

WESLEYAN HERITAGE Library

Holiness Writers

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

By

Forman Lincicome

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World

Wesleyan Heritage Publications
© 1998

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

Author of
Behold the Man
A Lot in Sodom
The Three D's of the Sanctified

Third Edition

Light and Life Press
Winona Lake, Indiana

Copyright 1934
by
F. Lincicome

[Permission to publish granted from Light and Life Press — No evidence of current copyright found]

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

DEDICATED

To

My Mother

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

FOREWORD

The sweetest name in the language, whether we speak where the waves of sunshine dance on southern sands or among the storms of the Klondike, is home. Home when it is what it ought to be is the most competent picture of heaven on earth to be found. The home is the ultimate basis of society. It is in reality the first circle of society. All else in life grows out of it. This being true it makes the home problem the greatest problem of our civilization. For our homes are just so many streams pouring themselves into the moral, social, political and religious life.

We can no more build a great and abiding civilization without the right kind of homes than we can build skyscrapers on shifting sand; for no nation is stronger or weaker than its family life.

The home is an indispensable factor to the progress of Christianity, for as the home goes so goes the church. It is also vital to the social progress of our country; for if the home goes to pieces there is nothing to take its place in the preservations of our social gains. But never in America's history has the home been so insecure, nor its sky so dark because of so many enemies, as it is at the present time.

It is our purpose in this little booklet to call attention to some of these enemies of the home, with the hope, as we send it forth, that it will assist in some small way in making better homes.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

CONTENTS

1

Double Standard of Morals

2

Lack of Domestic Cooperation

3

Lack of Home Appeal

4

Breakdown of Parental Authority

5

Absence of Home Religion

6

Looseness of Divorce Courts

7

Lack of Belief in the Bible

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

INTRODUCTION

Of all existing institutions, God is the direct author of but two — the church and the home. The one is the body of Christ upon earth. The other is the fundamental unit of society. The church is appointed to witness for God, to bring men to God, and to instruct them in Christian living, worship and usefulness. The family is beyond all comparison the happiest of all human relations, given by Him who loves us not only because it is necessary for the tolerable existence of man but because, at its best, it is full of so many good things of present and eternal value.

Among its other functions the home is the nursery of society — a place where children are trained for citizenship; and it is the nursery of the church — a place where children are trained for the religious responsibilities of life. Here they should be taught the value of authority and the necessity of submitting to that which is properly constituted, the excellency of integrity, industry, and the recognition of the rights of others. Here they should be taught by precept and example, by family worship, and by the daily life of the parents the importance of right relation to God. No home can be a Christian home without family prayer and other strong influences which pull heavenward. Certainly every child is entitled to a Christian home. And certainly the parents who do not supply a Christian home for him are most culpable and will be brought to judgment for this neglect.

In the pages which follow the author has pointed out certain enemies of the home. He is a man of wide travel and has had the best of opportunities for observation. He knows what he is writing about, and he is writing upon a most vital subject. If we would get rid of these enemies we would stand a better chance of saving our civilization. We commend this small book on a great theme to the public, with the hope that it may have the wide circulation and careful reading which the subject merits.

Carl L. Howland

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

1

The first enemy of the home that we call your attention to is the Double Standard of Morals.

This enemy has killed the love and destroyed the happiness of countless thousands of homes. There are two standards of morals in this country, one for men and one for women, due to a perverted public sentiment. The world has always held a higher standard of morals for women than it has held for men. This is why it is easier for women to be better than men. Women are better than men by practice. If you don't believe it, go to the fifty-two penitentiaries of America and you will be convinced. While women are better than men by practice, they are not one whit better by nature. There isn't anything in history or the Bible or experience or observation that would teach us that a woman is better by nature. In many instances she is only better by practice because she must be, or be socially damned because of the higher standard that a perverted public sentiment has raised for her. Let women do the things that men are doing and they would be ruined.

Yes, there have been two standards of morals, one for women and one for men. The standard for women has been, "Do right," while the standard for men has been, "Do as you please."

