

"As newborn babes desire the sincere

# Milk OF THE Word

That ye may



Grow thereby

1 Peter 2:2



THE BOOK OF BOOKS



1 TIM  
4:13



PSALM  
119:9



ST. JOHN : 21:15

## MILK OF THE WORD

For those who are young in the faith regardless of natural age

Published Monthly by  
FAITHFUL WORDS PUBLISHING CO.  
1500-10 California Ave., St. Louis, Mo.  
Arthur B. Rodgers, Editor

### Subscription Rates

Single copies	-----	per year \$	.50
10 copies to one address	-----	per year	4.70
25 copies to one address	-----	per year	11.50

Entered as second class matter October 16, 1930, at the post office at St. Louis, Missouri under the Act of March 3, 1879.

---

---

### "THE BOOK OF BOOKS"

A valuable series of articles by Neil Fraser now running in The Milk of the Word. The comprehensive nature of these studies is indicated by the sub-titles: The Origination of the Bible, its Inspiration, Preservation, Translation, Circulation, Interpretation and Consolation.

Those desiring the complete set for study and reference may obtain back numbers as long as they last.

---

Some Young Christian would be helped if you sent them this magazine and would thank you for it. Only 50c per year.

*"The Lord God is a sun and shield" (Ps. 84).*

*Do perils surround you, temptations from the world, assaults of Satan, uprisings of your own corruption? Do you feel as if you moved in the centre of a fierce fight? Is it as much as you can do even to hope that you will escape the fiery dart? Come you to the text, then, and behold how He that keepeth Israel has provided for your safety. Read the blessed words, "The Lord God is a shield." He is a broad shield that shall cover you from head to foot, and quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Here is perfect safety for all who take Jehovah to be their helper.—*

C. H. SPURGEON.

## THE BOOK OF BOOKS

### Inspiration

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Tim. 3:16).

By "Inspiration" we mean Divine influence exerted over the writers of the Bible, so as to make these writings in every way the word of God. In inspiration there is both the Divine and the human elements. False views arise from undue prominence given to either element. Undue stress upon the former leads to the Mechanical Theory, i. e., that the writers were mere machines writing as they were impelled by Divine power: improper emphasis upon the latter leads to the Natural Theory, i. e., that the writers were only inspired as all great writers have been. The truth is rather that the Divine element animated and controlled the writers, but used their faculties according to their own natural laws.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it" (Psa. 68:11). "Whithersoever **the Spirit** was to go, they went; thither was **their spirit** to go (Ezek. 1:20).

What then are some of the proofs of inspiration, for we can only deal with a few at this time? We do not touch here upon the Bible's own claims to this and how they are demonstrated and substantiated in the quickened souls and cleansed lives of multitudes today. The miraculous change it promises has been made good in them. Truly to such "the word of God is living and operative". We deal rather with external evidences, and mention three which may be summarized thus:—its Profound Unity, its Prophetic Utterances, and its Prolonged Universality.

#### Its Profound Unity

It is not a unity that lies on the surface; it comes out only after protracted study. While it is true that the writings are so diverse, one author writing history, another hygiene; one writing poetry, another prophecy; another theology and yet another biography; yet these are unified, unified in a Person. One cannot but see as he reads the Old Testament that it is a book of unexplained ceremonies, unfulfilled prophecies and unsatisfied longings. The ceremonies are strange, but not expounded; the prophecies are numerous but not fulfilled, and indeed apparently contradictory and entirely incapable of fulfillment. The reader closes the book with the longings unsatisfied. In the priestly portions there seems to be a search for a perfect priest; in the

## THE BOOK OF BOOKS

---

kingly portions a search for a King of kings; and in the books of the prophets there is heard a sigh for a greater prophet. The first book ends disappointingly as does the last also. "A coffin in "Egypt" are the closing words of the former; "lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" is the finish of the latter. A "coffin and a curse" is a disappointing end to any story.

