

to show our best friends and visitors what a beautiful volume the printers and book-binders can produce? Is this our value of the bible? Can this be our use for it? Truly it is a using of the Book. And it is also prizing it. But whether either of these can be considered of the proper character and quality, demands a serious doubt.

If it be true that we have souls; if it be true that our souls need salvation; and if it be true that no other means in the heaven above nor in the earth beneath can save our souls but a knowledge and obedience of the bible; is it not also true that a neglect of the bible is a neglect of our own welfare, now and forever? And this, it will be acknowledged, is a neglect which results in a loss overbalancing and throwing into the shade all other losses.

The question of life or of death, simply as it respects the present world, is always of absorbing interest. Shall I live, or shall I die? is a query that no mortal seriously considers without emotions which strike to the centre of the soul. Life is loved, and death is feared. The most sickly and weak, suffering under the entire list of ills to which mortality is subject, still cling to life as the sweetest and fondest of all that is dear, and rich, and great on earth; while death is hated and dreaded as the chief of all the enemies. And what does this say to us? It says to us, in language not to be misunderstood, that life is beyond value—that it has in reality no price—that it is precious above the power of reckoning—that it is better, richer, greater, and therefore more to be desired, than all things else that ambition either craves or holds in its widest grasp.

Now it will not be questioned that the life of which we speak in treating of the bible, is, at the lowest calculation, as precious and every way excellent as the life of the body. If, therefore, the bible is the source of spiritual life, and if this life be worth as much to us as a life that we would not exchange for a world, we have little difficulty in making all men see how greatly valuable is the Book of heaven. To use the bible according to its real value, then, is to read, study, examine, scan, and ponder its pages with an interest and intensity equal to our love of life.

But shall we improve and increase our taste for bible reading? Can any one say, No? Our Father in heaven, forbid! The question, however, properly terminates upon the preceding topic. We shall increase in bible reading the very moment we perceive the value of the blessed Book. It would not be possible to prevent a constant, vigilant, and diligent perusal of the bible, were we fully penetrated with the idea of