

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John iii. 3.

RULES FOR READING THE SCRIPTURES.

NEVER open the Word of God, without remembering that you must be tried by it at the judgment-seat of Christ.

Read with prayer for direction to the right meaning; with earnest attention to the words, and connection of the passage; with diligent comparison of every passage with the whole Bible; and with "patient thought" concerning the result.

When you read the Scriptures, let not your attachment to the systems, or the sentiments of men, obscure their meaning, or induce you to pervert them.

When you discover any truth in the Bible, receive it with candor, maintain it with meekness, and avow it with courage.

When you discover any duty in the Bible, meet the discovery with a cheerful obedience.

In your daily perusal of the Sacred Volume, receive its doctrines with a lively faith, practice its duties with a holy boldness, and pray for divine grace, by which these doctrines and these duties may become the fountain and the streams of genuine Christian discipleship.

This Book contains the law of the most High God. It founds its claim to this divine origin on the harmony of its facts with the records of universal history; on the moral character of its inspired penman; on the sublime yet simple majesty of its style; on the excellence of its doctrines; on the purity of its morals; on the rapidity with which its truths were originally promulgated, under circumstances the most unpromising; and on the evidence of indisputable miracles.

To the Christian, this Volume supplies a surer guide than the Israelites enjoyed in the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. It unfolds the consoling doctrine and the directing precept; the warning threat and the

cheering promise; it exposes our guilt; proclaims our danger, and reveals our duty; it condemns to justify, and justifies to condemn no more.

To the dead it speaks life, and to the living it unfolds immortality. It makes the weak strong, and to the strong it increaseth strength; it invites inquiry, and amply rewards the honest inquirer; it holds up a guiding star through the pilgrimage of life, and extends the horizon of our mortal existence into the boundless ocean of a happy eternity.

"ONLY BELIEVE."

MARK v. 23.

Matthew ix. 21.

It was only a *touch*,
But the woman was whole;
With the plague of her sins
Fully purged from her soul.

John ix. 6.

It was only the *clay*
But that finger made light;
And the "Light of the world"
Gave the blind one his sight.

Mark vii. 34.

It was only a *sigh*,
But it severed the spell,
Which had bound tongue and ear;
He did all things so well.

John xi. 43.

It was only a *voice*,
But it rang through the tomb;
And the dead was called forth
From its foulness and gloom.

Luke xxii, 61.

It was only a *look*,
But it broke Peter's heart;
And the spirit was cleansed
In its innermost part.

Matthew xi. 23.

It was only a *word*,
And that one word was "Come,"
But it told the good news
Of which grace was the sum.

Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.—Matthew xviii. 3.