Turning to the New Testament we come to the Fact of Christ. The first four books tell the story of His presence in the world; the fifth describes the first movement in human history resulting from that presence. The rest are the writings of His followers, explaining more fully His person and work and closing with a glowing account of His final triumph.

Here in the person of Christ we behold the Perfect Priest, the Righteous King and the Great Prophet. Moreover, He, in Himself, is the Explainer of the ceremonies and the Fulfiller of the prophecies. He **opens the Scriptures** as He did to the Emmaeus disciples long ago, showing them in Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament) and all the prophets, "things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27).

Numerous incidents too, in the lives of Isaac, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, Jonah, etc., have an exact counterpart and repetition in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. This point will be touched upon more at length later.

Thus the New is in the Old contained and the Old is by the New explained. Or again, the New is in the Old concealed; the Old is by the New revealed. The purpose of the Old Testament becomes patent in the New; the Person of the New Testament is latent in the Old. The Bible then, bears testimony throughout to one Person and that Person, undoubtedly Jesus Christ our Lord. One cannot demolish one part of the volume, without the whole suffering.

The unity too, is progressive as well as profound. In the early books we have the germinal thought: as we go on we have the plant; afterwards the bud; then the blossom and finally the ripened fruit. In Revelation we have the ripened fruit of Genesis. Or again, the Bible is a temple of truth with its foundation in Genesis, its columns in the records of patriarchs, prophets and priests; its roof in the four gospels and its dome in the Revelation.—Neil Fraser.

## HOW CAN I OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

It is with prayerful sympathy for every tempted young Christian with a desire that the Lord will enable me to write for your deliverance and triumph, that I pen this paper. My desire is to give you some practical thoughts which experience has proven to be helpful.

Soon after one is saved they wonder why they still feel so tempted to sin. Their difficulty is increased when they hear some other Christians tell that they have no more desire for such things. A few facts from the Scripture will show us the reason for both experiences. By natural birth we inherited a nature called in the Bible "the flesh" and "sin". This nature is "corrupt", "deceitful", "desperately wicked", "enmity against God", "not subject to—God". The character of this, our Adamic nature, can never be changed, therefore it will always refuse to be subject to God (Rom. 8:7) and always lust after sin (Gal. 5:19 to 21).

When we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as our own Saviour, then God gave us a new nature, by which we became His child. This new nature is holy in character (1 John 3:9) and divine in origin (2 Peter 1:4; Eph. 4:24), and therefore desires only those things that are good and for the glory of God. Yet this new nature is powerless and therefore it is dependent upon the Spirit of God, Whom God has put within us who believe, to be the power of our lives.

The presence of these two natures within the believer accounts for his being tempted to sin at some times and still at other times having no such desires. When we are "walking in the Spirit" our desires are all for God; but if "walking in the flesh" they are all for the world, the Devil and ourselves. A Christian "walking in the Spirit" is a beautiful sight, but a Christian "walking in the flesh" is a miserable and offensive sight.

The presence of these two natures within us also accounts for the conflict or battle that so often is the inward experience of the believer. Many times I have felt almost torn apart as that conflict waged within me. Do you ask, "Who wins?" The new nature is no match for the old nature in gaining control of us and soon wins us over to his persuasion to sin. In such cases of

## HOW CAN I OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

---

defeat, the new nature never sacrifices his holy character by giving us his consent to sin, but he makes us feel miserable when we do sin.

Because of the weakness of the new nature, God has given us His Holy Spirit. God the Holy Ghost within us stands ready to enter the conflict, when God is thus appealed to, "My Father, I am Thy helpless child, the flesh moves me with its desires to sin, but Thou hast given me Thy Holy Spirit. By His power win this battle for me, for the glory and in the Name of Him Whom I love and want to live for, the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen." Then there is the consciousness of divine reinforcements that seem to take the whole battle into Their hands, and soon the foe is put **down** (but not put **out**); he is still there, so ever be watchful and prayerful. To this we will now add a few other needed things to remember.

