

country isolated from the great literary nations of antiquity. 5. Its influence on human life and character. Wherever it has been received, studied, and obeyed, men have grown in virtue and godliness, in love of liberty and humanity, and into triumph over death.

The Bible a unity. It is necessary to keep this in view, lest, in dwelling upon its human elements, the Divine be lost sight of. *But it is a progressive revelation.* It grew during more than a thousand years, in which God enlightened men by His Holy Spirit by degrees as they were able to bear it.

How this text-book should be studied. Diligently, thoroughly, by looking up all Scripture references, and consulting, as far as possible, the books mentioned that have contributed to its composition.

CHAPTER I.

ON THE EVIDENCES OF THE AUTHENTICITY AND GENUINENESS OF THE SACRED WRITINGS.

The evidence for the New Testament is more accessible than that for the Old; hence it is considered first.

I. THE NEW TESTAMENT. Evidence is internal and external. St. Augustine (died 430 A. D.) said the external evidence for the books of the Bible is as good as that for those of the classics. It is much better, for Scripture Mss. are far more numerous, relatively nearer to time of authorship, and more extensively referred to, than those of classical authors.

A. Internal Evidence. The thirteen Pauline Epistles chosen because the name of the apostle Paul, known through the Acts, is attached to them. i. *General Characteristics.* Though Greek, they are the work of a Jew, as is proved by Hebrew idioms, O. T. quotation, reference to Jewish customs, and exhibition of patriotic feeling. The writer confesses to having been brought up in a strict sect and to having been a persecutor, above which he has risen into complete Christian liberty. He shews acquaintance with Greek culture in his language, illustrations and the poetical quotations of 1 Cor. 15: 33, and Titus 1: 12. The biographical features of the Epistles are in complete accord with the history of the Acts of the Apostles, and that in many and varied particulars. The conclusion of this evidence is that Paul really wrote the Epistles which is confirmed by, 2. *Undesigned Coincidences*, which are refined as "points of argument, or minute, as casual, so evidently unintentional, that no forger could possibly have thought of inventing them." Examples: a. The contribution for the saints at Jerusalem mentioned in Romans 15: 25, 26. Compare 2 Cor. 8: 1-4; 9: 1, 2; 1 Cor. 16: 1-4; Acts 19: 21; 20: 21; 24: 17. These prove not only the genuineness of the Epistles, but also the historic truth of the Acts. b. The First Epistle to the Corinthians, as Paul's answer to a letter sent him by them. The answer does not come till the seventh chapter. Our lesson is taken up with reproof based on report, as 1: 11; 5: 1; 11: 18; In 1 Cor. 4: 12, Paul refers to his handicraft: compare 1 Thess. 2: 9; Acts 18: 1-3. In 1 Cor. 1: 12, he refers to divisions between Paul and Apollos: compare 3: 4-6; Acts 18: 1-8; 18: 23, 24-28; 19: 1. c. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians was Paul's congratulation of them on their reception of his first epistle, witnessed by Titus. Compare 2 Cor. 2: 1-13, and 7: 2-16. Other coincidences are 2 Cor. 11: 9; Acts 18: 1-5; to which add 2 Cor. 11: 32, 33; Acts 9: 23-25; and Acts 18: 5; 2 Cor. 1: 19. d. Coincidences in Galatians. Compare Gal. 1: 13, 14, with Acts 7: 58; 8: 13; 22: 3-5; 24: 4-5; also Gal. 1: 17, 18, with Acts 9: 22, 23, also Gal. 1: 22-24 with Acts 9: 26-28, and Gal. 2: 1, with Acts 15: 2. In the Epistle, Paul speaks of Jewish opposition, as in Gal. 2: 14: 4; 29; 5: 4, 11; 6: 12. Compare Acts 13: 49, 50; 14: 1, 2, 19; 17: 4-5. For the temptation in the flesh, compare Gal. 4: 13-14 with 2 Cor. 12: 7-9. Finally, justification by faith without works is the common theme of Romans and Galatians. To the Romans Paul supports it by argument, because he had not been at Rome. But to the Galatians he does so by authority and personal entreaty as to his own converts: see Gal. 3: 1; 4: 11, 14-16; 5: 2, 10. These few examples of numerous undisguised coincidences sufficiently prove the Pauline authorship of the Epistles and the historical truthfulness of them and the Acts of the Apostles.

(To be Continued).