

# THE HONEST MAN

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Off-handed comments, a little research, and voila! (the elusive sermon). More than two years ago our sweet sister, Jean Franklin, told me of her grandfather A.J. McCarty. A.J. was a gospel preacher in the early 1900's. Sister Franklin knows him only from the memory of her mother and other family as he died in 1919, before she was even born. She also told me that A.J.'s works and parts of his library were given to Dr. James F. Cox, a cousin, and later president of Abilene Christian College (now University) until 1932. Some of A.J.'s books were placed in the College library.

I visited the library recently and was told that they did not record gifts or keep very good records of antiquity assets until the early 1960's. With the help of two staff researchers I began searching for A.J. McCarty, and I found him in the jumbled archives of the Center for Restoration Studies. What I found was a real treasure, a treatise, a sermon of great worth, "THE HONEST MAN".

The Center provided me a copy of this sermon on compact disc. It has been reproduced and hard copies are in the Graeber Road church library available for you upon request, and can be emailed. I have presented a copy to Sister Franklin with pictures of where it was found. The sermon was lost earlier and found after Professor Cox made an off-handed comment about it in an advanced Bible class. One of the students thought he knew where a copy was, as is detailed in the foreword. The sermon in undated tract form was published by Mrs. C. R. Nichols of Clifton, TX (another cousin) and later published by Firm Foundation Publishing House, although they have no record of this publication today.

The importance of this article is not the search, though rewarding and interesting as it may be, but the message of "THE HONEST MAN". It is gospel preaching in its purest form and from a unique perspective. I estimate it would have taken more than an hour for A.J. to deliver this lesson; today we have the privilege of studying it at length. I understand many souls were converted after hearing this teaching, and it can happen again today.

Ask for a copy and enjoy the rich heritage of early century gospel preaching.

Norman Harnage