**Keep fit for warfare** — a sick, starved soldier is not fit for battle. Do not neglect all the means of grace whereby you may "grow in grace" (2 Peter 3:18), and thus become strong in the Lord to resist the foe. After my salvation, my godly father said to me, "My son, remember you will only make progress in your Christian life as you continue in the Word of God and prayer; for there are no short cuts in Christian progress." This was so blessed to me I pass it on to you. Many a battle has been lost, because of the condition of the Christian at the time of the struggle; therefore, keep fit for warfare.

**Watch**—For you know not at what moment the temptation shall face you. The enemy is **above** you—the Devil, who still as the "Prince of the power of the air" goes about with an eagle's eye planning his attack upon you. The enemy is **around** you—the world with all its varied seductions, appealing to your mind and body. The enemy is **within** you—that deceitful old nature with all its desires to sin. No wonder our Lord said, "Watch—that ye enter not into temptation". Because the enemy can more readily be defeated if discovered in time, the word is "watch".

**Pray**—for you are helpless in yourself. Prayer is our expression of dependence upon God and our appeal to Him. A big bully molests a helpless little chap, but when he calls his big brother the bully is glad to run. Don't meet temptations alone;

## HOW CAN I OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

---

appeal to God in prayer, for the Lord taught us, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation".

Read and memorize **God's Word**; let your mind be filled with it, your pocket contain it, your memory saturated with it, and its purifying effect shall be seen in your life. With this "sword of the Spirit" thus girded on, you shall be prepared for the foe and by a verse of scripture the enemy shall be put down. "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

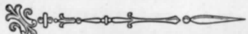
Then there is a **Name** which "is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and is safe" (Prov. 18:10), and that Name is the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are suddenly ensnared by evil or attacked by the wicked, cry aloud that Holy Name and the forces of wickedness are rendered helpless. This is why the Psalmist said, "Save me Oh God by Thy Name".

But someone says, "I have utterly failed, for I seem so helpless, and I have about given up. As one who has shared your experience, I write to you, for many times almost in despair, I thus reasoned with myself. It was then Rom. 6:14 came to me, "Sin shall not have dominion over you—for ye are under grace". This caused me to look again to my Lord, with wonder that there could be grace enough for me, and to come before Him in confession and thanksgiving. Let us never give up, for God will never give us up. Again facing our foes above, around, and within, we can triumphantly know that they shall never have dominion over us, for our Saviour is living at the right hand of God for us, (Heb. 7:25; Heb. 4:16; 1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:31 to 34).


In conclusion if you would overcome—keep fit for warfare, be watchful and prayerful, be filled with God's Word, take refuge in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in all emergencies; but above all "Walk in the Spirit" (Who is the only Power **within** you to win the victory) "That ye fulfill not the lusts of the flesh".—David Brinkman.

---

The love of God is the source from which redemption flows. The perfect sacrifice of Christ is the channel through which it flows. Faith, wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit, is the power of enjoyment; and everlasting life, known and experienced now, is the result.



## MY BIBLE



My Bible gives me comfort now—  
It once filled with alarm,  
It tells of peace made through the Blood,  
It tells of Heaven's calm.

Once through its page I saw my doom—  
Hell's dark and fearful storm;  
And learned my guilt was bearing me  
To endless pain and scorn.



Clear as a sunbeam from the sky  
This wondrous news shone bright,  
The Son of Man was "lifted up"  
Dispelling sin's dark night.

It told me that the Holy One—  
Who knew no sin indeed,  
Was now made sin and this for me,  
And for my sins did'st bleed.

It was Jehovah's will to bruise  
The Righteous One for me;  
That He must bear the curse alone,  
From curse to set me free.

Through that life-giving Word there came  
Assurance strong and clear;  
"He that believeth on the Son  
Hath life eternal here."

One hundred thousand promises  
And thirty thousand more,  
Are strewn upon its sacred page  
More precious than fine ore.





