

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Give Me The Bible

by John Isaac Edwards

The song, *Give Me The Bible*, written by Priscilla J. Owens, introduces the theme of our study.

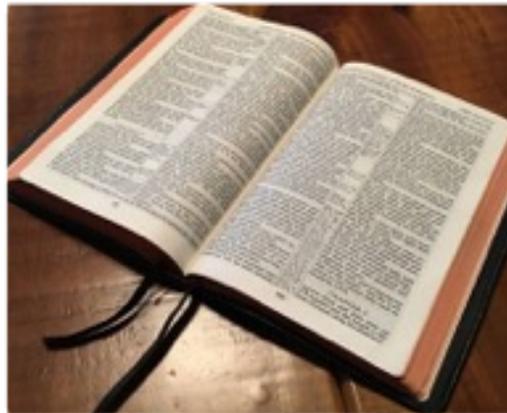
*“Give me the Bible,
Holy message shining, Thy
light shall guide me in the
narrow way; Precept and
promise, law and love
combining, Till night shall
vanish in eternal day.”*

There are those who have sacrificed and suffered much for us to have the Bible. It is readily available, yet many take it for granted; don't read it. And even more are ignorant of what it really teaches. May our plea always be, “Give Me The Bible”!

1) **Don't Give Me:** Here are some 'don't give me's':

What you think. When talking about spiritual matters, many are often heard to say, “I think” or “This is my opinion.” It really does not make any difference what you or I think, but what does the Bible say! The Lord said, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are... my thoughts than your thoughts” (Is. 55:8-9). When the messenger of God bade Naaman, the leper, to go and wash in Jordan seven times, he

said, “Behold, I thought...” (2 Ki. 5:11). Naaman had to learn that it didn't matter what



he thought about it. As long as he continued in his thinking, he remained in his leprosy! Saul, who martyred and murdered the saints of God, was doing what he thought. “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9). See where “I thought” leads!

How you feel. Feelings can deceive us. Remember Isaac? He said unto Jacob, “Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said,

The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not...” (Gen. 27:21-23). Had he gone by what he heard rather than felt, he would not have been deceived! By the way, faith comes by hearing; not by feeling (Rom. 10:17).

What seems right. The wise man, Solomon, said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). Again, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...” (Prov. 12:15). “... it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23).

What some man says. It does not matter how many degrees he may have or books he may have written, he's just a man and men can be, and often are, wrong. Paul penned, “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:5). John urged, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 Jn. 4:1).

What's been passed down. Some place human traditions on par with, or on a higher plane

even, than the Bible! Don't give me doctrines of men that have been passed down from generation to generation. Here are three things traditions of men do, from Matthew 15:1-9: (1) Cause folks to "transgress the commandment of God" (Mt. 15:3); (2) Make "the commandment of God of none effect" (Mt. 15:6); and (3) Render one's worship "in vain" (Mt. 15:9).

Something new. Some today are like those Paul met in Athens who, "...spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). Some try to put a new spin on a passage or think they have to come out with some new ideas. It's well been said, "If it's new, it isn't true; and if it's true, it isn't new." Jeremiah exclaimed, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." (Jer. 6:16).

2) Give Me: The Bible...

The only book that is God-inspired. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Tim. 3:16). "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the

Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:21). Thus David said, "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2).

The only book that "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). No other book will profit you as this book!

The only book that makes one complete and thoroughly furnishes unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:17). Other books will leave you incomplete and unfurnished!

The only book that is perfect. It is "...the perfect law of liberty..." (Jas. 1:25). As the Psalmist said, "The law of the Lord is perfect..." (Ps. 19:7).

The only book that answers my most pressing questions. Where did I come from? (Gen. 1-2). Why am I here? (Eccl. 12:13-14). Where am I going when all is said and done? (Mt. 25:31-46).

The only book that contains all things. 2 Peter 1:3 records, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness..." All the information I need to get from earth to heaven is revealed in this book!

The only book that will save my soul. Paul said to Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15). In your quest for knowledge, do not neglect the Book that can do for you what none other can! It is no wonder James exhorted his hearers, "... receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21).

The only book that will judge me. The Lord said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (Jn. 12:48). Paul declared, "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Rom. 2:16). John saw, "...the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books..." (Rev. 20:12).

So, Give Me The Bible!

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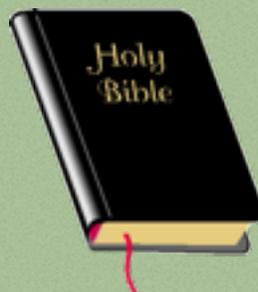
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