

DR. WILSON'S STORIES OF SOUL-WINNING

by

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CHAPTER THREE

SAVED IN A SUBMARINE

Who would ever think that a man could be saved in the bottom of the ocean, sitting in comfort on the sandy bottom of the sea? Yet this is exactly what happened.

Two sailor boys passed through our city on the way to Long Beach to join the fleet. They had been on furlough, and had a few hours' wait between trains here. One was a Christian boy who knew the Lord, but was not very active in his witness and testimony. He had a heart that responded to God's things, but did not promote very much Christian activity in his own life. His pal was a splendid young fellow who made a good companion in the training camps.

These two were wandering about on one of the main streets of our city seeing the sights. They were complete strangers here, had no friends, and no acquaintances.

On Sunday afternoon two of our young people from the church were visiting various hotels in the business section of the city to leave invitations with the desk clerk inviting guests to the meetings out at our church. They saw these sailor boys in uniform and gave each of them an invitation, accompanied by a card that told the location of the church and the hour of the meetings.

Since the train on which they were to leave did not depart until about 10:00 P.M. and since the church was only a few minutes' ride from the railroad station, they decided to attend the service that night. They came in uniform and, of course, received a very cordial welcome, especially from the young people's group. They were made to feel at home, and soon found themselves among friends. One of our young ladies gave to the Christian boy a copy of my book *The Romance of a Doctor's Visits*. I do not know why the unsaved boy did not receive a book. The Christian lad took it with him, intending to read it on the train. Somehow he placed it in one of his bags, and then forgot it.

When the two sailor boys arrived at Long Beach they found that the submarine on which they were stationed was to leave that night. They hurriedly completed any preparations that needed to be made, and boarded the ship. The book still remained unnoticed and unread.

Sometime during the night the submarine quietly slipped away for a trip to Japan. It was to be stationed on one of the shipping lanes off the coast of Japan where they were to await the opportunity to torpedo a Japanese ship.

While the submarine was resting on the ocean bed, our Christian friend suddenly remembered the book he had received in the young people's meeting while he was enroute to California. He searched through his baggage and found the book. He read it with delight, and was refreshed in his own spirit by the messages he found there. Having finished it, he gave it to his buddy with the recommendation that he read it carefully, and with the promise that he would enjoy it.

The hours passed in the submarine were a bit dreary, and so the sailor boy was glad to get the book, and began to read it. The stories intrigued him. He began to realize that some of the cases mentioned there were just like his own case. Before he had gone very far in his reading, he began to realize that he too was a lost man, needing a Saviour. The Spirit of God reminded him that he was in a war, and might never come out alive. As this truth took hold of his heart, he watched more eagerly for the remedy.

In each of the stories that he read, he found that Christ Jesus and the seeking sinner came together, with the blessed result that the seeker found the Saviour to be sufficient. He read, **"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** In another case, he read, **"He that hath the Son hath life."** In the story about an aged sinner, he read in John 3:16 that he was to take the Saviour as God's gift to him; then in John 1:12 he read that he would become a child of God by taking the Saviour; also in I John 5:12, he read, **"He that hath the Son hath life."**

This was sufficient for his heart. He bowed his head to his Saviour, and accepted Him as the Lord of his life, and the Saviour of his soul.

He finished reading the book where the various messages confirmed his faith, and returned it to his pal, saying, "I will never forget your kindness in giving me that wonderful book. I found Jesus Christ while I was reading it. I believe He gave me eternal life and I am His. Now, we are brothers, as well as pals."

How blessed it is to find that there is a welcome from the Saviour, whether we come to him in the parlor, or in the office, or in the church, or in the depths of the sea. "This Man receiveth sinners" anywhere, any place, any time.

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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