

# HOLY BIBLE BOOK DIVINE

Dr. Roy S. Nicholson, Professor of Religion  
Central Wesleyan College

Each Christian heart at the sight or mention of the Bible senses the meaning of Burton's lines: "Holy Bible, book divine, Precious treasure, thou are mine; Mine to tell me whence I came, Mine to tell me what I am." And as one journeys through its pages and behold its beauties he exclaims with Hodder:

"Thy Word is like a garden, Lord,  
With flowers bright and fair;  
And everyone who seeks may pluck  
A lovely cluster there.

"Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine;  
And jewels rich and rare  
Are hidden in its mighty depths  
For every searcher there."

With the multitude of books, magazines and other reading matter that clamors for attention we are in danger of neglecting this precious Book. We need, as a recent writer has remarked, to saturate our language with its vocabulary, our minds with its truth, our heart with its love, our conscience with its laws, and our life with its spirit. It is the "source book of culture," and a very vital part of worth-while living. It is as relevant to this day's problems as it was when its messages were originally delivered.

## What It Will Do

Many assume an apologetic and timid attitude toward the Bible. To such the testimony of Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo concerning the Bible is pertinent: "It will do for all what it did for me: lift horizons, push back foothills, and give courage to live unashamed and unafraid."

Despite its wonderful diversity this "Book divine" reveals a basic unity. Many authors representing all grades and conditions of men across many centuries of time contributed to it under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Those different personalities from many lands, and languages, are in such agreement that one is convinced that this Book is not of human origin. To deny that it is the divinely inspired word of God involves far more difficulties for the honest inquirer than to believe that it is.

In Psalm 119, thirty-five times one meets the expression "thy word." Nevertheless, the chapter contains such other terms as "thy precepts," "thy testimonies," "thy ways," "the judgments of thy mouth." But always the Psalmist recurs to the expression, "Thy word," which is most significant. Whatever aspect it may present to the mind of the reader, it is ever and always: The Word of God, revealing God and His eternal divine purpose for man.

This Book has been hated more bitterly than any other book in the world. In some lands, to own a copy has been a serious crime, punishable by the severest persecution. Despite that opposition it has been circulated secretly by those to whom it meant more than life itself. To possess its own copy of the Bible has sometimes required real sacrifice by an entire family but such has been joyfully endured in order to possess this precious treasure. Shame on us who take our Bibles for granted!

## The Bible Is Needed Today

Some admire the Bible's triumphant emergence through the fires of criticism and the acid test of critical

The King's Highway

analysis, yet ask whether we need it today. Man's unquenchable thirst and insatiable longing for fellowship with God and an authoritative guide to that desired goal evidences his need for the Bible. World situations are distressing. Chaos seems to threaten. Men speak freely, and fearfully of the "disintegration" of things of value. They seek something which will give light and offer hope. The Bible is the Book they need, for

"It sweetly cheers our drooping hearts,  
In this dark vale of tears;  
And life and light and joy imparts,  
And banishes our fears."

Now man's omnipotence complex has failed him. He realizes how much he needs God. And the Bible is, as one has remarked, "Man's highway to God, and God's highway to man." Whether his problem concerns guilt, pollution, suffering, fear, disappointment, or whatever else it may be, man can find help and hope in the Word of God. It not only leads man to God, but it becomes the channel through which God comes to him. And what a transformation it works in him, deepening his love for God and man, and fortifying him with an "unfaltering faith in an un-failing God."

## The Bible Has Relevancy

By relevancy we mean that the Bible sustains close, logical relationship with, and importance to, the matters in hand. Its messages are very appropriate in today's life. To those who seem hemmed in by a sense of hopeless despair and futility, the Bible's message is that life has real meaning, the night will not last forever, evil will not always triumph. God's will may be postponed but cannot be thwarted forever. It shows how ordinary people with extraordinary devotion to a right cause, through right procedures may accomplish significant things for God.

Much is said about the needed "peace of mind." The Bible is full of promises which give peace that the world cannot take away. There is a great clamor for security. The Bible declares that true security is not in the things one may possess, but in Christ and in moral and spiritual values. There is a cry for pardon from guilt and purging from pollution. The Bible tells of One who takes all guilt away and cleanses from all unrighteousness. Man faces the end of life and questions about the future. The Bible gives hope and assurance concerning the life after death—for those who put their trust in Him who conquered Death and is alive forevermore.

## The Book of Books

"This Book contains the mind of God the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. It is the Book of Books—the revelation of God to man."