

Bible Study Lectures

journey. The devil will not be able to wreck him, for in his obedience to God's commandments he is wiser than the adversary.

“THE WAYS OF DEATH”

Continuing, the speaker said: “In my travels on the spiritual highway, I have met many who have signaled me to stop, then they have advised me to travel in a popular alley, leading from the true course. I have noted that it is the course taken by a large majority, but from a study of the chart and compass, I have seen clearly that it leads into the ‘ways of death,’ for it leads to willing disobedience to the commandments of God, and finally to utter ignoring and scorning of them. I am grateful that I have had grace to keep to the correct course, marked out in Psalm 119:32, ‘I will run the way of Thy commandments, when You shall enlarge my heart.’ It takes a large heart, and much of the grace of God, but it is the only safe course.

“I have met fellow travelers who not only willfully violate God's traffic rules, contend that it is not necessary to keep the Ten Commandments. They say they were for ancient travelers only, excellent for them, but that now the highway restrictions are few; we may drive where we please, it is just a matter of love. As much as to say, ‘I love God so much, and God loves me so much, that He doesn't care what I do: neither do I.’”

He contended that no greater delusion could come to any man than this. For when one takes such a course of disobedience, he takes a course of sin with a free conscience. To such a one, Christ is not a Savior from sin, but a giver of license to commit sin. It was pointed out that the only person who can keep the commandments, is the one who is saved by grace, saved from sin. If Christ is in the heart, the enemy cannot defeat you; but if Christ is not in the heart, you cannot defeat the enemy. There was power in Christ to give victory over every sin, and sin, it was shown from I John 3:4, “is the transgression of the law!” Matthew 1:21 was cited: “You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.” To deny that it was possible to keep the Ten Commandments, said Mr. Mitchell, was to deny the power of the living Savior.

OBEDIENCE TO LAW OF GOD

It was shown that some of the strongest language in Scripture points to the necessity of obedience to the law of God. The following was read from the New Testament: “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13), and “circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.” 1 Corinthians 7:19. 1 John 2:3, 4 was also cited as saying: “And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that said, I know Him, and keeps not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” From the second chapter of James was read: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if you commit no adultery, yet if you kill, you art become a transgressor of the law. So speak you, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

From the Book of Revelation, further scriptures were read to show that at the coming of Christ those who would be prepared to meet their Savior would be commandment-keepers. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus,” was read from Revelation 14:12

This, said the evangelist, is God's description of the reception committee that will be waiting for the coming of Christ. From the last chapter of the Bible was read God's benediction upon commandment-keepers, and their sure reward: ‘Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’ Revelation 22:14.

Obedience to God's commandments may mean self-sacrifice, and sometimes the jeers of a certain class in this world, but what is that, compared to the blessing of God, the speaker asked. Mr. Mitchell appealed to the audience to follow God's standards, and never to be switched off the platform of “the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

31. THE DIFFERENCE

The Bible and other Classics

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THE difference between the Bible and other classics and good books was emphasized in an interesting way, in the lecture pavilion, by Pastor Mitchell, on Tuesday night. The following line of thought was pursued:-

Inasmuch as its claim to be the inspired Word of God is in evidence from the beginning to the end of its writings, the Bible because of this extraordinary claim must be the best of all books, or the worst. There is no escaping the logic of this position.

Many will say, "Oh, yes, the Bible is a very good book, but there are other good books." Some will say, "Yes, the Bible is inspired, but so are the writings of Shakespeare, John Bunyan, Milton, Plato, and Socrates. So is the almanac." It is useless to waste time on false issues. When I open a masterpiece of Shakespeare, I know the literary value of it. Well do I remember in my college days memorizing one hundred lines of Shakespeare's writings for a quarterly examination, and being disappointed in not getting one question on it in the examination. But to be sure, I have never read, "Thus said the Lord God of hosts," as an introduction to any of Shakespeare's writings.

If I turn to Plato's writings, I do not read, "The word of the Lord came unto me," or when I turn to the almanac for information, I do not read, "Hear you the word of the Lord." But-over and over again while reading the Bible I am reminded that the message is from God.

CLAIMS TO INSPIRATION

Here are some samples of the claims of the writings of the Bible: "The word of the Lord that came unto Hosea." Hosea 1:1.

"The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel." Ezekiel E 3.

"The word of the Lord that came to Joel." Joel 1:1.

"Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah." Jonah 1:1.

