

# **DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING**

by

Dr. Walter L. Wilson

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## **CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN**

### **THE SUCCESSFUL UNSAVED PREACHER**

Melvin was a newspaper reporter of one of the great city dailies. He was particularly interested in social affairs, and wrote splendid articles which attracted attention. When he saw that this line of ministry was of interest to the readers of the paper, he sought for ways to enlarge his usefulness. He came to the conclusion that if he entered the Christian ministry, he would have a wider influence and would make impressions that were more permanent. Having come to this conclusion, he applied for admission to the seminary of one of our large denominations, and was accepted.

Our friend was a very versatile man, well educated, cultured, and a polished public speaker. He was well accepted at the school, and soon learned the language of divinity students. He studied the Bible daily, with a real genuine desire to become the finest preacher in town. His zeal, his energy, and his prolific use of attractive phrases soon made him a favorite in religious circles. He had never met the Saviour personally, though he had learned the doctrines, and could set them forth quite clearly. He took part in the assembly services of the seminary very acceptably. His teachers looked upon him as an ideal student.

He finished his courses at the seminary and was properly ordained by the authorities of the denomination. He had no trouble in obtaining a suburban church. The membership at the time he accepted that pastorate was 145, and a Sunday school attendance of 186. Melvin became an active servant of the church. He preached well and fluently. He gained the confidence of the people and the attendance began to increase quickly. He served that church seven years, and at the end of that period counted the members at 812, and the Sunday school attendance 880.

He was considered in the city as a foremost minister, with a great future awaiting him. He urged the people to bring their Bibles, and to study their Bibles, and to become educated, intelligent church members. He strengthened the cause of missions, and promoted those societies in which the women served the church in various capacities. But all the time, Melvin was unsaved, had never met the Saviour, and never stressed the gospel in his preaching. He had the theory, but did not have eternal life.

One day a call was received from this preacher requesting me to come to his church for a series of meetings on the Book of Revelation. He mentioned that he had read the book clear through once, but did not understand it. He explained that his people were asking him about the book, and he was unable to give them a satisfactory reply, except that he did not understand it himself.

I was very happy to accept the invitation, and arranged to go for the two weeks of meetings. I found a delightful audience of very friendly people waiting for the sermon. I took for my subject the first night the place in the Book of Revelation given to the "Lamb of God." I sought to show the people how that Christ was very often referred to by this title because God would ever keep before every mind and heart the fact that Jesus died on Calvary at the hands of wicked men, and under the definite will of God, so that we might be saved.

The second night I took for my message the place that "the blood" has all through the Book of Revelation. I sought to make it plain that it is only those who wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb who are permitted to come into the presence of God. I read to the people how that "**they overcame him [the Devil] by the blood of the Lamb.**"

We noticed also that the songs were about the blood of the Lamb. Those in heaven gave credit to the Lamb of God, and to His precious blood for their right to be in glory. We noticed that no one said anything about his good works, or his religion, or his church, or his character, but only sang about the Lamb, and His blood.

My friend, the preacher, was listening very closely during this second message. The first lesson given had stirred his heart. The second message stirred his mind. He did not spend much time visiting with the people after the service, but soon made his way to the manse which was near the church. I rejoiced in my heart as I saw that the Word of God was affecting this splendid public servant. I bade him goodnight as he left, and mentioned that I would be praying that the Holy Spirit would bless His Word to all of our hearts.

When I went to the church the third night, he met me at the door and said, "Doctor, please permit me to take the first part of the service. I have something to tell the people."

I replied, "Certainly, I shall be glad to have you do so. I am your guest, and am happy to follow your instructions."

When the preliminaries of the meeting were finished, Melvin arose and said, "Friends, you have had an unsaved preacher in this pulpit for seven years. I have lectured to you on religious and popular subjects, and you have responded by bringing your friends. The church has grown from a small number to a large number. We have been forced to build additional rooms, and to enlarge the auditorium, as you know. All of this time, you have had a religious lecturer who only had a mental conception of the way of salvation. Last night, after the messages on the blood and the Lamb, I retired to my home quickly after the service. I was convinced that I had no song about the blood. I realized I had no personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I went to my study alone, knelt in the presence of God, and for several hours examined my life, the condition of my soul, and confessed to God that I was a hypocrite, pretending to lead you friends into this new life to which I myself was a stranger.

“At 5:00 o’clock this morning, I surrendered to the Saviour, I accepted Him, I believed and confessed to Him that it is only through the merits of His precious blood, and through the gracious power of the living Saviour on the Throne that I received forgiveness, and the gift of eternal life. Friends, you now have a saved preacher, and from this day forward, I will preach to you Jesus Christ, Him crucified, and the wonderful truths that affect the life of the Christian.”

The audience was deeply moved, and others followed his example, confessing that they too had religion, but no Saviour. Many hearts turned to Christ because of his testimony. The Holy Spirit began at once using Brother Melvin. His gift in the gospel made him well known, and today he is pastor of one of the largest churches in that denomination in that city.

We should each one examine ourselves to see whether we have passed out of death into life and whether we individually have a living Saviour on the Throne in Heaven.

~ end of chapter 27 ~

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