Women are in a great measure responsible for this double standard of morals that we find in most homes, because they have not lifted as high a standard for men as men have held for them. One of the greatest perils to the young manhood of this nation is that the young women are not holding up a standard for them. It is within the power of women to abolish in part, if not entirely, this double standard, and by so doing give us a better brand of young men.

You young ladies go walking down the street with a roll of filth between your lips and a chew of tobacco in the northeast corner of your right jaw, and stand on the street corner and belch out profanity by the yard, and there is not a self-respecting man in the community that would be caught in a back alley with you; and yet a young man can do all these things and have your company. If you ladies do not have any objection to having drunkards for husbands and libertines for the fathers of your children, you owe it to the young men to lift a standard for them, and let them know that if they have your company they will have to abandon some of the things they are doing that are so repulsive to your sweet natures.

You women can make out of men just about what you want to. If you want to continue to make foul-mouthed, cussing, tobacco-chewing, card-playing, whisky-drinking, Christ-rejecting, church-absenting men out of them, just continue to let them have your company; for as long as you permit it, just so long will they do it. I can preach and lecture till doomsday about the social evils of the day, but will make little or no progress until the women of the country cooperate by lifting as high a standard for men as men have held for women.

God has only one standard of morals — the same for the husband and wife. Let me say to you husbands, that wife of yours has a right to do anything you do and still be on the same moral basis with you.

Do you men sit around after supper and enjoy a smoke or chew? Then don't be so selfish; get your wife a pipe and plug, and both sit down with the spittoon between you, and cross fire and see which can hit it the oftener — and then take your turn cleaning it out. Your wife has as much right to smoke and chew as you have.

Young man, could that sweetheart of yours go walking down the street with a cigar in her mouth smoking like a freight engine and stand on the street corner and curse and swear, and be a lady? You say, no; but let me say to you, she has just as much right to do these things as you have.

Some fathers have a double standard, one for themselves, another for their sons. Have you ever known a father to whip his little eight-year-old boy for smoking when the little boy has seen his father smoke all his lifetime?

One father punished his fifteen-year-old son for coming home half intoxicated, when that son had witnessed his father coming home at least once a month drunk. The father whipped the son for the thing he taught him to do (not by precept, but by example — and we teach far more effectually by example than by precept). The father that would do the like ought to be put in prison for at least one year.

Yes, the double standard of morals is an enemy of the home, and I for one have been striking it sledge-hammer blows and will continue to do so, knowing something of the misery and unhappiness it produces.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

2

Lack of Domestic Cooperation is another enemy of the home. So many homes are divided — and a house divided against itself can not stand — divided on the general principles of child training, and divided in the matter of religion. Too often the father is pulling one way; the mother, another. It is impossible to run a home hitched in tandem. The domestic chariot can't be driven successfully that way. Husband and wife must stand side by side and pull and travel in the same direction.

A letter was sent to Arthur Dean by a lady, in which she said, "The father is to be the provider, and the mother is to be the decider." He replied by saying, "If that is all there is to home cooperative work in child caring between husband and wife, the plan of family living is very simple.

"Father must slave outside the home, and mother is to be the slave inside the home. When the husband enters the door he is to sit but not think, to read without interruption, to be treated like a hired man who has finished his work for the day.

"Mother is to have full charge of the children; to take all their loving and all their kicks; to criticize and praise them when proper to do so; to care for them when ill; to keep them in the house when they want to go out, and to keep them out when father is in.

In some ways this idea that father must "provide" and mother "decide" is all right. Especially if the two are to disagree at all times on how their children are to be trained is it better that mother do the training.

If a father is greeted at the door every time he comes home from work with the words, "Jimmie is in the closet locked up. I want you to take him out and whale him" — if, I say, dad gets such a welcome, it is far better for mother to do the punishing before father arrives.

"If mother secretly encourages her daughter to deceive father about telephone calls from boys and allows her daughter to see boys without permission of the father, it is far better that the father remain out of the picture and merely furnish the meals, pay the rent, and put the cat out."

