

The Glorious Book

No. 70

Introduction.

- I. Once a **Christian** was packing his suitcase for a journey. He remarked to a friend,
 - A. “There is still a little corner left open in which I desire to pack
a **guidebook**, a **lamp**, a **mirror**, a **telescope**,
a **book of poems**, a **number of biographies**, a **bundle of old letters**, a **hymn-book**,
a **sharp sword**, a **small library** containing sixty-six books.
 - B. All these articles must occupy a very small space.” “How are you going to do that” inquired the friend.” The Christian traveler answered, “Very easily, for the Bible contains all these things.”
- II. The Bible indeed contains all these things and is the most wonderful and the most glorious book in the world. The Bible is beyond other books as **the river** is beyond a drop of water, as **the sun** is beyond the candle, as **the mountain** is beyond a grain of sand, and a **mighty skyscraper** is beyond a dollhouse.
- III. It is glorious for a number of reasons.
 - I. **Abides Forever** - The Bible is glorious because it abides forever. (Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35).
 - A. A human being writes a book, puts it on sale and it soon becomes the best seller. A few thousand copies are sold and before long this book is forgotten and another takes its place.
 - B. This is not true of the Bible.
 1. **The Bible has been attacked more than any other book.** It has been belittled, spit on, twisted. Men have burned it in public count yards, and forbidden it to be read. But in spite of the intense efforts of the enemies of Bible, it still abides. It is the best seller every year and million upon millions of copies have been sold in 2,000 languages and dialects.
 2. Yes, the Bible is glorious because it abides every day, every week, every month and every year. No man can destroy it. God’s word stands forever and ever.
 3. I am reminded of these familiar words.

I stood one evening by the blacksmith’s door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime,
And looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with years of beating time.

“How many anvils have you had,” said I
“To wear and beat these hammers so?”
“Just one,” the blacksmith said with twinkling eye,
“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.”

And so I thought the anvil of God’s word

For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
And though the sound of clanging blows is heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

II. **Reveals The Greatest Character Who Ever Crossed The Centuries** - The Bible is glorious because it reveals the greatest character who ever crossed the centuries.

- A. Many great characters have loomed upon the horizon of the world. They have had their day and passed on. But the Bible tells of the life of a man who had a great impact upon the world and that impact grows deeper with every passing century.
- B. Most of the laws protecting **the rights of man**, most of the **kind deeds** done, most of **the hospitals** most of the **benevolent organizations** have come through the influence of the pre-eminent character of the Bible - Jesus Christ.
 - 1. **A man in India was once making a public speech** and in that speech he was criticizing certain men. Suddenly he began to talk about Jesus. The crowd yelled and soon stopped him. They said, "You cannot say anything against Jesus."
 - 2. No man has ever been able to say anything against Him, truthfully! He was sinless. Christ was the personification of goodness. He has changed every land He has ever touched. He is the world's greatest character and the Bible is the Book that tells about Him.

III. **Inexhaustible And Keeps It Freshness** - The Bible is glorious because it is inexhaustible keeps its freshness.

- A. **A little girl said, "The Bible is like an orange.** We can squeeze it and squeeze it and it always has more juice.."
 - 1. We can go to the Bible and get blessings and power from it, but we cannot exhaust it.
 - 2. The more we read it, the more we meditate upon it the more power wisdom and power and blessings we receive.
- B. **The Bible is also completely up-to-date.**
 - 1. **Once a man preached a sermon on astronomy.** Several college professors were in the congregation. A few days later the preacher met one of these professors on the street and said, "How did you like my sermon on astronomy. The courteous professor, "I enjoyed it, but I must tell you that the things you said went out of date 20 years ago." The preacher wisely answered, "From now on I will stick to something that I know about. I will preach the Gospel, for it never changes."
 - 2. **The best works of men become obsolete in time,** but not the Bible. It is timeless. It is always fresh and up-to-date. When the problems of life come up, we can turn to the Bible and always find the answer to our problems.
 - 3. Someone has written these meaningful lines about the Bible.