And so it continues as you turn the pages over throughout the books of the Bible. "The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel, by Malachi." Malachi 1:1.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John." Revelation 1:1.

There is no question about it, the writers of the Bible claim that their messages are direct from God.

Now the message of the Bible is the Word of the Lord, or it is not. If it were not what it professes to be, it would not be even a good book. How are we to regard it? Is it the best book in the world, as even those who deny its divine inspiration usually admit, or are its claims to be inspired of God false claims? If it is-not the best book in the world, then because of what it claims to be it must be the worst. It claims to be the Word of God; if it is not, it is a lie, a deception, a swindle, a humbug, a fraud. Now, friends, do not be deceived by those who say that the Bible is a good book, but not the inspired Word of God. If it is a good book, it must be what it claims to be, and therefore its claims to being divinely Inspired must be correct.

WONDERFUL AUTHORSHIP

The method of receiving the messages of Holy Scripture is explained by the words of 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." And 2 Peter 1:21 states: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." What a conglomeration of ideas would exist in the Bible if it were not for this fact, that holy men spoke and wrote as they were directed by the Holy Spirit!

The authorship of this book bears the imprint of the superhuman controlling hand. Its books are written by men in various walks of life, from the humble herdsman and fisherman, to the prime minister and king. Among its authors we find the very rich and the very poor, the preacher, the tax-gatherer, the exile, legislator, and judge, the man of brilliant education, and the upright yet poorly educated. Men of various classes are represented in this wonderful volume, which is a veritable library filled with history, astronomy, physiology, genealogy, prophecy, poetry, law, eloquence, medicine, sanitary science, political economy, and perfect rules for the conduct of personal and social life. What a confusion of ideas there would be if there were not one great superhuman origin of all the knowledge which the Bible contains!

Suppose you were to get 66 medical books, written by 40 different doctors who had lived in turn over a period of 1,500 years; believers in hydropathy, homeopathy, allopathy, and all the other "pathies,"

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nature cure, chiropractor, healing scientist, and others. Bind these 66 books into one volume. What man would be foolish enough to risk the results of practicing such a system of medicine?

As 1,500 years of time rolled away during the writing of the Bible, the first writer had no communication with the last. How did those men, writing independently, and living under the environment of different ages, produce a book that has the same theme running harmoniously from its beginning to its end? Then ordinary books get out of date very often, when ten or twenty years old. This book, over a thousand years old before completed, lives on through the ages, keeping abreast of the mightiest intellect and thought of the age; and because of its prophecies it contains later information than the latest edition of the daily newspapers.

Suppose that some forty men should step into this lecture tent from all the States of Australia and Tasmania, and from the North and South Islands of New Zealand, each man bearing a block of marble of peculiar shape. Suppose those forty blocks when placed together present the figure of a man perfectly symmetrical and beautifully chiseled. How only could those men, many of whom had never seen each other, chisel out that beautiful statue? Why, you say, that is easily explained. The original plan was made by one man.

One man made the patterns, and directed each sculptor in his particular portion of the great statue. Each man worked under the direction of one masterly brain, followed the pattern, and perfection and accuracy are the result.

Very well now. This book, the Bible, coming from all quarters, written by men of all ranks, trades, and professions who lived over a period of 1,500 years is fitted together as a wonderfully harmonious and complete volume. How only could that be accomplished?

The answer is found in 2 Peter 1:21: "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." One mind inspires the whole book, one voice speaks from all its pages. It is the voice of God speaking with life-giving power.

EFFECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL

The effect of the Bible upon the individual who reads and studies it, constitutes further evidence of its divine authorship. There are men the world over who study language, astronomy, geology, mathematics, and the other sciences, but in the words of H. L. Hastings. I ask, "Did you ever hear a man say, 'I was an outcast, a wretched inebriate, a disgrace to my race, and a nuisance in the world, until I began to study mathematics, and learned the multiplication table, and then turned my attention to geology, got me a little hammer, and knocked off the corners of the rocks and studied the formation of the earth, and since that time I have been happy as the day is long; I feel like singing all the time; my soul is full of triumph and peace; and health and blessing have, come to my desolate home once more'?"

Did you ever hear a man ascribe his redemption and salvation from intemperance and sin and vice to the multiplication table or the science of mathematics or geology?

The answer to this question must of course be in the negative. Some of the most brilliantly educated in the sciences are moral scoundrels, and many are to be found behind prison bars. But from my association with thousands of people, I know that large numbers could testify something like this: "I was a wretched sinner, the clutches of wickedness held me like a vise; I broke my poor mother's heart; I disgraced my family; my wife was heart-stricken and forlorn; my children fled from the sound of my footsteps; I was ruined, hopeless, homeless, friendless until I heard the words of that Book."

