

The Dentist Took a Chance

Dr. Richards served as a dentist in a midwestern city and built up a good practice. He was honest and thorough in his work. He had a pleasing personality, made many friends, and became a deacon in the large church near his home. One day, as he journeyed on his summer's vacation, he passed through Winona Lake, Indiana, because he had heard about that great Bible conference and wanted to see what it was like. He had never been to a Bible conference, though he had read about them in the monthly magazine of his denomination. While at Winona Lake, he visited the bookstore and purchased a copy of my book *The Romance of a Doctor's Visits*. As he read the book, he found the story of a man whose condition of heart was quite like his own. The man was religious, had good standing in the community, was respected and honored as a man of the church. This man discovered that he obtained no peace in his heart from all his religious activities.

This story convinced the doctor that he too needed something else besides religion. He was a successful dentist, he was well received in society, but somehow he had no peace in his heart and no rest in his spirit. He felt the need of something more than just religious activity and good character.

He decided to lock up his office and fly to Kansas City to see the one who wrote the book and had this interesting

experience about which he had read. He did so without first learning whether I would be at home and could be seen by him. Of course, the Holy Spirit is always guiding in the affairs of troubled hearts, and He knew that this seeker should not be disappointed. I was at home and received a telephone call from one of the downtown hotels to see if he could make an appointment with me that evening. We were just at supper at the time, and so I asked him to come at 7:30. He did so. He was a splendid young man about thirty-five years of age and impressed me as one who was deeply in earnest, and not just a curiosity seeker.

We sat in the parlor, and he began the conversation by saying, "I read in your book, *The Romance of a Doctor's Visits*, about a man whose case is quite like my own. I am in good standing in the city where I live. I have a splendid dental practice, and I am a deacon in the church. I have a wife and two little children whose hearts are with me in my Christian activity. In spite of all of this, I know there is something wrong with me. I get nowhere in my Christian activity and do not know for sure that I belong to the Lord. I flew over here hoping to find you, and I want you to tell me what you told that friend about whom I read in your book." I answered him by saying, "Are you a lost dentist?" He did not answer at once but was thinking the thing through. Then he said, "I do not know whether I am or not. Certainly I do not have the thing that would make me satisfied with God and give me the feeling of security."

I asked him then if he knew any verse of Scripture that he could quote. He drew a little Testament out of his pocket and without opening it said, "I learned a verse in Sunday school, and really I am ashamed to say it is the only verse I know." He then quoted correctly John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I then reminded him that God sent the Lord Jesus to be the Saviour. He came to save from sin and to give the gift of righteousness and then eventually bring us to God after being made fit for God's presence.