



Volume XXXVIII

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THE TRACT THAT CHANGED C.T. STUDD'S LIFE—A

tract written by an atheist dramatically changed the life of C.T. Studd (1860-1931) and his perspective of the short time we have on this earth. It seemed to help him turn from lukewarm Christianity to being on fire for God. After reading the tract, he walked away from great financial wealth and being one of the greatest athletes in England's history, to become a missionary in China and Africa. What did it say?

*"Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, religion would mean to me everything. I would cast away all earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought, and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the tomorrow of eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences should never stay my hand nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach it in season and out of season and my text would be, **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** (Mark 8:36)"*

Mr. Studd said, "I at once saw that this was truly consistent Christian life. When I looked back upon my own life I saw how inconsistent it had been. I therefore determined that from that time forth my life should be consistent, and I set myself to know what was God's will for me. But this time I determined not to consult with flesh and blood, but just wait until God should show me."

Think about the tract and ask yourself, "What does it profit you to have all and not serve Christ?"

OPERATION FREQUENT WIND—On the morning of April 29, 1975 at 10:51 AM Saigon time, shortly before the fall of South Vietnam to the Communist North Vietnamese Army, U.S. President Gerald Ford issued the order to begin Operation Frequent Wind. During the next 17 hours, U.S. military personnel evacuated 1,373 Americans and 5,595 Vietnamese from Saigon to the safety of U.S. aircraft carriers offshore.

The day is coming when there will be an even bigger airlift, a day when *"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ shall rise...Then we which are alive...shall be caught up...with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air..."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Therefore rejoice and *"...look up...for your redemption draweth nigh"* (Luke 21:28).

"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47

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BE HIS EXAMPLE—Matthew 5:16, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Whether you realize it or not, you are an example. It doesn't matter if you think you are too weak or inadequate to be one, there are people who look up to you and are watching to see how you live. And God wants you to be His representative to them. Jesus came into this world as a servant, humbly giving His life. And God's will is that we be a light to show loving acts of service that meet the spiritual and practical needs of those around us that they will grow closer to Him. There are so many people around you in need today—not just physically or financially, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Everyone you meet needs someone to encourage him or her. Will you make time to reach out and show them the awesome, unconditional, sacrificial love of Christ? Remember, God sees everything you do in His name and will bless you for all you do in obedience to Him (Hebrews 6:10).

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS—In the Southwest many years ago a fiery drought clamped down over half a dozen states for weeks on end. In the blistering heat, steers fell on the range. Streams dwindled and were drying up. In some areas civil engineers worked desperately. In other areas governors and state representatives were busy on the trains and planes to Washington, fighting for federal relief.

But in a New Mexico community, vehicles could be seen parked three deep around a small country church. Inside, many somber-faced men bent their heads in prayer for rain. Half an hour later the drops began to fall and beat upon the stained-glass windows of the little church in answer to their prayers of faith. Colossians 4:2, *"Continue in prayer..."*.

AMERICA NEEDS...

...A LEADER LIKE MOSES, who refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter but was willing to go with God.

...ARMY GENERALS LIKE JOSHUA, who knew God and could pray and shout things to pass rather than blow them to pieces with atomic energy.

...A FOOD ADMINISTRATOR LIKE JOSEPH, who knew God and had the answer to famine.

...PREACHERS LIKE PETER, who would not be afraid to look people in the eye and preach *"Repent or perish"* and denounce their personal as well as their national sins.

...MOTHERS LIKE HANNAH, who would pray for a child that she might give him to God.

...CHILDREN LIKE SAMUEL, who would talk to God in the night hours.

...A GOD LIKE ISRAEL's, instead of the dollar god, the entertainment god, and the auto god.

THE RIGHT WAY—On October 25, 1964, Jim Marshall was playing professional football for the Minnesota Vikings. After picking up a fumble made by San Francisco 49ers' Billy Kilmer, he started toward the end zone. Thinking he was on his way to making a touchdown for his team, Jim ran 66 yards in the wrong direction to his own end zone. His mistake gave 2 points to the 49ers. It is considered one of the worst plays ever made in the National Football League. It earned him the nickname "Wrong Way Marshall".