Well may I love this precious Book,  
 This gift from God to me;  
 Revealing Christ and endless wealth  
 Throughout eternity.

—G. O. BENNER.

### MISSIONS AND MINDING

I want to tell you something!  
 I heard my teacher say,  
 "I don't believe in missions.  
 I don't think I will pay  
 A single cent of money  
 To go so far away!"

I really think that's wicked,  
 Because—why, don't you know?  
 Our dear Lord told his people  
 Before He left them, "Go  
 And preach to ev'ry nation";  
 Our Lord Himself said "Go!"

I wonder what my teacher  
 Would think if I should say,  
 "I don't believe in minding,"  
 And then I'd run away  
 And do whatever pleased me—  
 I wonder what she'd say?

"I don't believe in missions";  
 That's what some people say.  
 "I don't believe in minding,"  
 They mean, and turn away  
 From Jesus' last commandment  
 And grieve him ev'ry day.

## "DO YOU SMOKE?"

You answer "Yes," sometimes, and the question is asked, "And are you a child of GOD?" You feel almost insulted. You have owned His Name for years, and godly men have "smoked," and thus you have your foundation. Moreover, you do not wish to be brought into bondage. And so the matter ends.

**BUT DOES IT END THERE?** Others are watching you, and even the world is surprised if those who emphasize spirituality smoke. "Ah, but," you say, "we cannot always take notice of what people say." No, not when they speak all manner of evil against us **FOR CHRIST'S SAKE**. Howbeit, we are to walk circumspectly, and not to cause the world to stumble (1 Cor. 10:32). Furthermore, there are **YOUNG BELIEVERS** watching you,—and imitating. Are you **GLAD** when you see them beginning to smoke? Do you give **THANKS** for this "encouragement" in their spiritual life? Why not, if you are really satisfied before the Lord as to your action? Is it not possible that you connect smoking (more than you realize) with the public house rather than with the meeting room, with the earthly race-course rather than with the heavenly race? You are pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling: what reward will you have for your smoking? Do you feel the Lord will say that your example was more helpful thereby, your body made more fit for His service, and your money lovingly spent for His glory? **DOES THE MATTER END WHERE YOU THOUGHT IT ENDED?**

You feel pained when you see women smoking. Why, if it is a spiritually and mentally helpful action? Why would you rob sisters in Christ of that which you find so beneficial in your own life? You recoil from the thought. Why, if it is so soothing and refreshing? Why should it be so unkindly restricted? Do not these questions suggest a quick retracing of steps? If in error, do not defend it, beloved reader. I John 1:9 stands, and the Lord is gracious **TODAY**.

Have you ever known a child of God who found it hard to give up smoking when he felt it desirable? What does this suggest? Does not the habit "hold" many? "I will not be brought under the power of any (thing)" was the beautiful witness of God's servant (1 Cor. 6:12). But you may not want to bear **OTHERS'** burdens in this way (Gal. 6:2). You think

## "DO YOU SMOKE?"

---

that "others" should look after themselves, as you do, and that "others" should not be grieved; yet Romans 14, 15, and 1 Corinthians 8:11-13, are still as much part of Scripture as John 3:16. And with the psalmist you want to say, "My soul hath kept Thy testimonies, and I love them exceedingly" (Psalm 119:167), but you "cannot" give up this practice for the sake of others! The Lord graciously keeps His own (John 6:36), yet the trend of your action is to destroy a brother, and He Who says Abraham actually offered up Isaac is not unmindful of the natural, deadly result of your wounding a brother, though He deigns to prevent and to heal.

But you have been blest WHILE smoking, and you suggest, "I do not think God would have used me if I had been grieving His Holy Spirit." Remember the flowing water when the rock was WRONGLY smitten, and the blessing to Israel when peace was made with the Gibeonites WITHOUT knowledge of the Lord's will. The Lord does not wait till we are free from grieving Him to use us, but we ought not to misuse His tender patience, ought we?

