

THE BOOK

"All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and correction," 2 Timothy 3:16a.

A student, studying studiously, is "a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2Tim 2:15).

Every way that claims to be spiritual has a book of instruction for its followers. Christians read and follow the words that are penned in the **Book** called the Bible. It's the **Book** of books.

Without this **Book** for instruction, man is given to his own ideas and thoughts. Those without the **Book**; such as the Greeks, have built a pagan worship system that is based upon inner fears and imaginations of man.

Paul put it this way: "For they exchange the truth of God for a lie, and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator" (Ro. 2:25). However, God's **Book** remains, persuading millions to believe its teachings and receive God's love that is offered in His Son, Jesus.

At the moment of acceptance of the gospel message of Calvary; that of Christ's death, burial and resurrection (1st Cor. 15:4), a believer knows the Author of the **Book**. From then on, he has no problem trusting every scripture within pages of the **Book**.

Yes, the world hates God's **Book**. Believers, on the other hand, have come to realize that it is the "perfect law of liberty" (Jas. 1:25). Ignorant people will always throw their skeptical stones at the **Book**; but, Christians know that there are no blunders in it; not scientifically nor prophetically.

When one accepts Christ, the **Book** changes. Words that once lay heavy on the page, now jump off at us giving direction and prompting us to read more, faster.

What happened? Why the change? It all comes from the deep personal relationship we have with Jesus Christ. He makes the **Book** alive. In awhile, we join with the Chinese translator who jumped to his feet and exclaimed, "*This **Book** tells me all about myself.*"

We now know what David was talking about in Psalms 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Off we go! First, leaving a desert land, we go to the Promised Land. **No one stops us!** We exit slavery and enter freedom. **We have a new song to sing!** *"I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see."* There's no other **Book** like this **Book**. No other **Book** like the Bible. It's Amazing!

The words of the **Book** come alive by the powerful voice of the Holy Spirit. Speaking to our hearts, the Holy Spirit "**guides us into all truth**" (Jn 16:13), showing us the way to God's promises within the **Book**.

Because the **Book** is of faith means that we believe what is recorded even if we cannot see it. Like Abraham, we look for what God said to look for; knowing that it's just over the hill. We know, one day, our physical eyes shall see what our eyes of the heart see now.

Indeed, the words of the **Book** are much more powerful to the inner man than any other proofs offered; even scientific evidence - so-called or otherwise. The kind of courage that the **Book** produces is unseen, for the most part. But, oh is it felt. What God says, or said, is placed squarely upon Hebrews 11:1: "**Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the EVIDENCE of things not seen.**"

Yet, when it comes to proof, Christians are no different than anyone else. Now and then, we love to thrust our fists into the air and shout "YES!" when a scholar of the world offers support for our stand.

Thus, we may want to say "Yes!" to scholar I. L. Cohen, Engineer, researcher and mathematician. In his book, *Darwin Was Wrong A Study in Probabilities*: (New Research Publications, Inc., 1984), pp. 4, 5, 8, Cohen wrote: "**At that moment, when the DNA/RNA system became understood, the debate between Evolutionists and Creationists should have come to a screeching halt.** (Cohen continues)...the implications of the DNA/RNA were obvious and clear.

Mathematically speaking, based on probability concepts, there is no possibility that Evolution was the mechanism that created the approximately 6,000,000 species of plants and animals we recognize today."

But, most of us are not scholars. Our reliance is solely on the Word of God. Therefore, in the final analysis, we do not look at man's proof; for or against God. Rather, our focus is on what the **Book** says about God's love toward fallen man. We are more interested in the recovery of man than discoveries of man; for, God's truth is eternal, enduring throughout man's history. It's an old **Book!** And, it's never failed, yet!

Besides proof from science and it's time-worn acceptance, the best proof for the **Bible** is found within its pages. The Bible interprets itself. So, no matter

where we jump in - Old or New Covenants, we can fully trust the Holy Writ - from Genesis to Revelation. Why, we can even go to David who lived about 1000 years BC. His words are just as resonant today, as his time.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:" Ps 40:1-3.

Rather than debate with science and set our hope on worldly evidence, Christians look to the **Book**, alone. Its consistent message from Genesis to Revelation becomes thrilling with each step of our travel. Leaving Eden did bring mankind one catastrophe after another - killing (Cain), flood (Noah), Egyptian bondage and real slavery; finally, death.

But, there is hope for man that the **Book** speaks about; hope that is beyond this world. Hope that comes from faith in God's promises. Hope that sets us in the heavenlies where all things have past away and all things become new (2 Cor. 5:17). The **Book** says "He is not here, He is risen!" (Mark 16:6).