Cover Page

Scripture: II Timothy 3:14-17.

Topic: The Book of God.

Proposition: The Bible is the Book of God.

Text: II Timothy 3:16 -- "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, in righteousness."

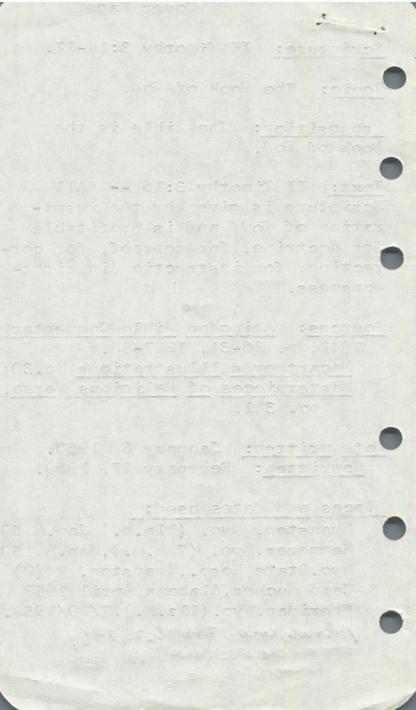
Sources: Abingdon Bible Commentary 1942, p. 26-31, 1287-88.; <u>Macartney's Illustrations</u>, No.30; <u>Masterpieces of Religious Verse</u>, no. 381.

Date written: January 6, 1950. Rewritten: February 27, 1969.

Places and dates used:

Evanston, Wyo. (lla.m.) Jan.8,50 Kemmerer,Wyo, (7 p.m.),Jan.8,'50 Wyo.State Hosp.,Evanston, " (2) Camp Rucker,Alabama,April 1952 Sheridan,Wyo.(lla.m.),7/20/1958.

Altroit, colo, March 2, 1969 CHISREL, O. Q. ETSENIHOWER ARMY MEDOMES ENTER 10 cm, 13 avov. 83



II Timothy 3:14-17

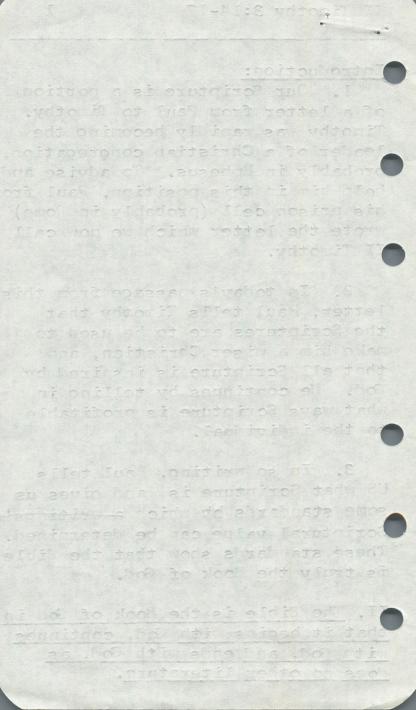
Introduction:

1. Our Scripture is a portion of a letter from Paul to Timothy. Timothy was rapidly becoming the leader of a Christian congregation, probably in Ephesus. To advise and help him in this position, Paul from his prison cell (probably in Rome) wrote the letter which we now call II Timothy.

2. In today's passage from this letter, Paul tells Timothy that the Scriptures are to be used to make him a wiser Christian, and that all Scripture is inspired by God. He continues by telling in what ways Scripture is profitable.

3. In so writing, Paul tells US what Scripture is, and gives us some standards by which a writings's Scriptural value can be determined. These standards show that the Bible is truly the Book of God.

I. The Bible is the Book of God in that it begins with God, continues with God, and ends with God, as does no other literature.