But why call such a situation a home? Label it "Hotel" and let it go at that. Father is the absentee owner, and mother is the chief cook and bottle-washer. No, no, a thousand times, no! This is not the way to run a home. To be sure, father has the main outside job, and mother has the chief inside job. But in between there is the cooperative job for each. There are a mutual agreement on the main principles of child training and mutual understanding of how difficult is father's outside job and mother's inside job, mutual appreciation of efforts which each is making in maintaining a home, and mutual obligations of each to help the other, both inside and outside.

A father who lets a mother do all the deciding learns too late that he has lost the affection and respect of his children. A wife who lets her husband do all the providing with no questions asked wakes up some day to find that the thoughtless extravagance of her children has put father into a condition of financial embarrassment.

No, indeed, the domestic chariot can not be run successfully by being hitched in tandem. Father should provide and help decide, while mother should decide and help in providing by understanding the provider. Many homes have been ruined because of a lack of domestic cooperation.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

3

The third enemy of the home to which I call your attention is the Lack of Home Appeal. When the home is what it ought to be it is the most adequate picture of heaven to be found on earth. But never in the history of our country has the home been so insecure and its sky so dark, because of its great competitors, because of its enemies.

Where is that binding, controlling love and home consciousness that was once so powerful in the social world, so much so that they would sing, "Home, Sweet Home"? Too many think of home as a place to go and from which to wander back again. With many it has become simply a filling station.

A real estate agent was trying to sell a home to a certain young lady. She said to him, "Why should I need a home? I was born in a hospital, educated in a college, courted in an automobile, married in a church. I take my meals at a restaurant, spend my afternoons at the bridge table and my evenings at the movies. When I die I will be buried in a cemetery. All I need is a garage."

Children used to live in their homes — that is, when they had fathers and mothers. Now they live in the automobile and the movie. The movie has set itself in direct and deadly opposition to our two greatest institutions, namely, the home and the church. When the children get the thrills that are given them from the screen, home becomes a rather tame place.

Roger Babson charges the movie with being the biggest factor in the crime wave that has been sweeping over our land. I record it as the profound conviction of my mind that it has done more than any other single force to mar and destroy the holier things of life.

If the home consciousness were present, there might not be so many members of the home outside and beyond its influence. It might be that the children would not feel martyred when they were asked to stay home for an evening. Maybe the children would not feel that they were missing something worth while and getting nothing at all.

Why do not our homes appeal more than something else? I will admit the outside attractions are calling loudly and persistently. But why is there not another calling? Why is there not another voice? Why is there not another appeal? Where are the inside voices? Why are they not sounding?

To tell me that the screen is a danger is to tell the truth; but why is there not something inside the home more powerful than the screen? To tell me that the music on the outside is captivating is to tell the truth; but why isn't somebody on the inside playing and singing? Why is it that home has lost its appeal?

Is it because the home is divided? because the atmosphere of the home is not congenial? What can be done to restore the lost home consciousness and appeal? To restore it will be to put an end to one of the enemies of the home.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

4

The Breakdown of Parental Authority is another enemy of the home. It takes two things to make a good home: Home Example and Home Authority. Home example and home authority go together, and the world at present seems to be going to ruin for a lack of both. We can no more build a great civilization without authority in the home and a good example in the home than we can build skyscrapers on shifting sands.

I am convinced of one thing in my travels up and down this country, in and out among people in all walks of life, that neither the law nor the gospel can make a nation great, separate and apart from home authority. One of the blackest clouds hanging over us at present is that home authority is fast breaking down. Everywhere the children are getting beyond their parents. It is bad for the parents, but much worse for the children. It is a common thing now to hear a little boy twelve years old and a little girl thirteen years old stand up and argue the case with mother, and nine times out of ten win in the argument. A good many of the boys and girls of today are like Tennessee oats; they head too soon.

A mother who succeeded in bringing up seven noble sons to manhood and putting them out in the world to be assets rather than liabilities was asked how she did it. She replied, "By prayer and a good hickory." Many a boy and girl could have been saved from the reformatories of this country by the use of this splendid combination.

