

## Two Words Did the Work

by Walter L. Wilson, M.D.

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Not always is it necessary to listen to a long sermon before the Holy Spirit works in the heart. I found this to be true one Sunday morning as I went to a suburban church to conduct a service. I had asked the Holy Spirit to anoint my lips and prepare some heart for the message. The text chosen was Hebrews 1:3, in which are the words, "*By Himself.*"

In these two words we find all other means and methods of salvation excluded. The whole clause is, "When he had by himself purged our sins, [He] sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." God's gracious Spirit was present to impress upon hearts the blessed fact that Jesus did "by Himself" purge our sins. The message, divided into several parts, sought first to show who this blessed One is who did such a wonderful work. Next, the need of the heart was emphasized, a heart that needs purging. Following this, the sinfulness of the heart was described in order that we might comprehend in some measure the great need of such a Saviour.

The audience listened quite intently as I sought to show the reason why Jesus must do the work "by Himself." Only He had the authority. No one else had the power. All others were guilty and could not participate.

A young lady about twenty years of age was seated in the audience near the rear. Her deep interest was manifested by the careful attention which she paid to each part of the message. I frequently asked the Lord, as the sermon progressed, to make the message effective, for it is always my desire to see the light enter dark hearts during an address. While it is not necessary that the listener wait until the close of the message before accepting Jesus Christ, I observed that this young lady had received no light. At least she did not receive the light that delivers. Her mind continued to be perplexed and her countenance downcast.

At the close of the address I gave an opportunity for those in the audience who would like to be saved to come forward for further help and personal consultation. While the audience remained

seated, Miss A-- arose and came down the center aisle. Just as she started toward me, an elderly gentleman on my left, with his wife on my right started forward also. Upon reaching me, Miss A--, who was weeping, said: "Doctor, I am a Sunday School teacher in this church, but Jesus has never yet purged my sins, I want Him to do that for me this morning; I want to be saved."

By that time the two elderly people reached me, and the lady said: "Doctor, this is Miss A-- who is one of our finest church girls. She is a pattern to our young people."

I turned immediately to them and said, "You will pardon me, please, but it will be necessary for me to be left alone while I am dealing with this young lady, for she has just expressed to me her desire to be saved and has confessed that she is lost. Please do not disturb us."

Permit me to digress from my story long enough to say that it is quite injurious for any friend to interfere with the soul-trouble of another who professes to be a Christian. Often when a child wants to be saved, the mother will interfere with the evangelist and will assure him that her child is a beautiful Christian. Sometimes people in the church will interfere in order to assure the preacher that their friend is already a saved person and is living a wonderful life. Let me beg of you, never do this. If a person is in soul-trouble and if God's servant is desirous of helping that one, you should leave them absolutely alone, otherwise you may hinder the salvation of a soul.

These elderly friends responded to my suggestion, so turning to Miss A--, I asked her to read the text with me again. I had her read it for herself. This she did two or three times: "When he had *by himself* purged our sins."

"Whose sins did the Saviour purge, Miss A--?"

She listened to my question, looked again at the passage, then re-read it. Turning to me, she looked so earnestly as she inquired, "Was it my sins that He purged?"

"Yes, my friend," I replied. "He came to save you. At Calvary's cross He died for you. At God's right hand, He waits to apply to you His saving work of Calvary. Why do you not believe Him and quit doubting?"

She replied at once, "I do believe Him. I never saw before the He '**by Himself**' did it all. I have sung that old song, '*Jesus Paid it All*,' but I never really knew that He did. Thank you, Doctor, I am so glad that He did it all '**by Himself**.'"

Miss A-- returned to her home with a new life in her soul and a new peace filling her heart. As a token of her gratitude, she painted for me a beautiful text bearing the inscription "BY HIMSELF." Having framed this, she presented it to me, and it is now upon the wall above my desk.

I trust that each one who reads this message will learn this great truth as Miss A-- learned it.

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