"Ah," you add, "every man must be guided for himself," and "It is wrong to interfere with personal details," and "This is such a small matter." But can we not help one another? And what if the guidance HAS been given in Scripture? What if even 1 Corinthians 10:28, 29 applies. If this is so trivial, and you are not "bound" by the habit at all, you will readily give it up rather than trouble those who own the Name of the Lord Jesus. If you feel no chain, the giving up will be so easy.

"I have never been LED to see I ought to give up smoking." One moment, beloved friend, if it causes to stumble, do you ask for the "leading" that has already BEEN GIVEN in Scripture? And, further, do you think you were "LED" to COMMENCE? Some of us must own that we have had qualms in VARIOUS matters, and have not always been so responsive when our own wishes have been involved, AS IN ADVISING OTHERS. I wonder if you have ever been UNCERTAIN before the Lord regarding this, and if you have acted before being sure it was of the Lord? If so, it may be there will result a slowness to perceive God's will.

For all arrangements, we want the Lord's principles or pre-

## "DO YOU SMOKE?"

---

cepts, expressed in His words. Would you collect the passages which seem to you a Scriptural reason, a POSITIVE Scriptural reason for smoking? It is not enough to say, "I do not wish to argue, or to do anything of this kind." IF you have a Scriptural basis, will you help us by this Bible Study?

Incidentally the financial aspect has been mentioned, but I do not want you to feel that "we" would interfere with "your" use of "your" own money. There is only this thought in our mind. It is blessed to remember we ourselves are NOT our own, and there are more spiritual opportunities than we realized.

The physical effects have been hinted. They are sometimes, at least, MANIFESTLY harmful. And the body is not unimportant. It belongs to the Lord, and is to express love to Him. Are you encouraging believers to use the body as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1), or do you WONDER if, after all, it is otherwise? It is so delightful to seek to glorify God in the BODY (1 Cor. 6:20).

But you think "Enough has been said." Then will you go and pray over it, without ANY "wish" to continue or to maintain the point? Permit loving plainness of speech. It is so important for us all to be delivered from ANY "WISH" even in this matter? It is so natural to "wish" not to change. "Giving up" looks like a confession "I was wrong," and it seems humbling, and "people will talk." But at least they will not say you are becoming more worldly, and more unlike Christ. If you bear reproach, it may be His reproach after all (Heb. 13:13), and that is a treasure (Heb. 11:26).

I do not want to burden you unduly, but I have sometimes found a strange selfishness as to smoking. I do not only refer to the LAWLESS entry of a NON-smoking railway carriage, but why should a loving child of God sit in front of others on a tram, and puff smoke out of his mouth that blows in their faces? Is this the fulness of courtesy? Some do not like it. But they SAY little. How readily smokers shut windows, and hinder this blowing in THEIR OWN faces. And the smell of smoke remains, as an evidence of the habit. Have you ever sought to hide this? Would an anxious soul specially welcome the earnest dealing of any whose breath and clothing were permeated thereby? Let the man who is TROUBLED over sin indicate whether

## "DO YOU SMOKE?"

---

he would desire the witness from such. Would he be impressed thereby that he was speaking with a man of God who valued Christ more than all earthly things, and who was living, in the Holy Spirit, DEVOTEDLY for Him?

It may be you feel a little "concerned." Do not, dear reader, set aside such a condition. Do not smoke WHILE waiting on God regarding HIS WILL. We agree that "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23), do we not? If, therefore, we persist in anything, may we not hinder the openness of heart which will perceive the loving WILL of the Lord? And in view of His Judgment Seat, when all actions done in (or, literally, through) THE BODY must be dealt with, it is WELL to be concerned (2 Cor. 5:10). Smoking is manifestly done THROUGH THE BODY: what reward, or what loss, will it bring in the Day when the Lord Jesus comes back?

(The writer desires to record to God's glory that believers with whom he is associated, in the Lord's service, are of one heart against smoking by children of God).

---

### BUILDERS FOR ETERNITY

"Let Every Man Take Heed How He Buildeth"  
—Saint Paul.

