

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE.

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken taken from the earth." Acts 8: 32-33.

The eunuch was reading his Bible. He was reading it as he drove along the road. When a man lays his heart down by God's Word a movement begins that transforms his whole life. In this day of cheap Bibles is is hard for us to realize how precious the Bible has been to some people. When Dr.George Stuart was a young man he was employed as a colporteur by the American Bible Society. Having no horse and buggy,he often traveled on foot. One day he sat down to rest at the foot of a mountain. A barefoot mountain boy was passing that way. Dr.Stuart was watching a little cabin perched like a wasp nest far up the mountain side.

"Little man, can you tell me who lives in that little cabin up there?" asked Dr. Stuart.

"Gran'ma Henderson lives up there," answered the boy, showing some surprise. "Don't you know Gran'ma Henderson? I thought ever' body knowed her. People go up there jes' to have her pray for 'em. It is worth goin' up there to hear her shout."

Dr.Stuart hung his coat on a bush and started to climb the mountain. When he got to the little cabin he

found the old lady sitting in the door.

"Won't you come in and have a seat?" said the lady kindly. "Who are you?"

"I am a Methodist preacher distributing Bibles, and I stopped to see if you have a good one," answered Dr. Stuart, as he took the seat she offered him.

"I have only a piece of the book," she answered, going to the cupboard to bring it. Her cupboard was only a simple shelf resting on two pegs in a log. Dr. Stuart said it looked like she had everything in the room on that shelf except the bed, the table, and the chairs. When she found the few worn leaves it was only a part of the twenty-third Psalm.

"This is all I have. When my old limbs get tired I sit down and read, and it rests me. Many is the time I have thought of the great big pretty Bible that laid on the parlor table back in the Carolinas."

Selecting a Bible from his pack, Dr. Sturt said, "Here is one I brought you; it's the New Testament and Psalms." Taking it, she opened it, and with a smile on her face, she said, "Law now, ain't it a pretty print?"

"Yes, it just suits your dim eyes," said the Doctor. "And it's yours." She exclaimed, "You don't mean you give it to me? you didn't give it to me to keep?" "Yes, it's yours to keep." Folding the book to her bosom she got up and walked across the puncheon floor, shouting, "Glory to God, I've got His Word at last. Glory to God." When she had finished and seated herself, he said,

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"Well, Grandma, I must be going now, but before I go I want to read a few lines and have a word of prayer." He read the twenty-third Psalm, as she commented on its meaning. They knelt on the rough puncheon floor and prayed, and,

"Heaven came down their souls to greet,  
And glory crowned the mercy seat."

If we could get men and women to read their Bibles regularly and seriously we would soon see the floods of wickedness rolling back from our land. The Bible is a book that just won't mix with sin. Take the Bible and read it where men gather for sinful purposes and they will either give up their sins or leave. If you go into a brothel or a saloon and ask them to let you read the Bible you will get an ugly look or a blank refusal. If you read it anyway they will soon leave or drive you away. Wicked men may be afraid of the Bible, they may even have a kind of respect for it, but they do not want to hear it while they are at their sins. It has a powerful message for the sinner.

Bibles are so cheap today there is small danger of anyone wanting one and not being able to get it. If we are a stranger to God's word today it will not be for lack of Bibles. But there is a grave danger of men today becoming a stranger to God's Word. Our danger is not from the lack of Bibles, but from the abundance of every thing else. We have the daily newspapers, hundreds of the finest magazines, thousands of good books, the radio, the moving picture.

and the telephone. These agencies have brought the world to our very doors. It is an interesting world, it is a colorful world, and being our home, we cannot help being interested in it. A man would have to be a dead man not to be interested in the world today.

When the theatres announced the coming of "Judge Priest," our girls wanted their mother and I to see it. They knew how much we both like Will Rogers. But by the time the picture arrived I had almost given up the idea, for our finances were at a pretty low ebb. Even sixty cents counts when that is all you have. But the girls insisted, and finally I said I would go if Mother would. Then she started to objecting. You may think you have covered the ground with objections, but when a woman starts objecting you will see you have only tapped the ball. She said we didn't have decent clothes to wear, and some of the ones we were wearing had not been paid for. When a woman starts to arguing they sure can bring up some unpleasant subjects. She said it would be a shame for us to spend sixty cents to see a show as many things as we were doing without. I said, "Yes, we are doing without lots of things, but this is one of the things we have been doing without a long time. Let's have a little fun before we die." Well, we went to see "Judge Priest." That was one time I got the best of the argument.

I will give you men a little tip. If you want to

get the best of the wife in an argument, just listen to hers some time and take it down. Then, when she is not expecting it bring it up. That's the way I did. It is my opinion that is the only way to out argue a woman. Sometimes a man thinks he is smart enough to think up one himself that will floor one. But he generally comes to grief. I guess the Lord just didn't make men that bright.

We went to see Will Rogers, and it was worth all it cost. I didn't see a thing in that show that a Christian could not laugh at. I don't see how a man or woman who loves God can laugh at some of the vulgar jokes we see and hear on the screen. Once or twice I have left the theatre in the middle of the picture because I did not think the things they were doing were fit for a Christian's eyes and ears. But the fun in "Judge Priest" is clean fun. But when I come to the dark valley of death I want something better than that. I want to slip God's word under my pillow and fall asleep on its promises. It is the only book with authority to speak of another world. It is the only book with authority to tell us the way to the better world.

I would not want any one to close his eyes to all the world around him. I do not believe God would want us to. There are some of the entertainments that are wholesome and educational. I do not see how a religion that shuts a man out from all his surroundings can build a strong Christian character. But even wholesome enter-

tainments and clean recreation can shut us out from God. It is no harm for children to have their toys. But children can have too many, they can have so many they will forget the very father and mother that gave them.

Friends, let's take God's Great Word along with us. If for no other reason, let's study it for its ideals of purity and love. Let's study it for its deep spiritual message, its revelation of another world. There is coming a day when our sports, our money, our radios, and our moving pictures will all fail us. What will any of these things mean when we stand on the brink of eternity?

John Bunyan says the Bible is a looking glass. It is the most wonderful looking glass in all the world. You turn it one way and it will show you your own likeness. It may be so frank you at first do not recognize it, but it is the most exact likeness of you that you will ever see in this world. It may be very displeasing to you when you see it, but it will do you good. If that was all that it did for us it might still be in vain. Of what avail would it be to show a man his faults if you do not have a remedy? But when you turn this glass the other way it shows you God. It shows you all His majesty, all His excellence, and all His mercy. This is the real purpose of the Bible, to show us what we are like and then to show us what God is like.

Here was a man who was looking at a likeness of God and did not know it. He was an honest fellow, and his great

desire was to find God. He had been to Jerusalem to worship Him. He was hoping here to find God. But now he was reading a discription of God's Son and did not recognize Him. He had turned the looking glass the right way and was looking at the image, but did not know it.

But he was reading the Bible to learn. Some men read it to prove they are already right. If they find a passage that agrees with their own pre-conceived notions they eat it up. But if they find one that gets them into trouble they skip it. Sometimes the passage that hits us the hardest is the one we need most to hear. Oftentimes God is so different from our notion of Him that we fail to recognize Him when we see Him.