

## On Reading The Bible

In order that our lives may be true in action, we need to grow in knowledge and in grace.

We must grow in knowledge. It is not enough for us to be willing to do the right; we have also to understand clearly what the right is. Again and again the reason why we do wrong is that we fail not in our devotion to duty, but in our vision of duty. For our spiritual as well as our physical perception may lose its keenness and precision.

We may show a color-blind man a piece of green paper, and he will tell us that it is gray; but it is none the less green. There is also such a thing as spiritual color-blindness. We may show a man wrong and he may say that it is right; but it is none the less wrong. This being so, we must watch carefully lest we also suffer from defective spiritual vision.

From time to time we need to bring our vision to the test of an unerring standard, and that standard is found in the Bible when it is read with a reverent intelligence. It is there that God's will is gradually disclosed until it is seen in its fullness and perfection in Jesus Christ. It is there, therefore, that we can test ourselves, taking our own thought of right to God's Word and comparing it with His. The result is as wholesome as it is humiliating. For that Word is a mirror showing us ourselves as we are and ourselves as we ought to be. Thus each day it may help us to take God's thoughts in place of our own and to think them after Him, so correcting our defective vision and teaching us to see light in His light.

All this has its obvious application to knowledge in relation to character. Our daily reading of Scripture will gain an immense practical interest when we utilize it for definite inquiry as to what we ourselves ought to be and to do.

We all, for example, admit the Christian virtues to be binding upon us. But how many of us are aiming at these virtues as they are in God's thought, and how many are aiming at them merely as they present themselves to our own imagination? It is well to take these virtues one by one and make a separate study of each as it is expounded in God's Word. What, to give a few examples, is the real meaning of faith, of hope, of love? What is humility? What is generosity? What is temperance? What is unselfishness?

Or, to carry our investigation into the realm of Christian duties also, what does Scripture teach precisely about the duty of forgiving others; of abstaining from judgment upon our neighbors; of acting as peacemakers; of controlling the tongue; of regulating our thoughts; of exercising unselfish anger; of fulfilling our responsibilities in the home, in the business, in the State?

A new zest would be added to our study of the Bible if we set ourselves to prepare careful little essays on these and similar points, and so, in all our conception of virtue and duty, to adopt God's thoughts, which are ever higher than our own.

The same principle has its application to knowledge in relation to service. How often we are apt, in mere thoughtlessness, to approach our Christian work according to our own uninstructed ideas! But the Bible, ready to our hand, is a very storehouse of education in the methods and principles of service. Here, then, is yet another line of investigation. What—to suggest but a few out of many possible questions—are the laws which govern in-

The King's Highway

fluence? To what motives in man are we justified in appealing on behalf of Christ? What is the relation of prayer to influence? What particular methods are best adapted to men and women of any particular temperament? To these and similar inquiries we may find the true answer by studying both the general principles laid down by different scriptural writers and the methods illustrated in their records of particular workers. And to have mastered those principles and methods would be to have risen to altogether new possibilities of usefulness.

A course of investigation like that outlined above would result in a large increase in our knowledge as to character and service. But we need to grow in grace also. It is not enough to have new and better ideas; we must have, too, new power in which they may be carried into practical effect. This aspect of life also makes important demands upon our study of Scripture.

How, for example, may we obtain more grace for growth in character? When we have learned God's idea of the various Christian virtues, in what way can we make them a part of our lives? When we have been taught God's view of the various Christian duties, by what means can we find strength to fulfil them? To this end, what is the gift of the Holy Ghost? On what conditions is He bestowed? What are the true weapons with which to meet temptation—and not only temptation in general, but also those special allurements to which we ourselves are peculiarly susceptible?

How, again, may we obtain more grace for growth in service? In what way are we to rely upon the Spirit's help? How do the divine and the human elements mingle in our work? How may our motives be purified? What was the secret of power in the achievements of the different heroes of our faith? The whole subject is rich in practical questions, any one of which, adopted as a serious line of investigation, would add a new vividness and inspiration to our reading of the Bible.

That reading naturally proves wearisome when we allow it to become indefinite and mechanical. The method of taking up specific subjects one after another, and seeking to collect and master all that Scripture teaches upon each, is a remedy which will intensify both the intellectual interest and the practical value of all our study of the sacred writings.—Problems of Discipleship.

### THE MUSIC OF OUR LIVES

Not without design does God write the music of our lives. Be it ours to learn the time and not be discouraged by the "rests." These are not to be slurred over, not to be omitted, not to destroy the melody, or to change the keynote. If we look up, God will beat the time for us. With the eye on Him we shall strike the next note full and clear. If we sadly say to ourselves, "There is no music in a rest," let us not forget there is the making of music in it. The making of music is often a slow, painful process in this life. How patiently God teaches us! How long He waits for us to learn the lesson!"—Selected.

**NOVEMBER IS HIGHWAY  
SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN MONTH  
HAS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED?**



### BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE RECEPTION

The fall term opened at Bethany College, Sept. 22, with an enrollment of 47. The annual faculty reception was held on Friday evening in the college dining hall. New students this year include: Muriel Hutchinson, Yarmouth; Roger Nickerson, Rockville; Douglas Porter, Hebron; Beatrice Pierce, Centreville; Viola Rice, Havelock; Frances Sabine, Riverdale; Judy Buckler, Gerald Morine, Bead River; Wilma McGeorge, Halifax; Kerwood Corbett, Bass River; Dorothy Langille, Westchester Station; Ida Ripley, John Ripley, Londonderry, N. S.; Hilda Wilson, Seal Cove, Grand Manan; Carl Price, Millville; Cheryl McMullin, Joanne Elliott, Hartland, N. B.; William Burbury, Presque Isle, and William Hatfield, Alexander, Maine.

### JOINS BETHANY COLLEGE STAFF

On the Bethany Bible College high school teaching staff, Mr. Douglas MacCallum is replacing Mrs. Laurence K. Mullen. Mr. MacCallum is a graduate of Moncton High School and New Brunswick Teacher's College, and for several summers has been a student at the University of New Brunswick. He comes to "Bethany" after holding a number of successful teaching positions, the most recent of which was in the Cambridge Regional High School, New Brunswick. In addition to teaching, Mr. MacCallum will be dean of men. Mrs. MacCallum will serve as assistant dean of women.

### NEW DEAN OF WOMEN AT BETHANY

Miss Utah Chase, R. N., replaces Mrs. N. E. Trafton as dean of women and school nurse at Bethany Bible College. Miss Chase, from Plaster Rock, N. B., is a graduate of the Yarmouth Hospital School of Nursing, and is a former student of Bethany Bible College. She served as a missionary in South Africa for a short term, but because of ill health was obliged to return to Canada.

### BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE ELECTIONS

Student elections have been held at Bethany Bible College. Following are the results: Student Council President, Robert Brooks; Vice-President, Marion Saunders; Young Peoples Society President, Stewart Steeves; Vice-President, Betty MacBay; Evangelistic Society President, Hazen Ricker, Vice-President, Stewart Steeves; Torch Editor, Vernon Shaw; Associate Editor, Anne Hilton; Torch Business Manager, Hazen Ricker; Beacon Co-editors, Stillman Cameron and John Ripley; Beacon Business Manager, Kenneth Gorveatte; Athletic Society President, Cedric Landers; Vice-President, Bernard Brown; Social Committee Chairman, Anne Hilton.