

The Story of the
**PAWNED
BOOK**



THE DOCTOR'S BIBLE

Many years ago, when William P. Mackay left home at the age of seventeen for college, his mother gave him a Bible. On the flyleaf she wrote her name, his name, and a Bible verse.

The young Scotsman was a brilliant student in medical school and became a physician. In time, he became head of the largest hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland. His success in medicine was equaled only by the wickedness of his personal life. Open in his ridicule of God and the Bible, Mackay was elected president of a society of atheists in the city where he practiced medicine. The club members practiced a consistently vile and despicable way of life.

Into his hospital one day was carried a man who had been terribly injured, with the lower part of his body having been crushed. On his face, however, was a look of radiance and peace so pronounced that it amazed Dr. Mackay, who was accustomed to seeing people suffer.

The desperately wounded man asked the surgeon: "What is my condition, doctor? I want to know the truth. Is it life or death? I am ready and I am not afraid to die, because my trust is in the precious, shed Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for my sins at Calvary. I know I am going to be with Him if I die."

"You have, at the most, three hours to live," was the reply. The brightness on the face of the one soon to be in eternity did not dim at the news.

"Is there anything you need for us to do for you?" asked Dr. Mackay.

"Thank you," said the dying man. "In one of my pockets is a two week's pay check. If you can get to it, I wish you to send it at once to my landlady, and ask her to send me the book."

"What book?" questioned Mackay. "Oh, just ask her for the book. She will know."

The doctor made arrangements for the man's simple request to be carried out, and then started on his rounds through the hospital. But some of the dying man's words kept ringing in his ears. "I am ready...I am going to be with Jesus..."

Dr. Mackay had never been known to show a personal interest in a patient before, but for the first time he wanted to know how this one was getting along. He returned a few hours later to the ward where the injured man had been taken. He asked the nurse in charge about his condition. "He died just a few minutes ago," she informed him.

"Did his book get here in time?" asked the doctor. "Yes, shortly before he died." "What was it, his bank book?" "No, it wasn't his bank book," said the nurse. "It is still there, though, if you want to look at it. He died with it under his pillow."

Dr. Mackay went to the bedside, reached under the pillow and withdrew a Bible. As he did so the Bible opened at the flyleaf. There, in his mother's handwriting, was her name, his own name, and a Scripture verse! It was the Bible he had received from her years ago as he was leaving for college. He had pawned it years later in a drunken daze to obtain money for more whiskey.

Overwhelmed by precious memories, he hurried to his private office, fell on his knees, and prayed

to his mother's God to have mercy on his soul. In repentance he accepted Christ as his Savior. *"Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God had His eye on that Bible, and directed events to bring it back to the person to whom it was first given, in order to lead him to Christ. The doctor's first thought after thanking God for saving his soul was to write to his Christian mother and tell her the soul-stirring news! Needless to say, she fell upon her knees, praising God for the salvation of her wayward son.

Mackay, the physician, became a minister of God's; and as a minister he turned many to righteousness.

Someone is praying for you. Perhaps a gray-haired mother, an aged father, a loving sister or brother, an affectionate friend. But above all, God loves you; and He sent His Son all the way from Heaven to earth on your behalf. Won't you trust Him now? *"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). God says that He *"now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, because He hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man (Christ) whom He hath ordained"* (Acts 17:30, 31).

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