

# STRANGE EXPERIENCES OF THE DOCTOR

by

Walter Lewis Wilson, M. D.

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## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### THE GOOD WHITE-HAIRED LADY WAS LOST

It was my privilege to hold a three-day Bible Conference, in a large, beautiful church in one of our great cities. It was one of those old edifices where the older people had been coming for many years. The carpets revealed the passing of many feet, and the architecture was of that peculiar, ornate type which once figured so prominently in our more expensive church buildings.

In the congregation there were many with grey hair who had been regular church attendants through the years, and were known as the faithful ones who never missed a service. In this group there was one attractive, queenly-looking lady with beautiful white hair, and my story shall concern her experience on the closing night of the Conference.

The message had been given that particular evening on the subject of "Imputed Righteousness." The text was taken from Romans 4:6, "**Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.**"

This friend listened most attentively to a truth which evidently had a new meaning to her heart that night. As I closed the message, she was one of the first to reach me, and requested a personal interview on the subject of the evening.

As soon as we had found a quiet place at one side of the auditorium, she said to me, "Dr. Wilson, this seems to be a new doctrine that you have brought to us to-night. I have attended church for many years, but never understood that righteousness would be imputed but rather that it was earned and merited. I have been quite active in this church for some years. I have taught a Bible class here for thirty years, and have been known as one of the leading women in all the church activities. Everyone has treated me like a Christian, and I have always taken my place as a Christian in all the affairs of our church. Please tell me more about this new truth that you have brought us."

I replied to her by asking, "Has the Lord Jesus ever given you eternal life?"

"Why, no," she said, "not yet. I hope to receive it when I die, and I have certainly made an honest effort all my life to be worthy of becoming a child of God."

This answer certainly revealed a woeful ignorance of that Bible which she had been teaching for so many years. There are many passages in the Word which tell us that Christ Jesus is God's righteousness, and that to receive Christ is to receive the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:15-18).

This friend, like many others, had sought to accumulate enough purchasing power by her good works to obtain that which God has said is a "**Gift**," as in Romans 5:17.

I turned to the passage mentioned above and had the friend read it slowly and carefully. She was a well-educated woman, cultured and graceful, and I could see that she had a trained mind which could easily analyze a passage of Scripture nicely, but somehow had overlooked those which referred to her own eternal salvation.

"Do you mean to tell me, Dr. Wilson, that all these years of faithful church work have no value in the sight of God? Is it possible that I have been wasting my time when I thought I was pleasing God and laying up assets in heaven? That hardly seems fair. It does not seem to me that God would be exactly righteous in refusing to accept that which is evidently good and holy."

Her argument, of course, was strictly a human one, and she made no appeal to the Scripture to substantiate the thought, nor to support her reasonings.

When I replied to her, I said, "What you have just mentioned, Mrs. Kendrick, seems quite plausible, but it is really not very reasonable. I suppose that there are some sins in your life; perhaps there are many. There are sins of omission and commission; sins of ignorance and of presumption, and perhaps there are some of each of these in your life to-night. Of course, I do not know you, and I can easily see that you are a lady of refinement, living a clean and attractive life, making yourself a blessing to many. In spite of this, are there not sins there?"

"Oh, yes, there are," she said. "Of course, everyone has sins. I have not been as bad as many people, but I know there are some sins, and there are more than there should be."

I inquired further, "What provision have you made, to get rid of these sins, Mrs. Kendrick? You know, in order to be righteous, the sins must be completely blotted out, for only the righteous character with no sin whatever, is acceptable in the sight of God."

This was another new thought to this dear lady. She knew that there were sins there, but had thought that the accumulation of good works would in some way cover over those sins and make her acceptable to God. The answer which she made to me was studied carefully, for she was not going hastily in this matter, which was too important to be handled carelessly.

"Do you mean to tell me, Dr. Wilson," she continued, "that my good works and church activities and Bible teaching are not sufficient to cover up my sins and make me fit for God's presence?"

"Just exactly that," I replied. "No amount of goodness on your part will put away any of the badness.

“If you should steal some jewelry, and be brought before the judge, do you think that he would remove the accusation against you and find you not guilty, just because you would promise to be good in the future, and to be a servant of his in his home for many years without pay?”

“No,” she answered quickly, “of course, that would not work. A judge would not dare to treat a criminal like that. If I stole the jewelry, then I certainly have to suffer the punishment, and I would always be known as a thief, even though I should pay the fine or serve the sentence.”

“Quite right,” I said, “you have a clear grasp of that truth. Now let us apply it to your own heart. You have many sins against you. If you committed ten sins a day for the last fifty years, you would have about one hundred and seventy-seven thousand sins against you to-night, and that would certainly keep you from being a righteous woman in the sight of God. Do you not think that I am correct in this statement?”

“Yes, I believe you are,” she answered. “I am beginning to see how utterly wrong I have been in my conclusion and my reasoning. Certainly God would not be less righteous than a judge. Something must be done about the sins of my life, and I do not see how I can possibly be justified or made righteous when the facts are all against me, and God has a complete record of my failures and faults.”

