

The Bag, the Bottle, and the Book.



“**W**HAT a strange title! I hear some voices say; “what can it mean?” Let us see and talk about it for a little. The **BAG**, the **BOTTLE**, and the **BOOK** all concern you and have to do with you. We read of them in the Bible. These three things have to do with you, yet belong to God.

We find God’s “**BAG**” spoken of in the book of Job, and in the 14th chapter and 17th verse you will find him saying; “My transgression is sealed up in a **BAG**, and Thou sewest up my iniquity.”

Job knew then that his sins were all known, remembered and kept. There was a bag full of them! And a bag so safely kept, that on its mouth was placed the seal of the great God. No fear of one sin being forgotten, or slipped out.

They were “sealed up.” Why? Because there was a time coming when that **BAG** would be opened; the hand that sealed it alone could or might dare to break the seal, and all those sins would come to light again!

This is not a pleasant thing to think about; and yet, it is better for us to sit down and have a little earnest talk about it, so that we may find out if there is no way of getting rid of this terrible load of sins.

What is to be done? We dare not face the Judgment-seat, you and I, with that great **BAG** of sins waiting to be opened, and all our secrets ready to be brought to light. I have some good news to tell you. You can get rid of this **BAG**!

Let us turn to Micah vii. 18, 19, and we shall find those words, “Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” Happy words! God who notes the sins, is the God who can rid us of the sins, Happy news for all! Now, for Jesus’ sake, God will forget for ever the sins of all who believe in Him.

Now we come to the **BOTTLE**. How strange it sounds to say that God has a **BOTTLE**, and yet the Psalmist says in Psalm lvi. 8.: “Put Thou my tears into Thy **BOTTLE**.”

This is a comforting thought—not sins hoarded up, but sorrows. The **BOTTLE** is full of tears. How good of God to care about our sorrows! You know that He does, for He said of His people long ago, “I know their sorrows.” Exodus iii. 7.

“Put thou my tears,” tears of sorrow for sin, first. Ah, how carefully God would treasure up these. How He would count them and watch over them! The tears of repentance are bitter

tears, and yet very sweet. A class of children were once asked by a teacher,

“What is the sweetest thing you know?”

“Honey,” said one child.

“Mother,” lisped a three year old darling.

“Heaven,” said a third.

“*The tear of repentance*,” said an older child, who had known the truth of what she was saying. And it is so—and you may try it for yourself. Tears of sorrow over sin are tears of mingled pain and joy. God treasures them. Tears of joy and gratitude are noted also by our Father in heaven. Perhaps you thought no one knew when the glad tears ran down your cheeks as you heard of Jesus’ love to you? But *God* marked them. And when you wept again upon your bed as you thanked Him for dying for you, God treasured up the tears you shed.

He watches the tears we shed over trials and griefs, and gently wipes them away. No trials are too small to bring to Jesus, when the *tears* are known to Him. And these precious tears are never lost. David, when he cried, “Put Thou my tears into Thy **BOTTLE**?” would realize that they were laid up in a safe, safe place, By-and-by will come a time when “There will be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,” (Rev. xxi. 4); when God “shall wipe away all tears from off all faces” (Isaiah xxv. 8); when there will be no more need of David’s prayer.

Let us turn lastly to the **BOOK** which belongs to God. Men can see our sins very often, they can hear our words, and may even notice our tears; but there is one thing they can never find out unless we choose to tell them, and that thing is *our thoughts* about anything or anybody. God can see and writes them all down.

In the Prophet Malachi, chapter iii. verse 16, we read, “Then they that feared the **LORD** spake often one to another; and the **LORD** hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the **LORD** and that *thought* upon His name.”

The **LORD** knew that their words truly expressed their thoughts. He is not dependent on men’s speech for His knowledge of their thoughts. He has immediate knowledge of them. So we may be sure that the true thoughts of these God-fearing people in the prophet’s day were written in the book of remembrance referred to by him. Not less truly does He observe our thoughts to-day and keep a record of them. *Never forget that He sees you always and everywhere.*

Your very thoughts are known and written in God’s book of remembrance. Should you not pray, then—“Search me, O God, and *know my thoughts*, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting?” Psalm cxxxix. 23, 24.

Now I have finished our talk; I have told you