

### Why We Believe the Bible.

Why, then do we believe this Bible? Because it has been handed down to us by our fathers? No, no. Because the church has authoritatively ordered us to believe it? Not at all. Because experts in scholarship have declared it sufficiently safe to believe some parts of it? Nay, verily. Because it purports to be a revelation from God? By no manner of means. Then upon what does this Bible rest for its ultimate authority over the hearts of men? Because the fruits of this word of God have been such as they are. That is the simple, final test. Sinful and sorrowing men have come to this word of God and have found the way of forgiveness and peace. They have been transformed from an old evil life to a new and beautiful life of righteousness. The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ which stands in the midst of it, illuminates it every-where, and has again and again proved to be the power of God unto the salvation of men. The quality of its perennial fruits commends the Bible to us, and judged by its fruits, there is no other such book in the world. This book we believe because the fruits of it have been utterly beneficent. This book we believe because it has been dynamic in revolutionizing lives. This book we believe because in it we find the vision of God, of a redeemed and rejuvenated society. We believe it not because of its canonicity, not because the ages have accepted it, not because men hold it before us and say, You must believe it or perish, but we believe it because in our own hearts and in our own study of human history we have found that its fruits are of God. It is the supreme test which Jesus Christ applied. It is the test to which every society, every church, and every school must submit.—N. E. Wood, D.D.

### Earthly and Heavenly.

"I know that there are some who entertain a vague fear that these well-established facts of chemistry conflict with one of the most cherished doctrines of the Christian faith; but so far from this, I find that they elucidate and confirm it. I admit that they do disprove that interpretation frequently given to the doctrine of the resurrection, which assumes that these same material atoms will form parts of our celestial bodies; but then I find that this interpretation is as much opposed to Scripture as to Science. The Savior himself, in his reply to the incredulous Sadducees, severely rebuked such a material conception of his spiritual revelation, and the great apostle to the Gentiles, in his vision of the glorified body, distinctly declares that this body is not the body that shall be; but that, as the grain sown in the furrow rises into the glory of the full-eared corn, 'so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality' (1 Cor. xv. 54), our natural body, sown in dishonor and weakness, will be raised a spiritual body, clothed in glory and in power. 'And as we have borne the image of the earthly we shall also bear the image of the heavenly' (1 Cor. xv. 49)."—Cooke, Religion and Chemistry.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston decided, two years ago, to abolish the billeting system, and in accordance with that decision there will be no attempt made this year to billet those attending the meetings of Synod. The meetings open on Monday evening of next week in Knox Church, Toronto and will probably close on Wednesday of the same week.

## Our Young People

### Practical Consecration.

Topic—Rom. 12: 1-21. for May 18.

#### Our Leader Speaks.

What happens when a piece of metal has stamped upon it the impression of a nation's king? A minute before it was mere metal, gold or silver or copper. But now it has become a part of the government, and the entire force of the nation, if necessary, is back of it to maintain its purity and protect it from injury.

So it is with a soul that is consecrated to the service of God. A day, a minute, before it was an ordinary soul, ready for any employment. Now it has been taken up into the life of the kingdom of God, and all the power of that kingdom is back of it.

Before the metal received the impress, it might be used for many purposes. Its destiny might have been to form a wine cup, or the setting for some rich jewel. Now it has become dedicated to a single service. It represents wealth. It transfers value.

So the Christian, as soon as he is consecrated to the kingdom of God, adopts practically only a single service. All his tasks are subsidiary to this one task—to transmit the Christ life, the value of it, the royal worth of it—from man to man.

If the newly made coin is injured or defaced, if a piece is taken out of it and used for some other purpose, its value as a coin is injured or defaced, if a piece is taken out of it and used for some other purpose, its value as a coin is destroyed, it will no longer "pass." So it is with the consecrated life, when part of it is used for the service of the world. We cannot serve two masters, God and mammon. The very word "consecrated" means wholly-segregated.

There are counterfeit coins, of course—coins that weigh as much as the others and have the same ring, perhaps, and the same appearance; but they do not contain the same amount of metal, or, at any rate, they were not stamped by the government. They are worthless, and it is a crime to use them.

And so, of course, there are counterfeit consecrations, and sometimes they deceive even the counterfeiters themselves. But they never deceive God.—Endeavor World.

#### For Daily Reading.

Mon.,	May 12—The basis of service.	Deut 6: 4-9
Tues.,	" 13—Fruitful service.	Ps. 1: 1-6
Wed.,	" 14—Strong service.	Isa. 40: 28-31
Thurs.,	" 15—Be diligent.	2 Pet. 3: 9-14
Fri.,	" 16—With all your heart.	2 Chron. 31: 20, 21
Sat.,	" 17—Happy service.	Isa. 26: 3-12
Sun.,	" 18—Topic. Practical Consecration.	Rom. 12: 1-21

Who knoweth how good gifts to get  
Is wise,—is almost rich, indeed!  
Who knoweth how to lose and yet  
Remain in peace, he hath no need.

—Mary Sebastian Lawson.

"The wealth of a man consists in the number of things he loves and blesses, and in the number of things he is loved and blessed by."—Carlyle.

Yes, God helps the man who helps himself, but we would think He would rather help the man who helps somebody else!

#### Hints on Topic.

What would you think of a boy on a farm who should say, "I want to help father about the work, and, as I like to whistle, I will just help him by whistling while he works?" Practical consecration whistles when cheerfulness is needed, and braces itself to the plough handle when ploughing is to be done.

King Alfred, that strong, saintly, manly character, wrote once that he had no desire to be a king, but felt that that was the work God commanded him to do. Practical consecration takes no thought of one's own desires, but only of the desires of God.

It is easy to give words, and comparatively easy to give money; but the thing hardest is one's daily life and practice. Lowell says that the only conclusive proof that a man believes a principle is that he gives himself for it. It is that way with our Christianity.

A searching suggestion is made by Mr. Meyer. It will not seem very searching until we honestly try it. He suggests that we make a personal consecration by taking Miss Havergal's hymn, beginning, "Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee," read it very prayerfully, and then sign our names to it.

It is very easy to say, "If I were a fine singer, I would sing for God. If I make a fortune, I will use that for God. If I can only get that position I am after, I will serve God there." But that is not practical consecration. What God wants of us is the dedication to His service of what we have, and not of what we wish we had.

#### Quiet Resting Places.

There is always peace in the heart that is conscious of God's presence. "It is because we do not know that he is with us," some one has said, "and more than half doubt that he is anywhere, that we become nervous, irritable, uneasy and unhappy." It is possible to reach such a height of faith as to find perfect freedom from the petty perplexities and daily cares and small worries which produce mental restlessness and physical disease. From these rare altitudes a man looks down on the troubles of life with calm indifference and looks up to God with serene trust.

#### The Safe Way

"Supposing that, after a while, you should find that there is no God nor Judgment, and that your life of self-denial had therefore been based on delusion, what a fool you would feel! said one to me who was revelling in health and wealth, and, alas! like the prodigal of old, 'wasting his substance in riotous living,' seeking, by present gratification, and the poisoned pleasure of sin, to close his heart to God and the truth. Answering him according to his folly, I said, 'Supposing that there should be both God and judgment, a judgment that consigns the sinner to an endless and hopeless doom, and a God who is 'of purer eyes than to behold evil,' and who will 'by no means clear the guilty,' in that case you would be the fool.'"

The repose of the greater spirits is not acquiescence in the allotments of time, but the conscious presence of eternal life.—T. T. Munger.