

Testimony

by *William Macleod*

Someone has rightly said that only eternity will reveal the full record of the mysteries of the Lord's Kingdom. How true! Yet God has often used the printed page as a means of awakening many a soul concerning its eternal need; hence this short testimony.

Like the scribe in the New Testament I was "not far from the Kingdom of God" but far enough away from the Kingdom to be lost.

I was brought up in the village of Barvas, on the Island of Lewis, and since cradle days I was reared and influenced in the atmosphere of a God-fearing people. The solemnity and reality of their prayer life and conversation were genuine marks that the 'secret of the Lord' was with them. I never doubted that the Lord was their portion and that His Word was their daily bread.

With such a faith we came in contact, in church and in home, and yet there was no sign in my life of "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." On the other hand there was within my reach the luring power of sin. There I joined in many a sinful action with the whole consent of my youthful heart. The world had much to give and I could take it all, but after years of frustrating sinful habits and just as many years of ignoring the strivings of the Holy Spirit, I found little satisfaction, but more than enough of inward confusion.

Then at Christmas, 1949, while in my early twenties, I found to my amazement that I was interested in the Lord's gracious movement, as seen in the transformed lives of young men and women. By this time it was evident that "times of refreshing" had "come from the presence of the Lord." For myself, what was once a good influence on my life had now become a saving grace, and like the rejoicing Samaritans in the fourth chapter of John's Gospel I could say: "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

If you were to ask me what this saving grace brought about in my life, I would gladly offer you these answers: The first is, that my estimation of myself has diminished down through the years, and I say with the Psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Secondly, my estimation of my Saviour has steadily increased, and because of His gracious sustenance I am privileged to convey to others the eternal truths of "this grace wherein we stand."

... William Macleod. Church of Scotland, Uigen, Lewis