

RECEIVING THE BIBLE.

Our acceptance of the Gospel and obedience to its requirements, depend upon the way in which we receive the will of God as revealed in the Bible. If we accept it as authoritative because spoken by God, we have a sure foundation on which to rest. But if we submit it to trial, and decide according to our own preferences, reason, and attainments, our entire religious convictions must be feeble and liable to be shaken at any time. Christ himself set forth the proper method of receiving the word of God and the salvation which it makes known when he said: "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." The most noted saints, the most successful preachers, and the greatest theologians, have been distinguished for receiving God's truth as little children.

In the discriminating and admirable delineation of the character, gifts, and work of the late Rev. A. A. Hodge, D.D., delivered at his funeral by Rev. W. M. Paxton, D.D., we find the following significant and true statement of the way in which this wonderful theologian received the word of God:

"He received the Bible simply on the authority of God; hence it was the word of life and light to his soul. He believed a doctrine simply because God said so. Few men were so thoroughly versed in the philosophy of the age, and perhaps no one was able to handle these arguments with greater power and sagacity; but the basis of his own personal belief was not philosophy or human reason in any of its dicta, but simply the word of God. These two features of his religious experience made him a teacher whose theology was Scriptural and *Christo-centric*. It rested on the Bible, and gathered around and centred in Christ."

This is according to the divine teaching with respect to receiving the word of God. And those who accept it in this way not only conform to the requirement, but find strength and comfort to their own souls and become strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. "Thus saith the Lord," should be an end of all doubt and controversy. Just as soon as the real meaning of any passage of the Bible has been ascertained, its authority is to be admitted, even though the carnal mind or partially sanctified heart may rebel against it, and our intellect may be unable to understand it fully. What we know not now we may know hereafter; though there are no doubt many things pertaining to God, His word and His works, that we will never either in this life or in that which is to come be able to comprehend.

And all preaching that does not insist upon the reception of the Bible "simply on the authority of God," is faulty, weak, and will fail to edify the church or bring sinners to repentance. All apologizing for what God has said is out of place; and all attempts to discredit or lower the force of anything God has revealed because we may be unable to explain it or assign what we may be pleased to call satisfactory reasons for it, in the Sabbath school or in the pulpit, cannot fail to be injurious. In this way not a few preachers have made their people weak and sickly. To all such the inquiry of Job may be pertinently put: "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is high as heaven; what canst thou do? Deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea."—*Puritan Banner*.

THE BIBLE A CENTURY HENCE

FROM AN ADDRESS BY BISHOP J. F. HURST.

Hawthorne says a woman's face is never so beautiful as after her soul has passed through a great struggle. Our Bible will have passed through its great