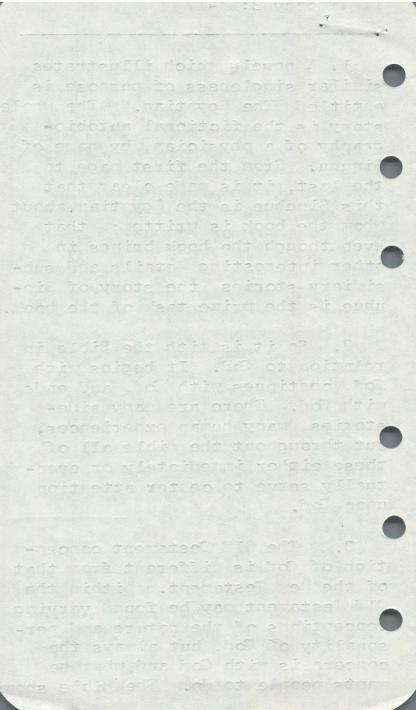


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1. A novel, which illustrates similar singleness of purpose is entitled "The Egyptian." The whole story is the fictional autobiography of a physician, by name of binuhu. From the first page to the last, it is made clear that this Sinuhue is the Egyptian about whom the book is written; that even though the book brings in other interesting details and subsidiary stories, the story of Sinuhue is the prime task of the book.

2. So it is with the Bible in relation to God. It begins with God, continues with God, and ends with God. There are many sidestories, many human experiences, but throughout the Bible all of these either immediately or eventually serve to center attention upon God.

3. The Old Testament conception of God is different from that of the New Testament. Within the Old Testament may be found varying conceptions of the nature and personality of God, but always the concern is with God and what he wants people to do. The Bible shows



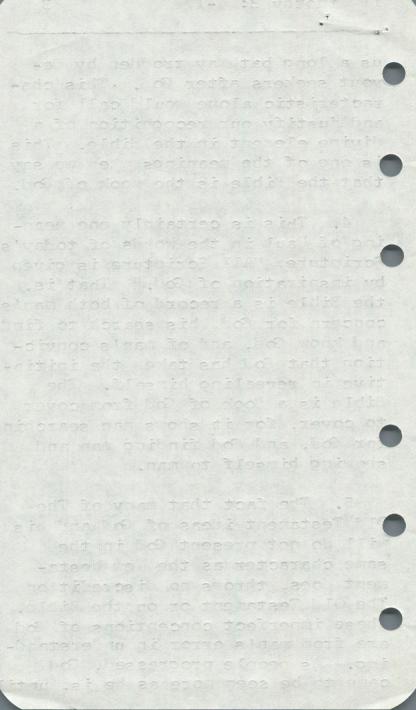
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us a long pathway trodden by devout seekers after God. This characteristic alone would call for and justify our recognition of a divine element in the Bible. This is one of the meanings when we say that the Bible is the Book of God.

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4. This is certainly one meaning of Paul in the words of today's Scripture, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." That is, the Bible is a record of both man's concern for God, his search to find and know God, and of man's conviction that God has taken the initiative in revealing himself. The Bible is a Book of God from cover to cover, for it shows man searching for God, and God finding man and showing himself to man.

5. The fact that many of The Old Testament ideas of God and his will do not present God in the same character as the New Nestament does, throws no discredit on The Old Testament or on the Bible. These imperfect conceptions of God are from man's error in understanding. As people progressed, God came to be seen more as he is, until



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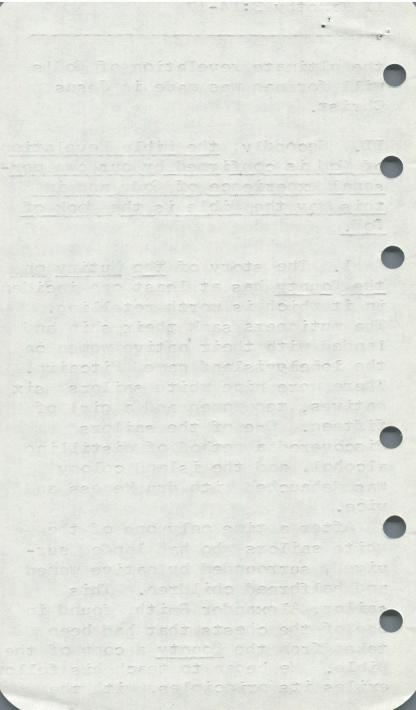
the ultimate revelation of God's will for man was made in Jesus Christ.

