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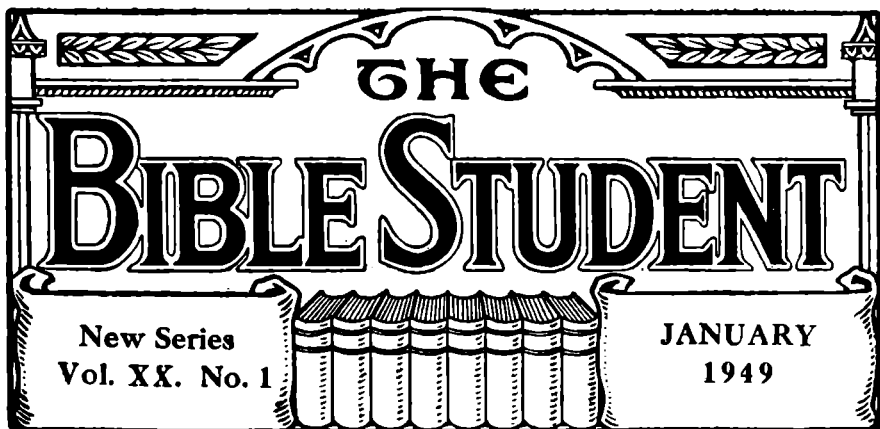
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"The Entrance of THY WORDS Giveth Light"

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Editor: A. McDONALD REDWOOD

instruments of the evil one to ruin mankind. They were admirably adapted to this purpose of removing from the minds of the Egyptians the idea that Egypt's gods were such in any sense of the word and thus destroy the confidence of the Egyptians in the power of idols to protect them.

“HE THAT IS WISE WINNETH SOULS”

(Proverbs 11: 30)

A Practical word to every Bible Student

Simon the fisherman became Peter the ‘fisher of men’ at the call of the Master. His call, in fact, came whilst fishing. How appropriate as a symbol of the new service he was to enter! The Lord’s word was simple and decisive (Lk. 5:10, R.V.): “From henceforth thou shalt *catch men*” (lit. “take men alive”, *zōgrein*). Here was service angel’s might covet, but it is providentially reserved for people like Peter (both men and women). And the response was unquestioning: “they left *all* and followed (Jesus)”. What holy alacrity, what implicit faith—an example we might well follow even today!

It is worth noting that this same Simon was himself “caught alive” by his own brother Andrew, as we read in Jn. 1:41, 42. Apparently this was Andrew’s first catch, and had he never caught another what a reward must be his throughout eternity! It reminds us of another very humble fisher of souls who, on that long-ago stormy morning in 1850, ‘landed’ a callow youth who had chanced to stray into a little wayside chapel—to become years after Charles Haddon Spurgeon the “Prince of Preachers” of the nineteenth century! “Let preachers study this story!” says Sir William Robertson Nicoll. “Let them believe that under the most adverse circumstances, they may do a work that will tell on the universe for ever. It was a great thing to have converted C.H.S.; and who knows but they may have in the smallest and humblest congregation in the world some lad as well worth converting as was he?”

Incidentally, it is instructive to turn to the only other occurrence in the New Testament of this verb *zōgrein*, in 2 Tim. 2:26, R.V. (which is preferable to the A.V. rendering). It reads: “And they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, having been

taken captive by the Lord's servant unto the will of God." Here it is a backslider who is 'recaptured'. That is, a believer who, though in possession of the new nature through the new birth, has through sinning put himself again on a level with any unregenerate sinner. He needs restoration. It is the privilege of some fellow Christian to lead him to repentance by the Spirit's help (v. 25), and "take him alive unto the will of God".* This also is a ministry open to every mature believer. How many a backslider is drifting just because no one has shown any interest in his soul. What rewards we lose because we do not sufficiently "watch for their souls" as true "overseers", referred to in Heb. 13:17.

A wonderful work is this "taking men alive". And in this very modern day it still remains the most urgent responsibility of the individual Christian—not to speak of the Church. The best of it is it requires no long tedious academic schooling, though there is a 'schooling'—that of the Spirit in the *practice* of doing the will of God daily.

There must first be the *desire* born of the Spirit, as He reveals the tragedy of perishing souls. Every soul is a potential world of eternal blessedness or black doom. Then desire must drive into action, courageously, dependently, prayerfully. The Spirit will guide. Faith fixed in His power to accomplish the impossible will bring success. If failure is allowed at times, it is but part of the discipline to tutor faith for greater achievements. The unique feature, however, of such service is that it is open to any age in every walk of life, rich or poor, learned or unlearned. The only secret is a life consecrated *wholly* to God, with no other motive than that of pleasing Him.

It has been well said, "the true soul-winner must be an enthusiast. It is not a task which the perfunctory and the lethargic can perform. Those are not victories achieved by the man who is prompted only by a cold sense of *duty*. On the altar of the heart the fires must blaze at white heat. The thought of the depths to which souls may fall and of the heights to which they may rise; the conviction of the responsibility laid on me to benefit

* The Greek construction of the verse is not easy and commentators are somewhat divided regarding the best rendering, though the general sense is obvious. The R. V. is followed by Drs. Handley Moule and Horton, whilst J. H. Bernard renders it: 'May recover themselves out of the snare of the devil (having been taken captive by him), unto the will of God.' Ellicott and Dr. Newport White are also in favour of this interpretation.

them, the summons of One who deserves a thousand times more than I can repay Him—these are the true motives, and they will give hands and feet and wings to our humble endeavours to be ‘wise to win souls’” (Alexander Smellie). The wise man will have a passion for souls. And “they that be wise” in this shall “turn many to righteousness and shine as the stars for ever and ever” (see Dan. 12:3).

* * *

By way of practical illustration we give two excerpts here which are personal experiences. Both speak their own lesson in different ways. The second is culled from an esteemed contemporary, *Precious Seed*, with due acknowledgments. Let us pray that these messages may bear fruit in the heart of every reader. And, finally, let “The Challenge” at the end cause us to think not only of ‘the man next door’, but *the lands that still lie in heathen and Moslem darkness*.

HE KNELT IN PRAYER

By Mrs. Emma Booth Tucker

The moon’s clear rays penetrated a small upper chamber and outlined the slender figure of a youth kneeling in supplication, pouring out his soul in fervent prayer and strong resolve. Had one listened to the language of that heart utterance it would doubtless have been recognized that it was not the first surrender of that young man’s being to the claims of God and to the interests of mankind. But that soul-cry bespoke none the less clearly impatience with the things which were behind and a hunger and a thirst born of a revelation of the world’s vast need, and the power awaiting the consecrated hand to meet it.

“I must save souls. Take everything else; let others, if they will, have all besides; give me souls. Even the means employed are less than sounding brass and tinkling cymbal, save as they aid me in reaching that goal. My very sermons in this new light seem powerless, my efforts small and weak and insufficient. But the passion of Calvary’s Victim consumes me, thrills my whole being, illumines the path I shall henceforth tread, though it be singlehanded and alone.”

The following day found the Salvation Army General-to-be, William Booth, fulfilling an engagement in a small and somewhat Gospel-hardened village, not the most likely place in which to