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HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN
(A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts)
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

LAWSON JONES (Son of Lum Jones)

Taken From A Devotional Message by Lum Jones, titled: "I Am Ready":

Text: Rom. 1:14-16 "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Paul had in mind three things when he gave us this text. First, he said, "I am in debt." Then said he, "I am ready to pay this debt." He finished by saying, "I am not ashamed I paid the debt."

What would you like to be in this world? Would you like to be rich? Just why would you want a lot of money? Money beyond what we really need is a headache. Many times we don't even need what we think we need. One claims that if he had money he would do this or that and yet what little he does have he will not even pay the tithe out of it.

Would you like to be famous, -- have your name in the lights? Sometimes one never knows how well off he is when a plain, honest, upright somebody, living a simple life. When I read how one is wined and dined and run ragged by a sinful world just because he has done something maybe no one else did or made a picture that hurt instead of helped, it makes me sad. Has what you did helped others? If not, then you have wasted your time no matter what the world thinks of you.

Paul said, "I am in debt." In common language he asserted, "I owe to the world the best life possible for me to live. I am debtor to prepare to the best of my ability the short life I live, so I will help others."

He said, "I am ready." Some people never get ready for anything. They will be late to their own funeral unless somebody pushes them. They are late in Sunday school if they go at all; late at church or late at home or don't bother to come. They are just late. They talk about what should be

done but they are late in doing any of it themselves. The only time they are not late is when they want something for their own selfish interest. What did Paul mean when he said, "I am ready"?

Ready to suffer. Some don't mind seeing others suffer but they have no time for suffering themselves. The life of God and the Church is a life of suffering. Follow the life of Paul and you will find a life of suffering. He could have lived a life of ease had he still worked for the state and made life hard for the Church. He was beaten, in jail, kicked around, and some of the time it was by church folk. When he was told not to go to Rome he said, "I must preach the gospel in Rome also." He perhaps knew the danger and that he might lose his life but he said, "This gospel must be preached in Rome." In the text Paul said this gospel will be simple enough that the Greeks through their reason can understand it, but he said it will be simple enough that the barbarians also will hear and understand. He said it is for the wise and the unwise. He said that if a man has been to school, well and good; but if he has never seen a school, he can still find the way.

He also said, "I am ready to serve." Too many people sit and want to be served; not many want to serve. If I should have a stone at my grave when I am dead I had rather it would read, "He was happiest when he served others." When Mom lay dead in our little humble home at 630 9th St., Ada, Oklahoma, January 18, 1953, I said to someone, "This room would not hold what she has made or bought for others, never thinking of herself." How many times have you seen lazy church members want a lot of attention from the poor pastor or the evangelist and yet if they came to church twice in the revival they thought they should have a medal! Never saw them at prayer meeting, too busy with self to visit on Sunday School night. They were home when the poor pastor was at the church trying to save some of their family. If they came to Sunday school they took their crowd and left before preaching.

St. Paul said, "I am ready to give." Of course the church has to have our money or it will close up. I have seen over and over again where people had a new car every eight months, nice rugs on the floor, if it was for self. If they didn't have the money they bought at a dollar down and a dollar when the easy payment came around. Ask them for something for the church, they were just too hard up. Sometimes it takes more energy in the wear and tear to get a few dollars out of some people than it's worth after one gets it. There is a life to invest which is harder to give than money, and when one has given himself wholly on the altar of God and been sanctified wholly it is not hard to get money out of him.

Paul said, "I am ready to be offered up." He meant he was ready to die. Of all other things we should be ready for, it should be death, for we never know how close it is to us. When I left Ada on Tuesday morning, January 13, 1953, for Kansas City, I never thought that would be the last time I would see my wife alive. She was well and happy.

I had said to Mom on December 10, on our way from our California home, that we had lost our son Lawson, we had lost him to God, the church, and to our home. I said, "Unless a miracle happens, he is gone." That miracle happened on January 15 at 4:30 p.m. She had prayed in prayer meeting on Wednesday night, if it took her life, to save her children. The heart attack struck her at 3:30 p.m. the next day. She told our daughter to call the ambulance and said, "I am going to die but I am not afraid." One hour and she was dead. When Glen and I walked into the house at six-thirty we were told she had died two hours earlier.

Our son Lawson came home from New York City for the funeral. Soon after his going back to New York, Mom's prayers were answered. He sought someone to pray for him and wrote me that God had saved him. Just a few days later in a cold city with no one but God to help him, he asked God to sanctify him and received the blessing. Then he wrote he was praying about what God wanted him to do, maybe give his talent to one of our schools. He is now teaching in Bethany-Peniel College. He has said over and over again he would never have been saved had Mom lived.

When it was all summed up Paul said, "I am not ashamed that I have paid the debt, not ashamed for what it has done for me, not ashamed for what it has done for the world." When I sum it all up for myself I can say as Paul said, "I am debtor, I am ready, and I am not ashamed." All I am, all I have ever been, I owe to God and those who prayed for me.

Source: "Evangelize Now" Compiled by Russell V. DeLong

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