My Bible And I

We've traveled together, My Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh,
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm,
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

We've traveled together, My Bible and I,
When life had grown weary, and death even was nigh,
But all through the darkness, of mist or of wrong
I found there a solace, a prayer and a song.

So now who shall part us, My Bible and I,
Shall "isms" or "schisms" or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,
Supplant thy sound wisdom, give folly instead?

Ah! no, my dear Bible, exponent of light!
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight!
And still through life's journey, until my last sigh,
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.

IV. Meets Every Human Need - The Bible is glorious because it meets every human need.

- A. Man has a need for **inner peace and pardon**. The Bible shows him how to satisfy these needs in the person of Jesus Christ.
- B. Man has a **need for guidance**. He does not know how to direct his own steps.(Psa. 119:105).
- C. Man has a **need for comfort**. The Bible offers this comfort. (Psa. 23:1,2; 55:22; Jn.14:1; Heb. 13:5).
- D. Years ago in a certain city a group of young men came together and formed what they called an "**infidel club**." They decided to come together one night and burn a Bible as a demonstration of their unbelief. They appointed their president to cast the Bible into the fire. When the time came to burn the Bible, this young man took it in his hands and held it a long time. Then he laid the Bible back on the table and said, "We had better not destroy this Book until we find something better to take its place."
 - 1. Men will never find anything to take the place of the Bible.
 - 2. The Bible is God's word and meets every spiritual need of man. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

V. Hopeful Message For Life After Death - The Bible is glorious because it has a hopeful message for life after death.

- A. One of the greatest questions of the ages is, "Is there any life after death?" The Bible, which is God's revelation, gives the answer to this great question.
 - 1. **Job** said in the long ago. (Job. 19:25-27).

JOB 19:25 "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

JOB 19:26 "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

JOB 19:27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes shall see and not another. My heart faints within me.

2. Jesus said. (Jn. 3:36; 8:51; 11:25; 14:19).

B. **Once I read about a mother who was not a Christian.** She had a great horror of death and would not go to church for fear she would hear something about death. One Sunday her little boy came running home from Bible study and church saying with joy, “Mother, you need not be afraid to die, Jesus went through the grave and left a light behind.”

C. Yes, Jesus has left a great light behind and we need not be afraid of death. (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

VI. **Changes Men** - The Bible is glorious because it changes men.

A. It is the power of God unto salvation. It has the power to save souls and change men into the likeness of Jesus.

B. **The greatest lives of the world have been produced by the gospel.** **Paul** was the chief of sinners, but the gospel made him the chief of saints. **Peter** was a cursing fisherman, but the gospel made him a mighty preacher. **John** was a thunderbolt of a man, but the gospel made him an apostle of love. The gospel has changed many others.

C. **Sometime ago there were two sisters who were absent from each other for years** and then one came to visit the other one. During this time one of them had become a Christian. After several days the other sister said, “I don’t know what has happened to you, but you are much easier to live with than you used to be.” The gospel had changed her life and it has transformed millions of other lives.

Conclusion.

I. Some time back **a boy was ordered by his father to quit reading the Bible**, but he continued to read it despite his father’s objections. One day the father caught him reading the Bible and immediately snatched it away from him and threw it into the fire. He noticed, however, that the boy was smiling and said to him, “Why are you smiling?” The boy answered, “Why, I was just thinking that you cannot burn this in here,” and he pointed to his heart that was filled with God’s word.

II. The Bible is the greatest book in the world and has great influence, but it will not help us unless we read it and store it up in our hearts. It will then lead us to the Savior of the world and be a blessing to our lives.

III. **You and I may lose everything**, but if we cling to the words of this glorious book, we will be led safely to the haven of rest Jesus has prepared for the righteous.

A. “Receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able to save your souls.” (Jas. 1:21).

B. Submit to the Lord through faith, repentance, and baptism. Come as we sing the invitation of our Lord.