Isn't it strange that Princes and Kings,  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings;  
And common people like you and me  
Are builders for Eternity!

To each is given a box of tools,  
A shapeless mass and a Book of Rules;  
And each must make, ere time be flown—  
A stumbling Block or a Stepping Stone.

---

God gives riches to the world, but stores of wholesome afflictions to His children.—Wesley.

---

It is said that a good violinist is one with ability to play First Fiddle, and a willingness to play Second.—Selected.

## WORLDLINESS

One of the greatest hindrances to the spiritual growth and usefulness of young believers is worldliness. Some, at the time of their conversion, fail to make a "clean out" between them and the world, and the consequences is, they never get on. It's hard to tell whether such are the Lord's or not, but one thing is perfectly clear, and that is, that they make no progress.

A Chinese girl's foot is put into an iron shoe soon after her birth, and, of course, it does not grow; and some who profess to have been born again for years are in the same deplorable state. The world, in some of its varied forms, has got its iron fetters around them, and there they are, dwarfs as regards spiritual stature, maimed and halt as regards godly walk.

The devil doesn't care particularly what form this worldliness takes; it is enough for his purpose that the believer becomes practically useless by its power. One goes wild over dress, and spends hours in her dressing-room instead of her closet; half-an-hour before the looking glass arranging her dress before she goes to a meeting, and not half-a-minute before the throne of grace searching her heart. It is positively shameful to see young men and women, and even boys and girls who profess to be the Lord's seeking to run apace with worldlings in gaiety and fashion; some of them spending dollars on gaudy dresses and trifles; not even dimes for God; buying costly jewelry, and using borrowed hymn books; reading new magazines instead of their tattered Bibles.

People sometimes say, "O, it matters little about these things if the heart is right." Quite so, but then the heart is not right, else these wouldn't be there. As an honest man once said, "if you see a fox's tail peeping out of a hole, you may be sure a fox is within," and if these things are outside, they generally indicate pretty nearly what's within. Flee from these things. Seek even in your dress to take God into your confidence. Consult Him, and He will put you right.

Worldly company is another "iron shoe." If a young believer makes companions of religious professors of questionable repute, they generally bring him down to their own level, and the devil accomplishes by their means what he never could by an out-and-out worldling. If you want to prosper in your soul, shun the

## WORLDLINESS

companionship and ways of such, my dear young believer. Pray for, and seek to help them, but walk not with them.

Make friends of God's children. Christian fellowship is one of the joys of living. Seek to walk with God; dwell in His presence; feed on His Word. Thus, you will grow like the palm tree, and like the cedar of Lebanon. Your soul will be happy, and you will have no heart for the world. Jesus will be your joy, and you will be careful even in little things to please Him.

The Lord bless you, and make His face to shine upon you, and give peace. —Selected by S. McEWEN.

### HE WILL KEEP ME

*He will keep me, He will keep me;  
O the beauty of the thought,  
Wheresoe'er His hand may lead me,  
Jesus Christ will fail me not.*

*He will keep me, He will keep me;  
Wondrous peace this thought bestows,  
He the faithful One will keep me,  
Even in the midst of foes.*

*He will keep me, He will keep me;  
Blest though seeming ill assail,  
For my life with Him is hidden,  
Safely hid within the veil.*

*He will keep me, He will keep me;  
Jesus Christ the One I love,  
And my soul rejoices alway  
In the sureness of His love.*

*He will keep me, He will keep me;  
Safely guarded by His arm,  
Rest my soul in peace and quiet,  
In His keeping, what can harm?*

—EDITH M. BENNETT.

# Ask Yourself This Question



“What shall I do then with  
Jesus which is called Christ?”

Matthew 27:22

*“What will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes low and clear,  
The solemn words are sounding  
In every listening ear.*

*Eternal life's in the question  
And joy through Eternity  
Then what will you do with Jesus,  
O! what shall your answer be?”*