

They investigated the gospel, and were satisfied with its claims. They recommended it to others. It was their study in life—it was their solace in death.

Various instances might be produced of persons who, when they approached the close of life, bitterly lamented the neglect of the sacred volume.

And numerous are the examples of persons, in all ages, who have spent much of their time in perusing it.

Moses and the prophets enjoined it upon the Jews. God himself commands Joshua to this duty; and David commends it to all. Christ and his apostles enjoin it on all Christians. Timothy was trained from his childhood in this way. The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily.

The primitive Christians were intimately acquainted with the Bible, and generally carried one about them.

Such was their affection for it, that many of them have been found buried with the gospel lying on their breasts. Women wore it hanging at their necks. Children were trained up from their infancy to repeat it by heart, and some of them made surprising proficiency.

It said of Dr. Marryat, that, when a youth, he committed to memory the whole books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, and Jeremiah, with all the minor prophets, and every one of the epistles in the New Testament, with