Like Jim Marshall it is easy to think you are doing the right thing when in reality you are not. King Solomon once said, *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes..."* (Proverbs 21:2). Unfortunately man's way is not always the right way. Solomon also said, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Proverbs 14:12). It is important therefore that we follow the way of life by following Jesus Christ in all we do. He said, *"...I am the way..."* (John 14:6), and *"...he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

GOD IS NEVER LATE—In order for a tree or any plant to grow and bear fruit, its seed must first be planted in the ground and die. In order for spiritual fruit to appear in our lives, we must first be planted in the Word of God and then die to self. In the face of chastening, adversity, discipline, and affliction, God's Word nourishes our lives and fruit begins to appear. But it doesn't happen overnight. It takes time and patience. Look how God used Joseph after he had been sold into slavery by brothers who hated him, and then wrongly accused by Potiphar, who put him in prison. Even after he had told Pharaoh's cupbearer he would be restored to the king's court and asked him to tell Pharaoh of his unjust imprisonment, Joseph had to wait two more years for release from prison. As we wait upon the Lord, He may sometimes seem slow in coming to help us, but He never comes too late. His timing is always perfect.

Are you in a season of waiting? Don't let it be wasted. Study God's Word so that your roots grow deep and spend time in prayer! Isaiah 40:31, *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength..."*.

THE ONE-WAY TICKET—*"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy"* (Psalm 107:2). Are you one of the redeemed? Then tell your stunning story. Your story is a big deal in Heaven, so tell your story of His faithfulness to you.

A woman told a story that happened decades ago. She was a newlywed whose husband was in the military and they were out of the U.S. on active duty. As Christmas approached the husband was informed he had leave for the holiday. Excited, they checked the price of airline tickets and realized they could afford them. The tickets were purchased and they flew home to a wonderful reunion. Then someone casually asked, "When do you fly back?"

"Fly back? We hadn't thought about flying back. We didn't realize we had purchased one-way tickets. Who does that? WE DID! To make matters worse we did not have the money to purchase return tickets. Our parents, generous and merciful, volunteered to buy the return tickets and saved the day. In spite of being humiliated by our own stupidity, our story ended just fine. We enjoyed the rest of our time at home. In a few weeks, we paid our parents back. We still make mistakes, and God still helps us. Our lives are filled with stories about how great God is."

"Our greatest story is the one where we are given a one-way ticket "home" (Heaven), that was purchased by Jesus Christ! He alone knows the date on that ticket!"

THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS NEEDED—In the days of stagecoach, a man undertook a journey. He was informed that there were first, second, and third-class passenger seats. However all the seats on the coach looked alike to him, so he purchased a third-class seat and all went well for a time. He was congratulating himself on saving so much money.

Presently they came to the foot of a very steep hill. The driver shouted, "First-class passengers keep your seats. Second-class passengers get out and walk. Third-class passengers get out and push behind."

Unfortunately there is a great need for third-class passengers who are willing to push, not like the first-class who as contented to sit and look while others work, or like second-class who walk away when the real work begins.

Colossians 3:23, *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"*.

FISHY QUESTION—Remember that last edition's question was a brain teaser! Who was considered the smartest man in the Bible? (And it is not Solomon.) The answer is Abraham, because he knew a Lot. This edition's question is a riddle. Who was the Bible's greatest comedian? Put on your thinking-cap and let us hear from you!

POTPOURRI (NOT NECESSARILY FISHY)

--A group of squid should be called a squid.

--The longest drum solo was 10 hours and 26 minutes and was performed by the child sitting behind me on Delta Flight 963 from Los Angeles to Tokyo.

--Children singing hymns is wonderful, even when the words are different, such as, "Praise Him, praise Him tell of His elephant gracious." And "O victory in Jesus...He punched me to victory!"

--Just like ships, people usually make loud noise when they're in a fog.

--Never put a question mark where God puts a period.

--When one door closes, another soon will open. But we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the one which has been opened before us.

--Most entanglements are caused by vocal cords.

--According to 2020 statistics by Lifeway Research, church attendance in the U.S. stands at this record low...23% at least once weekly; 19% at least monthly; 28% rarely; 30% never.