

The Wednesday Word, July 31, 2013: He Is Able To Save Even The Worst Of Us!

I never cease to be amazed at the sovereign hand of God in bringing His lost sheep into the fold. Have you ever heard the story of the conversion of William P Mackay? It's a wonderful illustration of how the Lord, in His greatness, saves even the worst of people.

William P. Mackay was born, in Scotland, in the year 1839. At the age of 17, he left for college. However, his mother, a godly Christian woman, didn't want him to go. She feared that he was heading down a path of destruction. Nevertheless, she turned him over to the Lord, and let him go on his way.

Before his departure, she gave him a Bible to take with him, and in the fly-leaf of the Bible, she wrote his name, her name and a Bible verse. Mackay left for college and then went on to the university medical school, but he fell in with a bad lot and became an expert at godless living. Then one day, in a drunken spree, he pawned the Bible to get money for more drink.

Mackay had gone completely off the rails. His life was now filled with dissolute living. Yet, at the same time, the young Scotsman went on to become a very successful doctor, eventually becoming the head of the largest hospital in Edinburgh. Forsaking his upbringing, he became a committed atheist, and was even elected president of a society of atheists in the city.

One day, an accident victim was admitted to the hospital and was placed under Dr. Mackay's direct care. The patient, learning that he only had a few hours to live, asked Dr. Mackay, "Will you please send for my landlady, and ask her to bring me the Book?" The doctor agreed, and shortly thereafter the landlady arrived with "The Book."

Within a short time, the patient died. Dr. Mackay was curious as to what kind of book the patient had wanted. He asked the nurse, "What about the book that he asked for?" Was it his bank book or date book?" The nurse replied, "No, it was neither of those. It is still under his pillow, see for yourself." The doctor reached under the pillow and pulled out "The Book".. it was the Bible. It looked familiar and when he opened it, his eyes fell immediately upon the front flyleaf. To his amazement ... it was the very Bible he had received from his mother, the one that he had pawned years before. He saw his name, his mother's name and the Bible verse she inscribed ... John 3:16.

Mackay was overwhelmed. He slipped the Bible under his coat and rushed back to his private office. Once inside his office, he fell to his knees and prayed that God would have mercy on him, and save him.

Dr. Mackay immediately contacted his mother to tell her of his salvation, and how God used the Bible she gave him to dramatically answer her prayers.

By the grace of God, William Patton Mackay, the world renowned doctor went on to become a world renowned Presbyterian preacher, well-known author and songwriter. In fact, it was from his pen that we received the excellent hymn:

We praise Thee o God,
For the Son of thy love,
For Jesus who has died
And is now gone above

“Hallelujah, Thine the glory.
Hallelujah, Amen.
Hallelujah, Thine the glory.
Revive us again!”

Here is a sample of his preaching,

"Jesus did all the saving work. He brought the cross to our level. We get saved by looking to Him... Lie down as a wounded, helpless, ungodly sinner, and look away from yourself to Jesus..."

I hope this brief word encourages us to stay resolute in prayer for our loved ones. The Lord's hand cannot be stopped. He can and does save the worst of people.

And that's the Gospel Truth!