

of heart which I have been preaching about to others, with so little success.' That, doctor, is why I am here to see you this morning."

This confession from my friend at once presented to me a difficult problem. Here was a man who knew the Bible fairly well, had received four years of training in the study of it, had preached on its texts for fourteen years, and still was in profound darkness and ignorant of the way of salvation!

"How shall I begin with you?" I asked. "You are well acquainted with the Bible."

"Just begin with me," he said, "as you would with a heathen. Just forget that I know anything at all about the Bible and start right at the beginning of the gospel story. As you tell it to me, I will find where I have missed the way; so just start in."

"We will begin our conversation," I said, "by seeing your need of this Saviour. Let us read God's indictment in Romans 3:9-19."

We read the passage through carefully. After each verse I asked him, "Is this true of you? Is this what the Lord thinks of you?" We spent quite a little time on those verses because his heart until then was really not ready to admit that he was that bad.

"This is not what I think of you, my friend, it is what God thinks of you. If God in His love, tells us what He sees in our hearts, we should bow to it. We should not set our judgment of ourselves in opposition to God's revealed judgment of us."

"No," he said, "that is right, and though I had not thought until now that I was that bad, I accept His accusation and confess my guilt."

**X** We next turned to Romans 5:6, which reads, "When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

"Are you helpless?" I asked him, "and are you the ungodly one—quite unable to help yourself?"

"Yes, that describes me," he answered. "I know that only the Saviour can save, and I want Him to save me this morning."

We next read John 3:16 and John 5:24, both of which I explained in some detail to him. The explanations did not bring light to his heart, nor peace. His countenance remained sad.

The Holy Spirit was working in his heart, and we realized His blessed presence. I quickly prayed to Him for wisdom and guidance, and then turned to John 1:12, where we read together this passage: "But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." With this verse we joined I John 5:12, where it is recorded: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

These two Scriptures were used of the Lord to bring the light to his darkened heart. "That," said he, "is the very place where I have missed being a Christian. I have read about Christ and believed what I read. I have preached about Christ and believed what I preached, but I have never made Him my own. There never was a time when I went to Christ Jesus personally and told Him that I would take Him as my Lord and Saviour. But I will accept Him just now. He knows that my heart is hungry and I believe His Word which says: 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out' (John 6:37)."

Two years later, when I met this pastor again in a different city at a Christian Endeavor Conference, he greeted me with unusual affection and said: "Not only do I have peace with God myself, but the Lord is now saving souls through my ministry constantly."

Are you, my friend, seeking to preach or teach without first