

“THINK ON THESE THINGS”

Philippians 4:8

The Bible Is Right

(It's Not Myths & Legends)

By Garland M. Robinson

The Bible is the ALL INSPIRED, INFALLIBLE, PLENARY, VERBAL, WORD OF GOD. It furnishes us completely unto ALL things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). Nothing has been left out. It is the WORD that will judge us in the last day (John 12:48-50). It is that divine revelation from God by which we know the difference between truth and error (John 8:31-32; 17:17). It is THE standard and authority by which we worship God acceptably. It is the Bible that condemns going beyond what is written and/or stopping short of it (2 John 9).

Bible writers wrote what God wanted written, exactly! They did it by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. People around the world refer to the Bible as the WORD OF GOD? There has never been a book produced by man that would or could replace the Bible.

Many individuals have set out to debunk and destroy the Bible, and in their words, “*expose it to be the fraud and deception it is.*” One such example is that of Sir William Mitchell Ramsey (1851-1939), the foremost authority of his day on the history of Asia Minor. He doubted the accuracy and reliability of the New Testament, especially the book of Acts, and set out to put the writer of Acts to the test. He fully expected his research would prove Acts to be hopelessly inaccurate and spent his life to prove it. After years of intense labors he reported that his study “... *showed that the book could bear the most minute scrutiny as an authority for the facts of the Aegean world, and that it was written with such judgment, skill, art and perception of truth as to be a model of historical statement*” (***The Bearing of Recent Discovery***, p.85). On page 89 of this same book he wrote, “*I set out to look for truth on the borderland where Greece and Asia meet, and found it there [in Acts]. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment.*” Faithful Christians could have saved him the trouble, but some people have to find things out the hard way.

Why is it that so many hold the Bible to be suspect, a book of myths and legends? Why do they try so desperately to use their own ingenuity and brilliance to prove the Bible wrong? Is it that they can't stand to acknowledge a higher power, the God in heaven that knows all and dictates to man the absolute standard of proper conduct and morality? Man wants to be left to his own standard, not God's absolute standard of right and wrong. Man doesn't want to be restrained. He's just like a dog who jerks and pulls, twists and bites, rolls and spins when his master puts a collar and leash on him for the first time. The dog doesn't know it's for his own good. But in time, he learns to submit and walks alongside his owner with the greatest of comfort, ease and safety. Why can't man learn that lesson?

Man, left to himself without the proper training of the Master in heaven, will buck and rebel, fight and refuse to submit to God's righteousness. As a result, he rushes head-long on the road to absolute disaster and then wonders why things do not go well with him. Notice these words from Psalms 2. “***Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed [saying], Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.***” Now, notice God's reaction in the next two verses, He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.”

“*Inspiration is that miraculous power which the Holy Spirit exercised on Biblical speakers and writers, enabling them to speak and to write without error, as Deity directed*” (Guy N. Woods). Therefore, over a period of 1,600 centuries, 40 different writers guided by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit produced 66 books that have been compiled into one volume called the BIBLE. Its accuracy regarding every subject on which it speaks is impeccable. While not a history book per se, its accounts of history regarding nations and people is painstakingly accurate. While not a book of geography, its depiction and description of the subject is precise and distinct. While not a science book, every scientific point mentioned is absolutely correct and cannot be reproved. While not a book on philosophy, it stands as humanity's absolute standard of morality, decency and ethics. When it speaks of agriculture, cooking, math-

ematics, astronomy, medicine, engineering, health, biology, surgery, psychology, navigation, topography, construction, etc., it can be trusted with the greatest of confidence with no fear of contradiction or refutation. It is completely and totally accurate to the very last word on every single subject it mentions.

Men of every age and in all generations have recognized God as the author of the Bible. People everywhere refer to the Bible as the **“word of God.”** We are impressed with the frequent use of expressions such as: **“thus saith the Lord,” “thus said the Lord,” “the Lord said,” “God spake,” “God said,” “the Lord hath spoken it,” “God hath said”** and many other expressions are found as many as 2,500 times.

God’s word is true and is for our benefit. Someone rightly said, *“The more I read the Bible the more I realize that I am the one who is on trail and not the Bible.”* Psalms 119:160-161, **“Thy word is true from the beginning and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever... my heart standeth in awe of thy word”** (ASV, **“the sum of thy word is truth”**). Psalms 33:9, **“God spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.”** Psalms 12:6, **“the words of the Lord are pure words.”** Psalm 119:130, **“The entrance of thy words giveth light.”** We need the kind of preaching Peter demands: **“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”** (1 Pet. 4:11).

In Luke 24:44, Jesus gives his stamp of approval on the entire Old Testament when He says, **“All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”** Jesus endorsed the New Testament before it was even written. He promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would enable them to know **“what”** to say and **“how”** to say it (cf. Matt. 10:19). John 16:13 affirms that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth! To receive the apostles was to receive Christ—to receive Christ was to receive God (cf. Matt. 10:40).

The Bible, God’s Word, is described as a **“fire”** that burns and a **“hammer”** that smashes (Jer. 23:29; 5:14; 20:9). Yet, it is sweeter than **“honey”** when we obey it (Psa. 19:9-10; 119:103; Eze. 3:3) and **“bitter”** when we do not (Jer. 4:17-18). It’s like a **“sword”** that cuts and pierces (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:23). It’s a **“lamp”** and a **“light”** (Psa. 119:105; Prov. 6:23). It is both **“milk”** and **“strong meat”** (Heb. 5:13-14). It is good, incorruptible **“seed”** (Luke 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:23). It’s pure as **“silver”** (Psa. 12:6) and designed to **“reprove, rebuke, exhort”** (2 Tim. 4:2). It is to be received with **“meekness”** and is able **“save”** our souls (James 1:21). By heeding (obeying) it we are **“born again”** (1 Pet. 1:23; John 3:3-5). It **“liveth and abideth forever”** (1 Pet. 1:23).

Let us love the Bible and continue to be, **“steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”** (1 Cor. 15:58). ■

Some Requirements of Bible Faith

By Glendol McClure

Bible faith requires **diligent study** which involves reading – **“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Tim. 2:15).

Bible faith requires **action** – **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was”** (Jas. 1:22-24).

Bible faith requires **reading** and **understanding** what was divinely written – **“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”** (Eph. 3:3; cf. Acts 8:30; Eph. 5:17).

Bible faith requires **desire** – **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”** (Matt. 5:6; cf. 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18).

We must have a healthy appetite for *spiritual* food in order to properly grow and maintain our faith in Christ. Daily reading will help nurture desire for *spiritual* things. Please read and study God’s word daily! ■

Service Times — Sunday: 9:00 & 10:00 AM; 6:00 PM — Wednesday: 7:00 PM

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