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FORWARD

At the time of the publication of this book, I have been traveling and preaching in churches, conferences, schools and seminars for more than twenty years. In recent years I have driven to many of my meetings. These lessons on living, for the most part, were dictated while I was driving to and from meetings. As a matter of fact, this Foreword is being dictated as I drive to West Virginia for a conference on soul winning and revival.

The things in this book are not intended to be deep theological discussions or eye-opening revelations. I make no claim for originality. Everything I know I've learned; and, simply put, this book contains SOME THINGS I'VE LEARNED.

Whenever I learn things that help me, I try to write them indelibly on the wall of my memory. Life should be governed by principles, not preferences. This book contains some of the simple little principles that were important to me and I pray will be to many others.

Curtis Hutson

[July, 1934—March, 1995]

with Hutson

Introduction

One of the great privileges I have enjoyed in the ministry has been the opportunity to glean wisdom from the minds of wise, godly men. I treasure the drive from the airport, the sandwich after the service, the ride to and from the motel, the meal together. Although my formal training ended with college, I have enjoyed hours of post-graduate work, more helpful than any university course, at the feet of spiritual giants from whom I have learned invaluable lessons.

Of all the great men of God I have been honored to know and learn from, I have enjoyed no one more than Dr. Curtis Hutson. I have questioned him in person, on the phone, and by mail. I have sat openmouthed in amazement at his wisdom. After an evening in his presence, I have felt compelled to call someone immediately and share the tremendous truths I had just learned. There have been many times when I could not wait to put the practical principles he had just imparted to me into practice. Sleep was an unwelcome intrusion, so consuming and exciting were the ideas he shared with me.

This book gives you a rare and valuable opportunity to delve into the mind of one of the wisest and most greatly used Christians of our generation. Some chapters will make you smile, some may make you grimace as you realize how badly you

have done in certain areas, some will elicit a "Wow!"; but all of them will help you.

For many years I maintained that Curtis Hutson had the best blend of biblical content and evangelistic zeal of any preacher I knew. He combined the profound with the practical, information with inspiration, and meat with motivation.

But there is always a man behind every message, and the character of the man is more important than the content of the message.

Dr. Hutson was more than a man who preached great messages. He was a great man whose amazing mind and godly heart combined to produce great messages. This book lets us peek past the sermons and into the spirit and character that gave such impact to his ministry.

For over thirty years Curtis Hutson pointed people to Jesus. As a soul winner, he won thousands to the Saviour. As pastor of the great Forrest Hills Baptist Church and as an evangelist, he saw many thousands more trust Christ. As editor of the SWORD OF THE LORD, he not only made the Gospel plain but challenged us to keep after our main job of winning souls. In all of his life and ministry, he endeavored to fix people's attention on Jesus.

In these pages you will find great philosophy, great methodology and great insights. But you will

find something more: you will find a great Saviour and a man who loved Him greatly. I know it was Dr. Hutson's deepest desire that this book, as all his efforts, would make you love and serve the Lord Jesus more than ever. I know he sought, above all, the glory and honor of our wonderful Lord.

Dr. R. B. Ouellette Pastor, First Baptist Church Bridgeport, Michigan