God’s dealings with men are always logical, reasonable and right. We need only to face the facts, and we shall see how perfectly and beautifully correct are all of God’s ways with men. This dear soul had not had anyone to sit down and talk with her about the salvation of her soul, for the various pastors of the church had just taken it for granted that she was a real Christian because of her prominent place, her beautiful life, and her earnest endeavors.

Let us remember that one may be a wonderfully fine servant of God without being a Child of God. One may be very intelligent in the knowledge of the Doctrines of the Church, and never have embraced the Saviour. It was so in this case. This friend had never met the Lord Jesus personally, but had been a wonderfully fine and important servant while remaining a stranger to the true family of God. The light was dawning in this dark heart. The seeking soul was about to find the seeking Saviour.

It seemed to me that the heart of this friend was now ready for the presentation of the Gospel, and so I asked this question, “Mrs. Kendrick, why did the Lord Jesus die at Calvary? Did it have anything at all to do with your salvation?”

She hesitated a moment before replying, and evidently was thinking of the many things she had heard said and the various portions she had read about Calvary.

She then answered, “Yes, I think I can tell you. He died for sinners. He came to be the Saviour of men. I believe all of that fully.”

“Very well,” I said, “if this is so, and it is so, what blessing is there for you in the work that He did? Did His work at Calvary accomplish anything at all for you? Was His death a failure as far as you are concerned? Did He come to save you, and then fail to do it?”

“My,” she exclaimed, “I never had thought of that before. I never knew that I had any particular and personal interest in Calvary, but certainly I must have if His death is to mean anything to me. This is quite a new thought to me, Dr. Wilson, and it is a lovely one. I believe I can see a ray of hope for me in this very truth. Tell me more about it, so that I may comprehend something for my own heart.”

I now turned to Isaiah 53:5, and read with her, “**He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.**”

“Who was He wounded for, Mrs. Kendrick, and whose iniquities did He bear?”

She answered quickly and with a note of expectancy and hopefulness in her voice, “I hope it was for me. Do you suppose it was for me, Dr. Wilson?”

This personal application which is so necessary for the assurance of salvation is lacking in many cases like the one I am describing. I find it most prevalent everywhere. There is an acquiescence to the facts of the Scripture. There is an agreeing with the truth that Christ is the Saviour of sinners, and that He is the only Saviour, but this is only the acknowledgment of the facts. These facts must be personally applied to the soul in order that the individual heart may be blessed by that application.

I continued by saying, “There is no other Saviour, Mrs. Kendrick, and Christ will never die a second time. If you are to be saved by His blessed work on the Cross, it is by that which has already been done, and not by something that is yet to be done in the future. Christ isn’t coming back again to die especially for you, I am sure, and you would not want Him to.”

“Oh, no,” she interrupted, “I am quite sure that the one sacrifice at Calvary was sufficient, but I had never thought that it was sufficient for me. May I believe that it is?”

What a lovely attitude of heart this friend revealed. Hers was a hungry heart. She was seeking for peace, and was about to find the Prince of Peace.

“Will you read with me Colossians 2:13 and 14, Mrs. Kendrick? I believe that there we also find the answer to your question. Notice in verse 13 the words, ‘having forgiven you all trespasses.’ Notice again in verse 14 the expressions ‘**blotting out . . . took it out of the way . . . nailing it to His Cross.**’ For whom do you suppose all of this was done?”

A light was breaking through into this seeking heart, and as she meditated on this passage, she said, “The Lord Jesus Christ must have been doing that for me. He came for everybody. His work was certainly for everybody, and I believe that He included me in all that He did at the Cross.”

“I am so happy to hear you say so, Mrs. Kendrick. Will you not just now tell the Lord Jesus that you believe Him, and that you take Him to be your own? Will you just now commit the keeping of your heart and soul to the Lord Jesus?”

“He is there on the throne, the living Christ, wanting to save you, and wanting you to believe Him. I do trust you will feel free to come right to Him to-night and tell Him that you trust Him and that you believe Him.”

What a beautiful sight it was to see this stately, queenly lady reverently bow her head, and in the sunset of life get such a view of the Lord Jesus that she could and did trust Him with her whole heart.

“Thank you, Dr. Wilson, I do trust the Lord Jesus. I do believe Him. I would have done it long ago if someone had told me. Oh, I wonder what I have been teaching my classes through these years. Surely they have never heard the way of salvation, for I did not know that righteousness was given because of faith in the Lord Jesus. It was always before me, but I had been unable to catch up with it. I am so glad that now I know all my sins are blotted out and I am righteous in God’s sight because Christ has made me so. How I do thank you, Dr. Wilson, for showing me this precious truth.”

Beloved friend, are you going about to establish your own righteousness? Let me urge you to cease this vain attempt and accept the Lord Jesus Christ, Who of God is made unto us, righteousness.

**~ end of chapter 15 ~**

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