

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THEY GOT WHAT THEY WANTED

At 11:00 o'clock Sunday morning, just as I was ready to conduct a service at a Bible camp, a gentleman and his wife approached me, and asked for an audience at the close of the meeting. This I was glad to grant. This couple took their places near the platform and listened quite intently as the Word of God was expounded. They had their Bibles with them, and turned to the passages as I quoted the various Scriptures.

The service closed at 12:00, and since dinner was not to be served until 12:30, there was time for us to converse together. We sat down on some benches out under the trees near the tabernacle.

Immediately the conversation was opened by the husband who said, "We drove one hundred twenty-five miles this morning to see you. We both are distressed in our spirits and have been for quite some time because we cannot find what we want." I saw that they were both deeply in earnest, and so of course my curiosity was aroused and I sought to ascertain the cause of the trouble.

I asked them to tell me the cause of the distress and promised to help them if I could. The wife answered quickly and said, "We want to be righteous, and sinless, and pure. We belong to _____ Church in J.C., and our teachers teach us that we should be sinless and have no evil thoughts, desires nor actions. We want to be so clean and pure that we can go to heaven when we die. We want to be as near perfect as possible, so we can be what Jesus wants us to be. We have been trying for years to get to the place where we felt that all of our sins were gone, and we would have no evil thoughts. We have prayed for this, we have read our Bibles to find the answer, we have cried out our hearts' desire to God many times. Somehow it always evades us, and we find ourselves back where we started. One thing we cannot understand, Dr. Wilson, is that the preachers who preach these things to us are not sinless themselves. I know this because the preachers who visit our church live in our home, and they are no different from us. They sin just like we do. Please tell us what God's answer is to this problem, because we must have peace about it."

This battle that was going on in the hearts of these two is a rather common battle in the minds of those who desire to be right with God, yet do not know how to get that blessing.

Since these two friends had their well-worn Bibles with them, and I saw that they wanted God's thoughts about their difficulties, I asked them to turn to Romans 5:17. They did so, and we read in that verse that some **"receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness."**

I asked them to notice also in verse 18 that the righteousness of the Lord Jesus is a gift for all men, and brings justification with it. They had never seen this truth before, and did not know that God's righteousness is obtained as a gift, and not as a reward. I also called their attention to Romans 3:22, where we read that the righteousness of God **"is by faith of Jesus Christ."**

That also was a new thought to them, for they had been led to believe that they could obtain righteousness by self-effort.

We were going over these points very slowly as they read the passages in their own Bibles, and I could see by their expressions that it was not altogether clear to them. I therefore had them turn to Romans 10:3. I said to them, "Perhaps you are seen in this verse as those who are ignorant of God's righteousness, and are going about to establish your own righteousness. You have not succeeded very well. You have found that there is no peace in pursuing that path, and so today I want you to notice that God's righteousness is a gift to you the moment you trust Jesus Christ."

There seemed to be some ray of hope now in the hearts of these friends, and they were waiting for a clear explanation of this wonderful truth. I asked them to turn to Romans 4:6. We read verse 5 for the connection, and then I commented on the expression, **"Blessed is the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works."**

They seemed to be puzzled by the expression, and asked for an explanation. I sought to help them to understand the passage by using the illustration of the commoner who marries the King and immediately is the Queen of the country. The position of the King as the head of the nation is imputed to the wife, and she becomes the Queen only because she belongs to the King. I told them of the poor girl who was courted by a millionaire, and married him. Immediately his credit standing and his social standing were imputed to the girl who was so poor before they were married.

So it is with God the Father. His Son, the Lord Jesus, is rich in righteousness, holiness, grace and purity. When we fall in love with Him, believe in Him, receive Him, and become His own bride, then God the Father imputes to us all the place, position, character, and standing of His Son, Christ Jesus. His righteousness becomes ours, His holiness and purity are given to us. These are gifts from God because we belong to His Son.

All the time I was explaining this to them, they were intently looking at the passage, Romans 4:5-6. I was praying to the Holy Spirit that He would enlighten their minds, and reveal the value of Christ to their hearts. Suddenly the light of heaven shone upon them and they both saw the truth of imputed righteousness for them. They rose quickly from their seats, threw their arms about each other, the tears were coursing down their cheeks, and they could hardly speak. I heard them say, "I see it, I see it! God gives us righteousness because we trust His Son."

They sat down again, still weeping, and remained in silence for a few moments, and then said, “We never saw those passages in the Bible before. We belong to Jesus Christ, and God has made us righteous right now. Our prayers are answered, our search is ended; why didn’t our preachers tell us this wonderful truth long ago.”

They rose to leave for the dinner table, and then decided they would not stay for lunch. They were so filled with joy and peace they decided to hurry back home, and to tell their fellow members of the church the marvelous deliverance they had found, and the precious wonderful truth of the gift of righteousness.

I trust that many other hungry hearts reading this message will find the truth so often given in the Scriptures, “**The Lord is our righteousness.**”

~ end of chapter 14 ~

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