

these people know what they were to believe, or what they were to do, through their ignorance of the Bible and its teachings? They could only know them from the word of God. Not only for three hundred years, but for fourteen hundred years, for they were left without that essential book, the Bible. Before the art of printing was invented Bibles were rare things, and Bibles were costly things.

Historians tell us that in the eleventh century Bibles were so rare and so costly, that only a man who had a fortune could procure himself one, and that it took the life-long work of a man to make a copy of the Bible. Now you all know that the art of printing was only invented in the fifteenth century, about the year 1456. Before that time books were very rare and costly. In order to arrive at the probable cost of a Bible in these days, let us suppose for a moment that a man should work at a copy of the Bible ten years, and he should earn a dollar a day—pretty good wages for a man—the cost of a Bible would be three thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, and if he should work at it twenty years, and historians say that it could not have been done even in that time, for, in those days, there were no gold pens or steel pens, but all writing had to be done on sheepskin parchment, and with the quills and feathers of birds, hence it was a very slow operation. Now, then, let us suppose that it would take a man twenty years, and he should earn a dollar a day, then the cost of a Bible would be nearly eight thousand dollars. Well, now, Protestants say the Bible is the only guide of man, and man's only teacher, and that it is from the Bible man learned what he is to believe and to do, in order to be saved. Now, my dear people, suppose I should come to New York and preach to you on the necessity and im-