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II. Secondly, the Bible Revelation of God is confirmed by our own personal experience of God, and in this way the Bible is the Book of God.

1. The story of <u>the Mutiny on</u> <u>the Bounty</u> has at least one incident in it which is worth retelling. The mutineers sank their ship and landed with their native women on the **lohely** island named Pitcairn. There were nine white sailors, six natives, ten women and a girl of fifteen. One of the sailors discovered a method of distilling alcohol, and the island colony was debauched with drunkeness and vice.

After a time only one of the white sailors who had landed survived, surrounded by native women and halfbreed children. This sailor, Alexander Smith, found in one of the chests that had been taken from the <u>Bounty</u> a copy of the Bible. He began to teach his fellow exiles its principles, with the



result that his own life was changed, and finally the life of the whole island colony was changed to the good.

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In 1908 the United States ship Fopaz visited the island and found a thriving and prosperous community, without whiskey, without jails, without crime, and without an insane asylum. The Bible had changed the life of that island community.

2. Just as on the island life was changed to the good by God's truth as shown in the Bible, so the Bible can and does change life even today. Personal experience of what application of Bible truth can do in individual life has always been the most convincing proof that the Bible is the Book of God.

3. The book that has in it the nost truth about God and man, about salvation from sin, and about the life eternal, will always be the Holy Bible to all who reverently read it, however much they fail to meed it. We find ourselves at our best morally when our lives are most in accord with what the God of the Bible commands and approves. A set to the is one is a set of the hole is also colory as character the food. The food the islan and four the islan the islan and four the islan islan the the islan islant island the island of the island of the the island of the island of the the island island of the the island island of the the island of the island of the

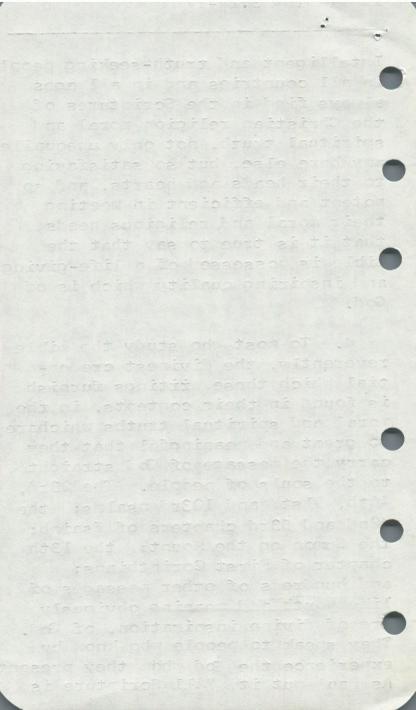
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Intelligent and truth-seeking peopl in all countries and in all ages always find in the Scriptures of the Christian religion moral and spiritual truth, not only unequalled anywhere else, but so satisfaying to their heads and hearts, and so potent and efficient in meeting their moral and religious needs, that it is true to say that the Bible is possessed of a life-giving and inspiring quality which is of God.

4. To most who study the Bible reverently, the divinest credential which these writings furnish is found in their contents, in the moral and spiritual truths which are B° great and meaningful that they carry the message of God straight to the souls of people. The 23rd, 46th, 91st, and 103rd psalms; the 2nd and 53rd chapters of Isaiah; the Semon on the Mount; the 13th chapter of First Corinthians; and hundreds of other passages of like worth and meaning obviously re of divine inspiration, of God. They speak to people who know by experience the God whom they present As Paul put it, "All Scripture is



