

HOLY BIBLE

My brethren, here is a book whose scene is the sky and the dirt and all that lies between-- a book that has in it the arch of the heavens, the curve of the earth, the ebb and flow of the sea, sunrise and sunset, the peaks of mountains and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, the shadow of forests on the hills, the song of birds and the color of flowers. But its two great characters are GOD and the SOUL, and the story of their eternal life together is its one everlasting romance. It is the most human of books, telling the old forgotten secrets of the heart, its bitter pessimism and its death-defying hope, its pain, its passion, its sin, its sob of grief and its shout of joy--telling all, without malice, in its Grand Style which can do no wrong, while echoing the sweet-toned paths of the pity and mercy of God. No other book is so honest with us, so mercilessly merciful, so austere yet so tender, piercing the heart, yet healing the deep wounds of sin and sorrow.

Take this great and simple Book, white with age yet new with the dew of each new mourning, tested by the sorrowful and victorious experience of centuries, rich in memories and wet with the tears of multitudes who walked this way before us--lay it to heart, love it, read it, and learn what life is, what it means to be a man; learn that God hath made us for Himself, and unique are our hearts till they rest in Him. Make it your friend and teacher and you will know what Sir Walter Scott meant when, as he lay dying, he ask Lockhart to read to him. "From what book?" ask Lockhart, and Scott replied, "There is but one Book!"

This book contains the word of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is the grand object, our good is designed and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rub the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mind of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of judgment.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents.

MAY YOU FIND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IN THIS BOOK