salvation was to be earned by good works, faithful attendance at church, and holding out faithful to the end of life. They had many arguments on this subject and it disrupted the home in a way that made both of them very unhappy, and kept them from having sweet fellowship together. Mr. Manchester confided in me that this problem was hindering the peace of their hearts, neither one of them was satisfied and the home was on the verge of breaking up.

I was invited to come to that home for supper one evening. My friend asked me to bring up the subject somehow in an indirect way, and in such a way that his wife would not think that he had been putting me up to some trick in order to catch her unawares and start an argument. I assured him that I would be very careful about this matter, and would not give an offense to his wife by finding fault with her.

I went a little early to supper in order to have a visit before the meal, for it was necessary for me to leave shortly after the meal, and therefore we must have our visit early. I was led into the parlor by Mr. Manchester, for the wife was in the kitchen preparing the meal. He whispered to me that it might be helpful if my talk with him would be loud enough so that she could hear it in the kitchen, but without being seen. We began at once to talk about the things concerning the loveliness of Christ, and His power to save. We considered together Isaiah 44:22 in which we read: **“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee.”** We were impressed by the fact that He did not say that part of the sins were blotted out. We noticed that the passage did not say that they were blotted out up to a certain place in our lives. I called the attention of my host to the fact that if the Saviour did not blot out all the sins from the cradle to the grave when He died on the cross, then it would be necessary for Christ to return and die again for the sins that were omitted at Calvary. He agreed with me heartily, and mentioned that he had not thought of that angle of salvation, though he had been convinced some years before that the Saviour finished the work, and that there was no need for Him to return and to suffer again.

We noticed together the New Testament passage on the same subject. It is found in Colossians 2:14, and proclaims the same truth as the one in the Old Testament. We read the passage aloud, loud enough so the wife in the kitchen could hear: **“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.”** We agreed together on the meaning of the passage, i.e., that all the trespasses were blotted out, and that all the broken laws were removed from the record, and that every wrong thing in the life of the individual was nailed to the cross as the Lord Jesus bore them in His own body.

There was quiet in the kitchen. There had been some noise of spoons, and pans, and lids being handled in the preparation of the meal, but all of this quieted down. We concluded that the wife was listening to the conversation, and so we kept our voices raised. I asked Mr. Manchester about I Peter 2:24 which reads: **“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”** Did Peter mean to tell us that Jesus bore all the sins from the cradle to the grave, or just part of the sins? Did Jesus have a mental reservation when He died for us, and decided in His own heart that He would not die for all the sins, but only for those up to a certain point in our lives; but after that we would be on our own? My host said very vigorously, “That could not possibly be. Jesus did not work with mental reservations. All His words and ways and actions were transparent. He did not do a half-way job when He became our Saviour.”

By this time the conversation had become so interesting to Mrs. Manchester that she came into the parlor carrying the dish towel in her hands, and she said to me: “What you have been telling my husband is most interesting to me. I wish I could have been with you here in the parlor and heard all the conversation.” Then she sat down as though she intended to get the matter settled in her own soul, and not be bothered with cooking, nor making coffee, nor preparing salad. The welfare of her soul was evidently more important than the welfare of her body.

I said to her, “How many sins do you think the Lord Jesus bore in His body, I mean your sins? Did He die for all of them? Did He bear all of them, and if not, where did the efficacy of His work cease? Where does the Bible tell you that the Saviour died for just some of your sins, and not for all? Let me ask you also, Mrs. Manchester, did the Lord Jesus die for you because you were good, or because you were bad? And let me ask you also, Did He give His life for you on the basis of your behavior in the future? Did He tell you in His Word that His death and the shedding of His blood would be of value only so long as you behaved, and kept the law to the best of your ability?”

You would have enjoyed looking at the face of this friend as I asked her these questions. She was astonished, and surprised, and a bit upset. Her husband very discreetly remained silent, but was sending a prayer to heaven that the light of God would be shed abroad in the heart of his wife. He did not pray in vain, for as I watched her, when she sought to answer my question, I saw that the light of God had revealed to her the sufficiency of the risen Christ on the Throne, and that she was just then trusting Him because of His wonderful work at Calvary.

She rose from the chair, went over to her husband, and said, “George, I have been absolutely wrong, and you were right. I did not realize that only Christ could save, I thought it must be Christ and me. I thought that if I did my best for God, that the Saviour would make up the difference. How wrong I have been.”

She turned to me with deep gratitude and a sigh of relief as she expressed the peace that had now come into her heart. She said to me that she had never in her life realized how plainly the Scripture revealed our helplessness, and the Saviour’s sufficiency.

We had a wonderful supper together, and all through the meal, and sometimes with tears, she told us of the way she had been deceived, and the wonderful peace she now enjoyed.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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