

THE FOUNDATION

T. F. Evans

"If the foundation be destroyed what can the righteous do?" Psa. 11:3.

The text is suggestive of one of the greatest truths on earth. That truth is the fact that for and to all things there must be a foundation. All law, science and philosophy, all religious doctrines, all political platforms, all moral character, and all else that is of any importance.

Now if the astronomer has to have a foundation for his science of the sun, moon and stars, and the biologist a foundation for the science of life, and the medical doctor a foundation of cause and effect for the science of medicine, how much more the religious man a foundation for the religion he professes. The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ is all it claims to be or is not. It is built on the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone (or central figure). He is the Christ, or He is not. He is the God-man or no man at all. He has power to save, or we are lost forever. He is the cause, and the Christian religion the effect. On this we stake our all. Evolution goes back some where with man, the Book of God goes back to the beginning where God created him. Evolution says man came from something, (they have never found out what): The Bible says he came from the hand of his Creator. The Bible is our foundation. We have already settled on it to stay. Will it hold when the storm is on? The critics have wielded with their utmost skill their keenest lances of opposition against it for the past ages, and still it stands unshaken. Science finds out the thing to be a fact one year and in a few years finds what they had already found out not quite right after all. Thank God, true science is finding out some things: but science has never found one real truth that was out of line with the Bible. Other books have come and gone but the Book of books has come to stay. Infidels have spoken against its teachings and died and gone to hell, but the earnest-hearted seeker after truth can still obey its injunctions and find rest to the soul. It is the Word of God, the breath of the Almighty, the way-bill from earth to glory, the Book of all books, the foundation that stands sure forever. No critic's pick will dig it down. "Forever, O Lord thy Word is settled in heaven." Psa. 119:89. Praise God we have a place to stand! When the kingdoms of earth have fallen, and the stars have fallen out of their places, and the elements are melting with fervent heat, the dear old Book will still be in demand. "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord."

They want to dig away our foundation by telling us the Bible is not the Word of God. If that be the case, then we are without foundation for hope or religion, and are as a drowning man with nothing to lift him from the angry waves. But before we will leave our position, they will have to show us a better one. The Bible came from some source; it came from some where. It is the work of good men, bad men, the devil or God Himself. How could good men be good men and deceive us with a lie, saying, "Thus saith the Lord," when it was the words of their own mouth, and the writings of a mere man? They were not fools, no other men have ever written as they wrote. Bad men would not write a book that would all the time condemn them to hell forever. The devil is not the author of a book that from the start to finish turns its full force toward exposing his subtle devices in wrecking lives and damning souls. A divine sovereign is the only one in the universe who could take the responsibility for such a volume. Of all those who have denied its inspiration, none have

been able to give us the exact source of the Book. Now, there is no set of men on earth to-day, with all their learning, who can write one half such a volume and all be agreed at every point. With all the different writers writing more than a thousand chapters there is not a single contradiction. Where are there that many men to-day who can write that many chapters on the subject of religion and not have one single hitch?

"Blessed book, precious book,
Upon the dear old tear stained leaves I love
to look!

Thou art sweeter day by day, as I walk the
narrow way!

That leads at last to that bright home above.

The multitudes of the past ages who have stepped out on its blessed promises have been made happy; and there has never been a cave-in. Millions will rise up in the great day when God shall call together all His own and thank God for the Book. Book of books; There is none like it. We can read its pages and be wise. Adhere to its theory and be made happy. It is not a book for a few clergymen. It is the book for all men, rich and poor, high and low learned and unlearned, all alike can read it and find things both new and old. Love the book and be happy, believe its doctrines and be saved from sin in this world and live with God in the world to come, in the home of the soul, the better country, the land of the sweet bye and bye. Amen.

Church Herald and Holiness Banner.

JESUS AND THE BLIND MEN

(Matt. 20:29-34.)

When Jesus out of Jericho
With His disciples once would go
Two blind men sat beside the way,
And when they heard the people say,
"The might Jesus passeth by,"
Those blind ones then began to cry,
To Him who was great David's greater son,
"Have mercy on us, Gracious One."
The multitudes about them then
Rebuked those sightless, pleading men.
Enjoining them to hold their peace.
But they their crying will not cease;
They louder cry than they have done,
"Have mercy on us, David's Son!"

And now the Master standeth still,
And says to them, "What is your will?"
They say to Him, "Lord that we might
Again receive our precious sight."
Compassion moved Lord Jesus' heart
He very skilled in mercy's art
Touches the eyes of those blind men,
And Lo!, their sight returns again.

Then they who dwelt in darkness grim
Rise up with joy and follow Him.
(Rev. E. Wayne Stahl.)

Experience means "to know by practice or trial." According to that, the more we practice, the more we will experience. St. Paul says: "Experience increases our hope." In order to have hope we need experience, and in order to have experience we need practice.

It is sad to think so few preach the doctrine of Christian perfection. We do not like finding fault with preachers for not preaching it. We know that if they had it they could not help presenting it to their hearers. We feel like pleading with God to multiply the number that will spread Scriptural holiness.

PRAYING FOR THE MINISTER

A person called on his minister to tell him he could not enjoy his preaching as much as he once did. "Well, my brother," said the minister, "before you tell me what you have to find fault in me, let us pray together; will you kneel down and pray for me?" They knelt down and prayed, and when they arose, the minister said, "Now, my brother, sit down and tell me what fault you have to find." The man said, "I'm ashamed of myself. I have no fault to find at all." "Why, how is that, my brother?" "Why, sir, since you have asked me to pray for you I cannot find fault with you; I believe now, sir, the fault is in myself; I never prayed for you before, but now I will."—*Wesleyan Methodist.*

CLIPPING FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY*The Book*

No other book ever travelled so far as the Bible travels, and no book is read by so many people of different color and custom and language.—*E. W. Smith.*

The Colporteurs

The Japanese call them Holy-book-to-sell-run-about-men. Our usual name for them is not so romantic. We call them "colporteurs," which is French for "pedlars." They are Pack-men-God's Packmen—who carry about the world the Book which tells of the Heavenly Father's love for His children.—*E. W. Smith.*

CERTAINTIES

A short man wanted to drive a nail in a wall to carry a big picture. He stood on a chair; he was not high enough. His wife put on a small box, and, balancing himself precariously, he began to give the nail hesitating taps with the hammer. His wife said, "Why don't you give a brave blow or two, and settle it?" He replied, "How can a man give a brave blow or two when he is standing on a foundation like this?" That settles the question of certainty or uncertainty. It depends upon the foundation on which the preacher or teacher is standing. One need have no note of uncertainty if he believes the Bible has "Thus saith Jehovah" for all he preaches and teaches.—*Heart and Life.*

THE PSALMS

"Did you ever think of the reason why the Psalms of David have come, like winged angels, down across all the realms and ages—why they make the keynote of grateful piety in every Christian's soul, wherever he lives? Why? Because they are so full of gratitude. 'Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness!'"—Selected.

Christian people who are not led into the expression of Christian perfection, generally become cold and formal in their prayers and in their testimonies. If they fail to go on unto perfection they must go back into sin or be formal professors of religion. There is no hope only in going on unto perfection.

LIGHT

Taking His hand, I went into the valley,
Into the darkest night and farthest way,
And woke, to find serene above me,
A thousand stars had torn the black away.
—By Faith Hollister.