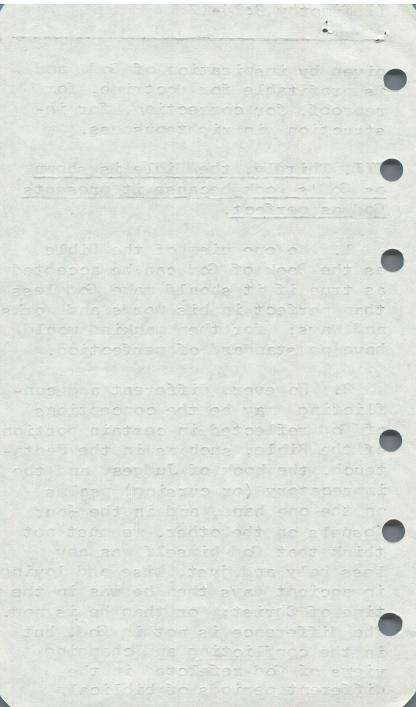
II Timothy 3:14-17

given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

III. Thirdly, the Bible is shown as God's Book because it presents God as perfect.

1. No one view of the Bible as the Book of God can be accepted as true if it should make God less than perfect in his words and works and ways; for then mankind would have no standard of perfection.

2. However different and conflicting may be the conceptions of God reflected in certain portions of the Bible, such as in the Pentateuch. the book of Judges, and the imprecatory (or cursing) psalms on the one hand, and in the four Gospels on the other, we must not think that God himself was any less holy and just, wise and loving in ancient days then he was in the time of Christ; or than he is now. The difference is not in God, but in the conflicting and changing views of God refelcted in the different periods of biblical

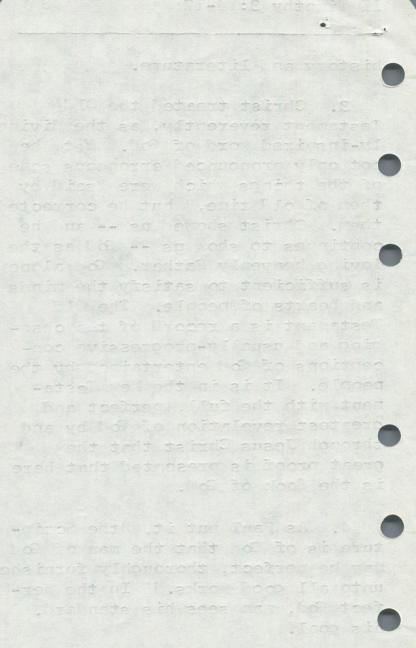


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history and literature.

3. Christ treated the Old Testament reverently, as the divine ly-inspired word of God. Yet, he not only pronounced erroneous some of the things which were "said by them of old time," but he corrected them. Christ showed us -- and he continues to show us -- God as the loving heavenly Father. God alone is sufficient to satisfy the minds and hearts of people. The Old Testament is a record of the changing and usually-progressive conceptions of God entertained by the people. It is in the New Testament with the full, perfect and greatest revelation of God by and through Jesus Christ that the great proof is presented that here is the Book of God.

4. As Paul put it, "the Scripture is of God that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnishe unto all good works." In the perfect God, man sees his standard, his goal.



Conclusion:

The Bible is truly the Book of God, because

(1) it begins with God, continues
with God, and ends with God, as
loes no other literature;

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(2) because the Bible revelation of God is confirmed by our personal experience of God, and

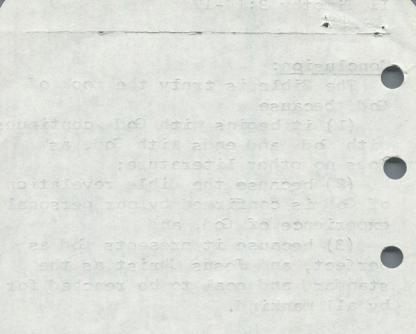
(3) because it presents God as perfect, and Jesus Christ as the standard and goal to be reached for by all mankind.

A poem by Alice M. Pullen says in poetic words what we have been discussing in prose:

For man's unceasing quest for God, or God's unceasing quest for man, For records of his love and power Surrounding life since life began, We thank thee, Lord most high.

For ancient tales of long ago, Man's guesses when the world was young,

For talks around the blazing fire, For stories told and stories sung, We thank thee, Lord most high.



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