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By PHILIP WILLIS.

No. 1.

The Greatest Discovery.



NEWPORT (MON.):—
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The Greatest Discovery.

By P.W.

WHEN Sir James Simpson, the well-known discoverer of chloroform, was once questioned as to the greatest discovery he thought he had ever made, he replied, **“That I have a Saviour!”**

Wonderful discovery indeed to have been made by one of Scotland's most gifted sons! Now this confession involved a prior discovery, namely, *his need* of a Saviour.

Ah! my reader, this is why so many of the great and noble and learned of this world are, apparently, so utterly indifferent to eternal realities. They have never discovered their need, and hence are not prepared to take the place of confession before God, where alone His grace can meet them.

Do you enquire what place that is? Let God's plain ungarnished word answer: the place of the "Unjust," "Ungodly," "Unclean," "Without strength," and "Guilty before God." And, moreover, it adds that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (*Isaiah lxiv. 6*), and "there is no difference, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (*Rom. iii.*). This is certainly not flattering to fallen humanity, and is undoubtedly far too lowering for human pride to brook. Naaman the Syrian, who was an exalted man of the world, had to humble himself and wash in Jordan seven times, according to the word spoken by the prophet, before he could be cleansed of his leprosy.

Reader, what will it matter to you in your dying hour whether you were low-bred or high-born, whether you had become a total bankrupt or acquired millions, whether you had never travelled twenty miles from your birthplace, or had seen every country under the sun?

When you find yourself nearing the cold embrace of death, and know that,

however fondly you may have been loved, however esteemed or highly exalted you have been, you must pass from time into eternity, how do you think you will feel? It is said that Lord Byron mocked at death, but when he came to meet it, he shivered with horror.

When the first ray of divine light dawns in the soul, we are made to feel our guilt and our totally lost condition, and hence our need of a Saviour. When our sins are rightly pressed upon our conscience, and we realise the awful solemnity of meeting God about our guilt, repentance toward God is the true and only attitude which becomes us. We are shut up absolutely to the grace of God for deliverance.

Has my reader ever known such an experience? Have God's righteous claims ever been pressed upon your conscience, and have you been before God in true repentance and confession of your sins?

The great city of Nineveh repented when the strange voice of a Jewish prophet was heard ringing through its streets and busy marts, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh

shall be overthrown." Judgment was then stayed and God was merciful toward them. There is a Saviour for the repentant, but no Saviour for the unrepentant self-satisfied moralist. Such do not want grace, but rather scorn it.

If my reader is one who feels the greatness of his guilt in God's sight, do not despair. However dark and black your history may appear, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Your sins may tower over you like a huge mountain, apparently ready to fall upon you and sink you to perdition, but Christ suffered for sin and His death avails for you if you will but simply trust Him.

The God you have sinned against has been glorified by the death of His own Son as to the whole question of sin. Sin need be no longer a barrier between you and blessing. It has been dealt with once and for all in the cross of Christ. It has been so removed from before God that in righteousness He never can charge sin to those who believe the gospel. The death of Christ was a full answer to God for the

sins of every believer. He can never die again, and if His death did not settle the whole question, nothing else can avail. Why not in child-like simplicity believe it? Then peace will fill your soul like a river.

You will not have peace until you believe God's testimony brought to you concerning Christ, and His death and resurrection. Peace follows upon believing God's testimony ; it never comes before. The great mistake that so many make is that they want to see some sign, or feel some inward emotion before they believe.

Nothing honours God like faith. Abraham is an example of a man who believed God against all natural appearances ; we are not told that he wanted either to see a sign or to feel an emotion, and because of this God honoured him, and has been pleased to put his name on record for all ages as the father of the faithful.

I shall never forget a friend of mine telling me how he got peace. He was brought up religiously, but still was a stranger to peace with God, until a certain evangelist visited the town where he

resided. At that time he was preparing as an elocutionist to compete for a gold medal ; when awakened to real concern about his soul's salvation, the coming competition faded greatly from his view. One night he went up to recite some pieces, when his master expressed surprise that he seemed so far behind in his studies, whereupon the young man said to him, " I am far more concerned about another matter." The master, who was a true Christian, discovered at once where he was, and asked him to remain for conversation when the other pupils had left, to which he willingly consented. The Bible was at once brought and opened at 1 John v. 9. " If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater ; for this is the witness of God, which he hath testified of his Son." The master remarked to his pupil : " If I told you that something extraordinary had transpired in my house this morning, would you believe my word ?" " I would," was the reply.

" Why would you believe me ?"

" Because I have confidence in you."

“ Well, you see, that would be after all only the witness of a poor fallible man ; and if you would without hesitation believe the testimony of a man, why not believe the unerring witness of God about His Son ? ” Light broke in upon my friend through this simple conversation, and as he raised himself up from the armchair where he was sitting, he exclaimed, “ I’ll go, the scales are falling. ” And fall they did ; he rejoiced in the Saviour, and has often since raised his voice in testimony for Him.

Now, anxious reader, why not you ? “ With his stripes we are healed ” (*Isa. liii.*) ; not by your prayers, or tears, or inward emotions, however important these may be in their place. Appropriate—or take home to yourself—what God has said about His Son ; that He died for all and thus bore the judgment that rested on us ; that He is now risen and sits at God’s right hand in heaven, glorified there because His work is finished : and peace will be your present and eternal portion.

P.W.