

WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN SIXTY EIGHT YEARS # 22

I lived in Lufkin, Texas and worked with the Timberland Dr. Church of Christ – 1966 – 1972. During this period I was entrusted with a radio program, each Lord's Day, from 6:45 A.M – 7:00 A.M. One morning, there was a knock on my office door and there stood the **disk jockey**, asking if he could come in?

I noticed he was edgy and seemed uncomfortable. I talked for a few minutes and then asked how I could be of help? He then stated he had some things he wanted to tell me about. I sat back in my office chair and relaxed and said to him, *"I have plenty of time and would be happy to listen to what you have to say."* He began by telling me what DJ's did when a religious program came on the air – I did my program from my office; thus, it was a live program.

According to him, *"This was opportunity for him to use the bathroom, take out the trash and anything else that needs to be done. He would, during this time, lay out records, to be played, after your program. I found myself not doing any of these things, during your program. I listened to your teaching and became more and more interested as time passed – I found myself not doing what normally would be done during this period of your program. Now, I want to come to the point of asking you some questions about what you teach! I am interested in some answers."*

He told me he had been raised a Baptist and was taught: *"Salvation was by Faith Only!" What do you think about this?"* I handed him a New Testament and asked him to turn to Jas. 2:24. I noticed he had difficulty finding the passage; so, I leaned over my desk and found the passage for him: he read to me, *"24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only,"* Jas. 2:24, KJV. His statement to me was, *"You always present from the Bible, just the **opposite** of what I have believed and you can be assured, I believe what the Bible teaches."* I knew, at this point, I had something to appeal to – **"what the Bible teaches!"**

We studied concerning **"repentance"** and **"confession"** and I pointed out, if one is saved by faith only, he is saved without repentance and confession. At length he acknowledged one needed to repent and confess and that they came after faith; thus, he could not be saved by "Faith Only". The subject of **"baptism"** was not that difficult. I observed the Baptist's position on baptism and showed him the same from their creed book – it was hard for him to believe what the Baptist teach about baptism; but, he came to believe the truth about baptism. The Bible teaches a *"newness of life, after baptism,"* Rom. 6:4 and one is *"baptized into Christ,"* Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27. After about two hours he stated he wanted to think about what he had learned.

Several weeks later, I received a letter from him, postmarked Shreveport, La. The first part of the letter informed me he was in a hospital at Shreveport. The second part was to express appreciation for the time in studying the Bible in my office. Then he informed me that he had cancer and was being treated for the same.

The third part of the letter was to inform me, as soon as he returned home he wanted to be baptized. I thought of making a trip to Shreveport and finding a way to baptize him in the hospital; but, he had stated what he wanted to do; so, I respected his wishes. A few days later I was contacted by his family, asking me to preach his funeral. Now, this is something I have had to live with since about 1968. Many have been the times I have thought, in the middle of the night, that I should have gotten in my car, drove to Shreveport and found a way to baptize him. This is a problem I have had in the years that have passed. Did I do all I could have done, for this person? Was respecting his wishes acceptable on my part? This is a problem I have to live with and no one can remove it from me!

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