

The Scriptures are given "For instruction in righteousness" (II. Tim. iii. 16). "They testify of Jesus" (John v. 39). "They make wise unto Salvation" (II. Tim. iii. 15).

The Bereans were commended, because they searched the Scriptures "To see whether those things were so" (Acts xvii. 11). They were in doubt as to the truth, but, through reading, their doubts were dispelled.

The only way in which anyone can learn to love the Bible is by reading it, and thousands of God's children can bear testimony to the wonderful fascination which this unique volume possesses for those who read it in a spirit of humility.

If we were more anxious to please God we should think less about the opinions of others. The fear of being charged with hypocrisy has driven many a one from the path of duty.

"WILLING TO BEAR THE BLAME."

A man lay upon his dying bed. He was unsaved, and anxious about his future. A servant of the Lord who came to talk with him, endeavored—not without difficulty, as he was nearly deaf—to make him understand the glad message of the Saviour's love, quoting to him the passage, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." He sought to show him that Christ hath borne our sins in His own body on the tree, and that by His stripes we are healed.

The sick man listened with attention, and at last caught the idea that Christ had died for our sins. "He was willing to bear the blame," said the sick man; and so he embraced the glad tidings of great joy, and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

"My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While like a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

"My soul looks back to see
The burdens Thou didst bear
While hanging on th' accursed tree;
And knows her guilt was there."

What comfort there is in these

words to the souls who, burdened beneath a load of sin, know not how to lift up their eyes to a holy God!

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE FOR PERSONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

(1) Break up the subject to be studied into convenient or suitable daily subdivisions. In this way there will be some definite thing to take up each day, and valuable time will not be lost casting about to find out where to begin. If we are to really search the Scriptures, we must have things in mind for which we will search.

(2) Be alone, if possible, while engaged in such devotional study. This will often be difficult, but it is well worth the effort. We need to be where we can speak aloud to God. It is said that David Brainerd, in order to be alone for meditation upon the Word, was in the habit of committing to memory passages of Scripture, and then walking alone in the streets of New Haven, or in the neighbouring fields, revolving these passages in his mind, applying them to his life, and conversing with God.

(3) Keep in mind constantly the object of this kind of Bible study. It is to meet my spiritual need, not that of another. It is to enrich my life. It is to lift my ideals. It is to enable me to meet God and to hear His voice, to me, personally. We do well to remind ourselves of this object many times during our study.

(4) Let there be resolute detachment of mind. Let us keep our thoughts from the thing which we have just been doing and from the thing which we mean to do next, and shut ourselves in alone with God and His Word. This is all the more important if our time be limited. If we have but half an hour to devote to such study each morning, we do not wish to spend half of it getting the mind fixed upon the subject.

(5) Do not be diverted from the main purpose of the study. This

is the peril of most students. We come to something which, as Peter says, is hard to be understood, and are apt to think that that difficulty must be removed before we can go further in our devotional study. Not so. Let us keep a paper on which we can note any difficulty that we come to, and at some subsequent time, as true scholars, let us seek to understand it. But let us not be cheated out of our daily spiritual food by mere intellectual curiosity, important as that is in its proper place.

(6) Be thorough. We have far too much surface study of the Bible. Gold dust is often found on the surface, but as a rule we have to dig for the nuggets. We need to sink a shaft in the Scriptures in order to get at the deep things of God.

(7) Meditate. Jeremiah best defines this process: "Thy words were found and I did eat them,"—that is, I take these words into my mind, I store them in my memory, I revolve them over and over again, I let them touch the springs of conscience, I let them find me, I let them will act upon them and apply them, I give them right of way in my life, I make them part of myself, I realize in actual experience that the words of Christ "are spirit and are life."

(8) Record results. If you put down one point each day, you will gain over three hundred points within the year. Most of us keep a financial record. All of us are in the habit of taking notes on what we hear men say. Is it not worth while to keep a careful record of God's dealings with us? It is my practice to carry slips of paper in my Bible constantly, on which to note such points. I would rather part with the notes taken when listening to the most distinguished lecturers I have ever heard, than with these little papers which contain the record of my own soul struggles, and of God's personal dealings with me.—(From an Address by Mr. John R. Mott, Travelling Secretary of the University of Christian Associations.)