

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

Dr. Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1959

CHAPTER EIGHT

NO CHAIR IN THE TEMPLE

My chum had moved to California to enter the field of agriculture, particularly with the thought of studying more fully methods of grafting, transplanting and other experimental work with plant life. He purchased several acres in the vicinity of Los Angeles, and began to plant various kinds of bushes, trees, vines, et cetera, on which he expected to spend his efforts in making the products of these plants larger, sweeter and better.

At this time I had an injury to my back, and after having the back operated on to relieve the difficulty, I decided to go to California for a rest, and to seek to recover sufficiently so that I could remove the plaster cast which I was wearing. I wrote my friend George that I was coming, and he invited me to be his guest in his home.

I had known his wife since she was a little girl, and she joined heartily in the invitation. My stay lasted seven weeks, and was most enjoyable and profitable, for I was able to remove the cast and found myself quite well again. My chum would receive no remuneration from me for all his kindness and expense, so I looked around the house to see if there was a need of any particular bit of furniture that I might supply. I noticed that they did not have sufficient bookcase room for all their books. Books were lying on the table, and on the floor, and on shelves in the closet.

This I thought would be something I could supply which would fill a real need in that home. I therefore went up to the business district of the little city and found an attractive furniture store in which there was quite a display of chairs. I entered the store and was looking around the room to see if I could find any sectional bookcases, but I saw none. As I was observing the many chairs, an elderly lady approached me and asked if she might be of some use in helping me to find what I wanted. I told her that I was seeking some sectional bookcases, but failed to see any. She replied that they had quite a good stock of these in various colors, but that they were in the rear of the store and two clerks were working in that department now with some customers. She assured me that she would take me to them and would try to find for me just the kind I wanted.

Just when she had promised me her help, I mentioned that she seemed to have a very unusual line of beautiful chairs. And then I added,

“Do you know that the most beautiful building in all the world, and the most expensive building ever built did not contain a chair, nor a seat of any kind?” She was astonished at this statement, and asked me to sit down and tell her more about it. She herself sat down and waited for my explanation.

I said to her, “Solomon built a temple, which was covered all over on the inside with matched cedar, and the cedar was covered with thick plates of gold. Even the floor was covered with these golden plates. The five pieces of furniture that were in the building were made of pure gold, or if they were made of wood, then that was covered with thick, pure gold. In addition to this, there were sockets on the walls of this beautiful golden room, and magnificent gems of many kinds, the finest in the world, were set in these golden sockets so that the light from the candlesticks would cause them to give forth beautiful, radiating colored beams of light. But in all of this, there was no chair or bench.”

The astonishment of this lady was expressed by her as she said, “I have been in the church for many years, I have been a leader in that church and attended services constantly, but I never heard anything like this before. Is that building described in the Bible?” I assured her that it was, and that she would find the record in II Chronicles 2-5.

Now her curiosity was so aroused that she asked me why there was no chair in this beautiful building. I wanted her to ask that question, because that was the key to the truth I wanted to convey to her. I answered her question by saying, “The priests in the temple never finished their work. The people kept sinning and bringing their offerings, and the priests found it necessary to be constantly serving, constantly offering sacrifices, and constantly meeting the spiritual needs of those who came with their sheep, their turtledoves, or their bullocks. Because of this constant need, the priests must be constantly serving, and therefore there were no chairs, nor places of rest in this magnificent building. The contrast to this is found in Hebrews 1:3, which reads, **‘when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.’** His work was finished for the sinner. No more sacrifice was necessary. All the sins of the believer were blotted out. There was no need for another sacrifice, for **‘by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.’**”

Again my friend looked at me in complete astonishment and repeated that in all her Christian life she had not known this truth, nor did she know it was contained in the Bible. There was no antagonism in the spirit of this friend, but only a feeling of disappointment that she had never been told nor taught this wonderful truth from the Scriptures. Her mind was open, and her spirit receptive. I waited for her to reply and she said, “I certainly do appreciate this revelation of God’s way of salvation. Of course, the priest could not sit down if his work was not finished. We do the same thing in this store. My clerks do not sit down if there are customers to be served.”

This revealed to me that my friend with whom I was conversing was evidently the owner of this lovely store, and I asked her if she was. She replied that she was the sole owner, for her husband had died and left this business to her. Then she added, “I am glad the Lord Jesus finished the work for me so that I can sit down and enjoy the wonderful blessing of being saved by Him. If I had known this years ago, it would have saved me many hours of worrying and of distress.

“Deep in my heart I knew that I was not living as I should, so I worked harder at my religion, and yet had no peace or relief. Thank you so much for telling me this wonderful message. I will never forget it. When I look at these chairs from now on, I will remember that when He had purged my sins, He sat down because the work was done. I will love Him now in a new way because of what He means to me.”

Now that the great work of salvation was finished, she led me back into another department where I saw quite a variety of sectional bookcases. I selected five of these in the color that I thought would match the sitting room of my friend. I paid for them and instructed the owner of the store to make delivery to the house of my friend, which was done the next day. So two transactions were finished, my new friend took the Saviour, and my host took the bookcases. It was the end of a perfect day.

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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