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# Forgiven.

By L. L.

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**G**OD'S way of salvation is simple and plain.

When a soul comes to an end of self and casts itself wholly on the **WORK** of Christ for *safety*, and the **WORD** of God for *assurance*, the light of heaven shines into the heart, and then out through the life.

Such was the case with the young lady in the following story:

Agnes L. was both amiable and religious, and was a regular attendant at the Bible Class. But as we tried to show from Scripture **GOD'S** standard of righteousness, and **HIS WAY** of salvation, she began to wonder whether, after all, she was resting on the right foundation or not.

At last she got roused up to see that in spite of her moral goodness, she was a sinner before God and

LOST. Now she wanted to be SAVED. This led her to turn to her Bible for help—the right thing to do—and her anxiety was so deep that her tears often fell on its pages.

One Lord's Day afternoon I said to her at the close of the Bible Class, "Well, Agnes, have you got peace yet?"

"No," she replied, "but I do want to get into the light to-day."

So we sat down, and turning together to the thirteenth chapter of Acts, I read to her God's gracious declaration, that through a Saviour crucified, dead, and risen, God is now offering forgiveness of sins freely, without money and without merit.

"Have you this forgiveness?" I asked.

"No," she replied sadly.

"Do you see from this Scripture how you can obtain this great gift?"

"By believing on the Lord Jesus."

“Yes, you have been trying to *merit* salvation. God gives freely. By the death of His Son the debt has been paid and everything is made sure by His rising again. Now God invites you to look away from yourself to the Lord Jesus and believe on Him.” And I slowly re-read the verse: “By Him all that believe are justified.” Will all who believe on Him receive forgiveness of sins? I asked.

“Yes,” she replied decidedly.

“When will they receive this gracious gift?”

“When they believe on Jesus,” she said.

“Do you believe on the Lord Jesus as *your* Saviour?”

“Yes, indeed I do.”

“Then according to our verse you are——?”

There was a long pause, but at last, in simple faith, her heart rested on

the sure Word of God, and she replied in one word, "FORGIVEN."

I turned to 1 John i. 7, and read to her of the BLOOD THAT CLEANSETH FROM ALL SIN.

Then I spoke of the LOVE that brought Him down and the POWER that raised Him up: next we turned to John x. 27-30, and learned about the NEW LIFE and the ETERNAL SECURITY given to every blood-bought one. Last of all we turned to Rom. x. 9, 10—"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as thy Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

"Now, I said, "you have confessed Him to me as your Saviour, go home and go out into the world and confess Him, by your life and by your

lips, as the One who has saved and blessed you.”

We knelt and thanked the Lord together, asking grace and strength for the young disciple, and she went away.

Singularly enough, one of the first questions she was asked when she got home, opened the way for her confession.

“What have you got at the Class to-day?” said one.

“I have got the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour,” she replied.

That was a good start. She began well—went on well—is going on well. She has learned that Christ is able to KEEP as well as to SAVE. She has a JOY the world cannot give; she has a bright HOME in prospect when this world is over.

Was the path easy? Not always. She was employed in a large retail establishment and one day the fore-

man of her department instructed her to describe certain goods in terms which she knew did not truthfully apply. Hoping the occasion would not arise, she went quietly on with her work. But Satan was also on the outlook to stumble if possible the young convert.

One day a lady at her counter asked for the very goods in question. Just behind the lady stood the foreman. Her truthful description failed to make a sale, and in the evening before she went home the matter was taken up with her.

“Indeed, sir, I told the truth,” she said. “You are here to do what I tell you,” he replied.

But Agnes stood firm to what she knew was right, although, in the end, it cost her the situation.

This was serious enough, for she was an orphan, alone in the city, and when she called to tell me the story,

the tears filled her eyes as she asked, "Whatever shall I do now?"

"Well, Agnes," I said, "you have done the very best thing possible, in being true to God, and you can depend upon it, He will be true to you."

Another situation in a different line soon opened up, and to-day she is in a position of trust, with an income more than four times what she had previously earned.

Why have I told you her story? Because you also may have this Saviour, this joy, and this home, by simply coming as a poor lost sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you also will be FORGIVEN.

Then if you are true to Him you will be *kept* and *used*, and when the Day of Reward comes you will hear His welcome voice saying to you, "Enter thou into the Joy of the Lord."