

said, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." We have therefore this priceless lesson taught to us here, that man lives by the Bible. Is it not possible that we have thought only of Scripture and the truth that it contains, as something which could be submitted to careful analysis. Have we not perhaps looked at it too much as if it was abstract and logical and methodized? Have we not forgotten that the Bible can never be rightly treated until it be treated as something for which the world is starving for to-night. It is what the race needs to perfect its growth. All round about us men and women are holding up the hands of their souls and crying to us, Give us bread! Now you would never satisfy a starving man if you were to invite him to an analysis of the staff of life, if you were to point him to the harvests waving in the golden autumn time, or if you were to tell him of the fiery hot oven. He would revolt. He does not want a discussion or a dissertation: he wants food. He does not ask for analysis but he asks for bread. Oh, this is a profound truth, which Pascal puts into matchless words when he says, "The things of God must be loved in order to be understood!" You cannot understand God's word until it lies there in your heart as the object of your affection, of your warmest love. "Often," witnessed Jonathan Edwards, "in reading the Holy Scriptures every word seemed to touch my heart. I seemed to see such a refreshing food communicated that I could not get along in reading." He just had to pause lost in wonder and amazement at the glory which God had placed there. And centuries before Jonathan Edwards wrote, one who was in many respects his master, Augustine, said, "In Cicero and in Plato I find many things that are acutely spoken, but not in any one of them do I find that sentence, 'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'"

Brethren, the Bible claims at our hands to be received as the food which God has provided. Do you ask me, then, why I know that it comes from Heaven? Because it feeds me, because it finds me, because it satisfies the nature in me which God had created, because it meets me when my whole body and soul and spirit are reaching out for the living God! Why is it that Jesus, with such simple and such sublime assurance, falls back upon the word of God in the wilderness of Judea? Intellect, infinite in its resources, was at his command, at that moment, but the acutest human intellect going on to the conflict with doubt and with denial and with despair, has a thousand times since then been vanquished and put to flight; and all the other weapons which human ingenuity and human eloquence have designed have shared the same disastrous fate. But to-day, after centuries of conflict, this sword of the spirit is as keen of edge and as bright of blade as when thrice waved in the wilderness of Judea, and thrice thrust home to the heart of the lie with which the devil would have tempted Christ, it finally drove him from the field vanquished and defeated.

You recall, I cannot doubt, the happy sequel with which let us part one from another this evening, "Then the devil leaveth him and behold angels came and ministered unto him." Long, long before, in the scene which I have already referred to this evening, we are told that when Eve listened and fell, the cherubims with flaming swords guarded the portals of the paradise that was lost;—now the angels came back again to the children of men, and on a mission infinitely more welcome. Not the sword of stern repression, but the sword of loving loyalty has won the battle, and the Lord Jesus Christ seems to take that sword afresh to-night and to put it into your hands and mine, whether it is to be wielded in the pulpit or in the pew, this is His last word to us to-night. It is a message for the household and for the home, for the store and for the street, for the church and for the nations, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."