ITS EFFECT UPON THE COMMUNITY OF PITCAIRN

Further evidence of the divine authorship of the Sacred Scriptures is seen in its effect upon a community. I have spoken to those who in crossing the Pacific have been fortunate enough to be aboard a boat that anchored off Pitcairn Island. One such man, a commercial traveler, told me he could never forget his experience. He told of how the natives, as they came out in their boats to sell their fruit, sang with their splendid voices -thrilling hymns that he could never forget. And as the vessel weighed anchor, and left the islanders behind with their little island dot isolated in the great waters of the Pacific, the sweet words of "We Shall Meet on that Beautiful Shore" left an indelible impression, as they floated over the water to the souls aboard the vessel.

Pitcairn! First of all inhabited by the mutineers from the British ship Bounty, after they had put their captain in one of the ship's boats, and set him adrift with a few of his loyal sailors. These mutineers, with some men and women that they picked up from the Society group, went to Pitcairn. There they

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murdered one another, until two of the mutineers, and some Tahitian women and children, were the only survivors. Then for the sake of the children, these two men decided to read and teach the principles of the Bible, which they had taken from the ship before they destroyed it.

What has been the influence of that one Bible? Today every Pitcairn Islander is a devoted Christian. In every home there is daily family worship. It is a veritable paradise, a community of about 300 inhabitants, living in perfect harmony and peace. Behold the contrast! What had wrought the change? The ship's Bible. Everybody there followed the Bible rules of living.

GOOD FOR BUNDABERG

Wouldn't it be a splendid thing for Bundaberg if every citizen here without exception, would follow the example set by Pitcairn!

Suppose that all the people of Bundaberg would follow strictly the teaching of the Bible for, say, a single year. What would be the result? There would be no lying, no stealing, no adultery, no getting drunk, no false witnessing, no hatred, no vice, no gossiping, no debauchery. Every man would be a good man, every woman a good woman. There would be no brawls, no fights, no lawsuits. Law courts would not be needed; and the prison "lock-up" would be empty. Police would not be expecting some sudden call to duty because of a night burglary or other evil-doing. Children would not be contaminated by the bad language or habits of their elders.

Soon the news would spread. It would be known in Brisbane, in Sydney, and throughout the Commonwealth. "What a wonderful time they are having up there in Bundaberg, Queensland! The people have all taken to living according to the Bible." Newspaper reporters would be seen arriving to investigate. The telegraph wires would be kept engaged. Inquiries would come in: "Are there any houses to let in Bundaberg; any to sell; any building sites?" Men with money would come here, for they would prefer the social atmosphere for the sake of their families. New buildings would go up. I am confident if we could genuinely put this plan into operation there would be a rush to Bundaberg from all quarters. It would probably raise the price of real estate 25 per cent in six months. Taxes would be lowered, and good people from far and wide would move into the city, and no virtuous person would want to move out. This friends, would be the direct result of reading and obeying fully the Word of God, the Bible. No one can deny that. Pitcairn Island is already just about filled to capacity.

Now what kind of book must the Bible be to be able to do that? There is no question about it. Such a book is indeed the Book of God, inspired by the very breath of the Almighty.

SCEPTICAL SHOEMAKER

A Bible reader asked a London skeptic, a shoemaker, two questions. And at the request of the Bible reader he promised to abide by his decision. I will continue now, in the actual words of the speakers, as reported in "Will the Old Book Stand?" by Hastings, page 339: "Well, my friend," replied the reader, "my first question is, Suppose all men were Christians, according to the account given to us in the Gospels concerning Christ, what would be the state of society?"

He remained silent for some time in deep thought, and then was constrained to say, "Well, if all men were really Christians, in practice as well as theory, of course we should be a happy brotherhood indeed."

"I promised you," said the reader, "that I would abide by your answer; will you do the same?", "Oh, yes," he readily replied, "no man can deny the goodness of the system in practice. But now for the other question; perhaps I shall get on better with that; you have a chalk mark against me this time."

"Well, my next question is this, Suppose all men were infidels, what then would be the state of London and of the world?" He seemed still more perplexed, and remained a long time silent. At length he said, "You certainly have beaten me, for I never before saw the two effects upon society; I now see that where the Christian builds up the infidel is pulling down. I thank you; I shall think of what has passed this afternoon."

