

Bible Study Lectures

01. MEN AND THE BOOK:

THE GREATEST, NOBLEST, AND BEST-AND THE REASON WHY

A stirring lecture, that will appeal to the intelligence, and grip the heart.
Hear the message from our late King George V.

“SURROUNDING our rock-bound, stormy Australian coast is a circle of winking eyes that never sleep in the dreariest and darkest night—they are the lighthouses of the Commonwealth. Their lambent flame stirs the pulse of the mariners who sail along our shores. At darkest midnight they send their cheering message to the anxious skipper whose vessel carries precious souls, trustingly asleep on the deep,” Thus spoke Pastor Mitchell in his opening remarks in an address on “Men and the Book: the Greatest, Noblest, and Best-and the Reason Why,” in the Naval Hall on Sunday night.

Continuing, he said: “Great and varied are the buildings and houses of the world, but the lighthouse is unique in its usefulness. It is the one distributor of the reassuring bright beacon that never fails to shine out across the restless waters, the darkened landmarks, and the submerged rocks of the angry seas even in the darkest night. Likewise the Bible, the world’s greatest book, is undeniably ‘a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.’

“A darkened lighthouse may mean a huge liner with a thousand passengers crashing on an iron-bound coast, and mourning crape bound on twice that number of farms throughout Australia. Likewise nations, communities, or individuals bereft of the guiding light of the Word of God, must necessarily grope in darkness, and lose their way, not-only spiritually, but very often materially as well.

SUBLIME INSTRUCTIONS

“The greatness, the nobility, and the excellence of the Bible is best attested” said Mr. Mitchell, “by observing the qualities and characteristics of the men who have followed most accurately its sublime instructions.” The following words of the Reverend E. F. Burr, D.D., were read: “Behold a venerable man, in some high place, bending over the Bible! Who is he? His name is Francis Bacon—Lord High Chancellor of England, and father of the Inductive Philosophy, who said: ‘There never was found in any age-of the world either religion or law that did so highly exalt the public good as the Bible.’”

“His name is Isaac Newton, the most illustrious mathematician and discoverer of all time, who says: ‘I account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever.’”

“His name is Benjamin Franklin, father of American science and statesmanship, and of the philosophy of common sense, who says: ‘Young men, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with, and a firm belief in the Holy Scriptures. This is your certain interest.’”

“His name is Goethe, the most variously gifted and renowned of all the German men of letters, who says: ‘No criticism will be able to perplex the confidence I have entertained in a writing whose contents have stirred up and given life to my energy by its own.’”

“His name is Guizot, one of the most shining and influential writers and statesmen of recent France, who says in his will: ‘I have a firm belief in the history contained in the Old and New Testaments, and in the regeneration of the human race by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.’”

Continuing, the lecturer said: “I have a very precious message to bear to you just now on this subject, kind friends. It is precious because of the cherished memories of the one who gave it. Tonight it is not necessary for me to speak concerning the nobility, the greatness, and the excellence of our late sovereign, King George V; you cherish his memory. Listen carefully while I read the message on this subject from that great man, who followed the practice and knew the value of reading a chapter of the Bible every day. Here is the message he gave: ‘It is my confident hope that my subjects may never cease to cherish their noble inheritance in the Bible, which in a secular aspect is the first of all national treasures, and in its spiritual significance the most valuable thing that the world affords.’”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“Would you like to hear of another great national leader and his testimony concerning the Book?” asked Mr. Mitchell. “I am thinking of Abraham Lincoln. From what I have read of him I think he was one of the noblest presidents that the United States of America was ever blessed with. Listen to his message: ‘In

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regard to the great Book, I have only this to say: It is the best gift which God has given to man.' It would appear like the echo from Abraham Lincoln's words, if we listen to one of his recent successors, Woodrow Wilson. He said: 'The Bible is the Word of life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves.'

Among other scriptures read from the Bible during the address was Psalm 119: 11: "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." "The Bible," said the pastor, "is the non-conductor of sin. The Bible will keep you from sin if sin does not keep you from the Bible." In proof of this statement, several experiences, published and verified as true by the American branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, were cited. The following is one of the experiences, which was read under the caption, "The Borrowed Gospel." "Say, what's that book you got there?" asked a cowboy of his foreman, who was adding a sum on the back of an envelope supported by a little book held in his hand. 'Why, that's a Gospel of John,' absently replied the foreman. 'Let me see it a minute,' said the cowboy when the other was through with it. The book was handed over, and at that moment the foreman was summoned elsewhere. The cowboy also resumed his task, and did not again see his boss for several days. In the meantime he read the Book, and through its pages the Holy Spirit brought conviction and repentance to the heart of this carefree man of the plains. When the cowboy returned the Book, the following conversation took place: 'Boss, have you read it?' 'No, I have not.' 'Where do you reckon I could buy such a book?' 'I don't know; this one was given to me by a man I met at the supply store a couple of weeks ago.' 'Well, I'm going to buy one; and if I were you, I'd sure read that book. It's the best thing I ever read. If it wasn't so small, I'd sure say it was' a Bible, because a man can't read that book without making him want to be better than he was.'

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

It was pointed out that the Bible was the Book that made one's life safe on the once cannibal islands. There were men preaching the gospel who at one time sat at cannibal feasts. It was the Word of God that had changed their lives. Mr. Mitchell spoke of his personal contact with one of these natives of the South Seas, who at the time held in his hand an axe which he admits had killed many a man; "But I felt safe," said the speaker, "for in his other hand he held a Bible."

"The world's greatest men are great because of their contact with the Bible, the world's greatest book," was the concluding thought of the lecture. "Study it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy," was the final advice of the address.

02. VOLTAIRE'S FALSE PROPHECY; AND THE BIBLE RESURRECTION

Hear of the remarkable resurrection of the Bible, after Voltaire and Thomas Paine had passed the death sentence and read its obituary notice.

UNDER the caption, "Voltaire's False Prophecy and the Bible Resurrection," Pastor Mitchell, in the Naval Hall on Sunday night, graphically outlined the remarkable progress of the circulation of the Bible, and emphasized the fact that it had today become the common bond, that, more than any other one thing, had an influence that somehow bound man to man and kindred to kindred. The belief was expressed that if the Bible were to become the guiding star of life, and the inspiration of the motives and accomplishments of all men, of all nations, the result would be a calming of the troubled international seas, and the settling down of the dove of peace on the tranquil shores of prosperity the world over. At the present, though the Bible is not the moral rule of every citizen, even in so-called Christian nations, yet its influence is such that it may rightly be termed the common bond. The Savior of the Bible, Jesus of Nazareth, is the golden link, cherished and loved by all Christians, of every land and clime.

"The Bible," said Mr. Mitchell, "is the world's most remarkable literary phenomenon. The English Bible is the greatest literary classic of the English speaking people of the world. Its language tells the most in the fewest words. It contains the most remarkable powers of comfort and council of any known book. But perhaps the most outstanding marvel of all is its remarkable power to thrive on refutation, insult, and misrepresentation; to have been the book searched out and destroyed, burned and banned as no other book was through the ages, yet to be the most loved, respected and popular book of the world today."

Mr. Mitchell commented on the test of time, on the truth of the words of Isaiah 4:8: "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God shall stand for ever." "Apparently," said the speaker, "all