

## GOD'S WORD . . . MEANS NOTHING TO A BILLION SOULS!

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Have you ever tried to think of what YOUR own life would be without the Word of God? You love it, you feast on it, your comfort comes from it. It brings you guidance, it sustains and increases the faith by which you live. It reveals God to you, portrays His love, His care, His wealth and His power. It is your portion when you awaken in the morning, a source of strength for the trials and problems of the day and the pillow of peace on which you rest yourself as the night-watches close about you in a troubled and insecure world. It teaches you, admonishes you and tells you where there is cleansing for the vilest sinner that ever disgraced God's earth. It thunders judgment, and sweetly sings into your heart of mercy that is "from everlasting to everlasting." It is filled with portrayals such as never man could paint, the greatest of them all being the Son of God hanging on a cross bearing your sins and mine. After Calvary, what a picture is that of the upper room where cleansing and power made possible a full salvation by the Holy Spirit's taking up His abode in hearts and empowering for a life of full victory and effectiveness! What hope there is in the picture of the ascending Christ, with the angels announcing that He shall come again!

Yes, it is a wonderful Book! It fairly bursts with its fulness in treasures of grace and the supply of all that your soul and mine have ever needed, can need today, or ever will need in all the tomorrows of eternity.

And now, after this brief, incomplete reminder of what the Word of God means to you, read the first sentence of our article once more. Could you live without the Word of God, with it utterly erased from your life and memory? If you could live, what would such a life be? Perhaps you cannot conceive of such a thing; but, beloved Christian friend, if you could but go with me into heathen lands which I have seen, walk streets that I have walked and visited, and enter homes where I have called, it would not be difficult to visualize what a life is like that has never been touched by this wonderful Book, nor by any of the thousands of influences that are a product of its holy, enlightening pages. If it were possible to walk through all such lands, we would see over one thousand million souls whose lives have not had even one crumb of this Bread of Life, not one ray of this Light, and not one drop of this Water, to drink of which means never to thirst again. It is an astounding fact, a shameful and shaming fact which you and I ought to consider until it stirs our souls into determined action for changing such a tragic condition. It is just as much their right to possess that Word as it is yours and mine; and, God's way of getting it to them is only through you and me. **Why, then, do they not have it?**

Do you know that one thousand million souls, heavy with the load of their ever-increasing sins, have never even heard a whisper of that wonderful invitation that was extended, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"? O, yes, they labor and are heavy laden but there is no Saviour for them, no rest from that burden, no release from the constant searing of their conscience because of sins. It is not be-

cause the invitation does not include them, but that the invitation was meant to be extended through you, and a thousand million souls die today still waiting—waiting in ignorance because we have failed. This precious invitation means nothing to them, because you and I have never taken it to them.

As you stumbled on in your sin, what hope and joy came to your soul when someone pointed to the Word and said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!" You can never forget that day nor the glory that flooded into your soul when your sin was lifted and His life flowed into your heart when you were dead in trespasses. But have you stopped to ponder the thought that ten million stumbling, sinning souls have never been pointed to the Lamb of God, even though it was for their condemning sins, too, that He went to Calvary? When He cleansed our hearts He commanded that we "go and tell" the story to others, but we have lagged in our going, grown weary in telling, therefore that wondrous verse means absolutely nothing to that vast heathen population that has never heard it, because you and I have not pointed Him out to them.

Tonight in a world of uncertainty, tired from the day's toil and burdens, you will go peacefully to your rest because your heart will go up in a song of quiet restfulness to Him who has taught you to sing, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." But tonight, this same night, the vast multitudes whose ears have never heard such comforting words will lie down with sins torturing them, evil deeds prodding their consciences; and their souls will cry out in the darkness for rest and for peace. They will rise from their beds and will go to the heathen temples. I have seen them by the thousands at the midnight hours. There they will clap their hands and pound on the closed doors to awaken gods that have gone to sleep; and were it possible to arouse them, they could bring no help. Beloved, why do such conditions exist? Why do they have to go to gods that cannot help? Because the verse in this paragraph is not theirs. It is meant for them, but you and I have not taken it to them.

Tomorrow morning you and I will awaken to a new day with light hearts, for the moment our eyes are opened we look up and immediately one of the sweetest verses in all Scripture is on our lips and the darkest day is full of light: "Our Father, which are in heaven." Can anything come today that will be too much for that relationship? My Father! God! All powerful! All lovely! And caring for me as His own child! And so the day begins, a happy day, a victorious day! But not for a thousand million precious souls as precious to Him as your soul and mine! Why? Because that verse does not exist for that great multitude since you and I have not told them of Him who gave Jesus to bring them to the Father who longs to be to them all that He means to us. God is not their Father—not because they refuse Him, but because they have never heard that there is One who so loved them that He gave His only begotten Son for them.

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." In seeking rest for their souls there are no such words in any of the heathen religions in which they can trust. To you and to me these words are precious.

They are oft repeated; constantly they are a reminder of Calvary and its redemptive word wrought out in our own experiences. We sing about them in meetings where they are so well known. We testify about their wondrous truth and beauty, but we say not a word about it to these millions who need this message and die. One hundred thousand die every day without one syllable ever having been told them of these verses, and many like them that have been given to you and to me to pass on to them, but we have failed to do so.

Need we repeat any more of the "wonderful words of life" that mean nothing to these multitudes? Yes, just one more: Listen! Oh, how much it means to you in life's greatest crisis; and oh, how they need it, but it means naught to them because its assurance, hope and sustaining power have never been whispered in their fading hearing as the dark waters of death chill their hopeless, dying souls—because you and I have failed to get the news to them in time.

Heathendom is crowded with grave yards filled with those whose last hour on earth was hopelessly dark because no one ever told them there is One to whom they could have looked and thus been able to say, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." They went out in fear; the waters of death strangled them in their darkness; there was no one with them; there was no strong staff of comfort and not a star of hope in the blackness of their night of death, because you and I have kept that glorious verse to ourselves. We have not obeyed the Great Commission which demands that our lives be given, our talents used and our possessions invested so that EVERY CREATURE may know. And still to one thousand million souls the Word of God means nothing—because you and I have failed to take it to them.

## JESUS REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT

R. B. Warren

We are often prone to wish that we had been in Palestine when Jesus was there, that we might have heard His words and seen His miracles. But actually this is an age of greater privileges. Jesus said, "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I go not away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." Jn. 16:7 (R. S. V.)

The Holy Spirit is not limited to one place at a time as was Jesus in His humanity. The Spirit takes up His abode in the hearts of God's children everywhere. Jesus said, "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." We can still know Jesus. By the revelation of Him by the Holy Spirit we can know Him more intimately than Peter and John knew Him when He was in the flesh. His death on the Cross, His glorious resurrection, His triumphant ascension makes the merits of His death available for the whole world. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we may know our sins forgiven and our hearts made clean from sin. We can walk in daily fellowship with God.

Let us no more long for the days of Jesus' enfleshment but let us enter now upon our great heritage in Him by the Holy Spirit.