The sequel was that the shoemaker accepted Christ, and followed Him instead of his former infidel companions. But further; when the Bible reader first called on him, he had to sit on an old dirty chair while several half-starved children dressed in rags sat upon the floor. But with the acceptance of the Christ of Scripture he moved to a better home within which all were cheerful and happy. The father, no longer faithless, delighted in the company of his wife and children, all of whom were neatly dressed. And the chief

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happiness of the former infidel was to spend time with his family reading and speaking to them concerning the things which belonged to their everlasting peace.

32. THE ASIAN MIGHT

Some Factors Quoted, Make Armageddon Inevitable

FACTORS that make the coming Armageddon inevitable were discussed in Pastor Mitchell's lecture in the lecture marquee, on Tuesday night. He said: Referring to the human elements related to the coming Armageddon, I would say that the first factor that makes the Armageddon inevitable exists in the national conviction of the Japanese people. All over that eastern island kingdom there exists an imperialistic consciousness, a conviction that it is Japan's destiny to control Asia as a vast empire of the east. Possessed of an optimistic superiority complex they hope for world conquest eventually. It should not be forgotten that Asia holds well over half the inhabitants of the globe.

As far back as 1916 this ambition of Japan was announced. Listen to this imperialistic announcement of Japan, written in the autumn of 1916. It was published in the *Military Historian and Economist*, January, 1917. "Fifty millions of our race wherewith to conquer and possess the earth! It is indeed a glorious problem. To begin with we now have China; China is our steed. Far shall we ride upon her! So becomes our 500,000,000 race 500,000,000 strong; so grow our paltry hundreds of millions of gold into billions! We are well astride of our steed, China; but the steed has long roamed wild and is run down; it needs grooming, more grain, more training. Further, our saddle and bridle are as yet mere makeshifts; would steed and trappings stand the strain of war?"

"But, using China as our steed, should our first goal be the land? India? or the Pacific, the sea that must be our very- own, even as the Atlantic is now England's? The land is tempting and easy, but withal dangerous-it must, therefore, be the sea."

That policy of Japan published over twenty years ago is their policy still, only twenty years more fully developed. Here is their policy as published in the "Tanaka Memorial," prepared by the Japanese Premier in 1928, for the Emperor, and first published in 1930: "For the sake of self-protection as well as the protection of others, Japan cannot surmount difficulties in Eastern Asia unless she adopts a policy of blood and iron. But in order to conquer China, we must first conquer Manchuria and Mongolia. In order to conquer the world we must first conquer China. If we succeed in conquering China, the remainder of the Asiatic countries will fear and surrender to us. Then the world will realize that Eastern Asia is ours, and will not dare to violate our rights.

"To gain actual rights in Manchuria is to use this region as a base, and under the pretence of trade and commerce, penetrate China. With China's entire resources at our disposal we can proceed to conquer India and Central Asia, Asia Minor, and even Europe. The South Manchurian railway is not adequate for our purposes. Considering present needs and future activities, we must control railways in both North and South Manchuria in order to insure future prosperity. Our race, is embarked on a journey of world conquest.' Notice the similarity of this program and that published thirteen years earlier. The plan is unchanged.

Now coming to the year 1935, I cite a statement made by Dr. Rosalynde Chang, Chinese professor of English literature at the National Central University at Nan king. This professor in an article in the *Manchester Guardian* on "The World-wide Significance of Japan's Expansionist Aims," wrote: "Does the world realize that every advance Japan makes is not only an advance against China, but also against the world?" Dr. Chang continues by pointing out that as China has been left stranded by Europe and the United States," the only practical alternative is to submit to the invaders.

Japan, because of her national conviction that she is destined to be successful, is working out her program. Step, by step. Lieutenant Commander Ishimaru's book, "Japan Must Fight Britain," more recently published and circulated, is evidence that they are making no secret of their program of many years standing. Even America was not forgotten in the "Tanaka Memorial." Here is a significant statement: "For the sake of self-preservation, and we have given warnings to China and the remainder of the world, we must fight America sometime."

Nor has Japan forgotten Australia. Ishimaru, who is in high command of the Japanese navy, and whose book, "Japan Must Fight Britain," I have already cited, asserts that England and Japan "must come into-collision, because England is trying to hold on to what she 'has, while Japan must expand." Then after stating, "Japan must find open doors in Australia," he goes on to say: "Japan would suddenly attack the