Prayer and hickory are the two best instruments on earth in bringing up a family. Sometimes you can put it over with a stick when prayer won't even make a dent. We have become so humane that the rod is being spared and the child is being spoiled. The one who has not discovered this condition to be almost universal is not a student of domestic life.

In many homes the throne of power has been shifted from the parents to the children. A man knocked at the door of a home and asked the one who responded to his call if he could see the boss of the house. She said, "I'm sorry, but you can't just now, for he is asleep in the cradle." Some homes have little bosses in them and several of them. They tell the mother what they will do and what they won't do. There is no surer way of letting your child go to the devil than to let the child do as it pleases. When you tell your child to do something, and the child does not do it, you have lost your authority, and you have become not only an enemy of the home but also an enemy of the child.

Did you ever hear a father say to a little seven-year-old boy, "Close the door for daddy," and the little son say, "I don't want to"? Then the father says, "Close the door for daddy or else daddy will have to go and shut it," and then the little sweetheart says, "I'm doing something else; let somebody else do it."

Do you know what I would have done? I would have taken him in my arms for about three minutes and turned his nose to the equator and his back toward the north star; and I would have dusted him on both hemispheres, and by the time I would have gotten through with him he would have preferred standing to sitting.

We hear much these days about birth control, but it is not birth control we need half so much as it is control after birth.

Some think the youth of this generation are worse than the youth of a generation ago. I have this to say about it: if they are, they call for our sympathy rather than our censure, for the youth of this generation are at a decided disadvantage — yea, a twofold disadvantage — over the youth of yesterday, in that they have greater incentives to evil and fewer restraints.

Most of the crimes in America are being committed by the youth from sixteen to twenty-four years of age. Criminologists (not preachers) tell us there are several causes for the crime wave, but the primary cause is the breakdown of authority in the home. If this is true, then one of the greatest enemies to society and the home is the multitude of wishy-washy parents who let the children do as they please.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

5

Absence of Home Religion. One of the greatest needs of the American home is more home religion. Religion in the home is vital. It is vital to the progress of Christianity, for as the home goes, so goes the church. This being true, it is the part of wisdom that the church should seek to further the interests of the home and protect it against the evils and enemies that threaten it.

The home problem is the greatest problem of our civilization. Our homes are just so many streams pouring themselves into the current of the social, political, moral and religious life of our nation.

Religion in the home is vital to our social progress; for if the family goes to pieces there is nothing to take its place in the preservation of our social gains, nothing to prepare our boys and girls for noble living.

It takes religion to make a home — nails, lumber, brick and mortar can make a house but not a home. A house is no more a home than a hut is a hell.

Too many of our homes are divided in religion. Often the mother has religion and the father has not. The Bible says, "Bring up a child in the way it should go." This means the father as well as the mother; and the most successful way for you fathers to "bring up the children in the way they should go" is for you to go that way yourself. You can't expect your son to pray if you cuss, to tell you the truth if you lie, to stay sober if you get drunk, to go toward heaven if you go toward hell. The real responsibility for saving the children to God and heaven and the church rests largely with the father. The father can not get away from the fact that he is the head of the home.

To be a father of children brings a responsibility far greater than words can tell. But you say, I am not a Christian. That does not excuse you from becoming a Christian. If you are not a Christian father your guilt is all the greater because you brought the children into this world. Then for you not to make an effort to save them to heaven is nothing short of a crime.

Every father ought to say with one of old, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." God said to Noah, "Come thou with all thy family into the ark." In point of time it is the father to lead the way into the kingdom.

It is said of Abraham, "He would command his children after him." The two outstanding words in that text are the word "command," standing for authority, and the word "after," standing for example. Children who have a dad like that are fortunate indeed.

You ask me what is the greatest menace and enemy to our boys and girls and our homes, and I will not tell you it is the movie, the dance, booze, or the gambling den. I will tell you it is the scarcity of Christian mothers and Christian fathers.

Give us more Christian homes and we will do away with drunkards, gamblers and thieves; for the normal way to do away with such is to quit producing them.

The crime problem can't be solved by more police, more radio-equipped squad cars and more jails. Nor will it be solved by more high-salaried descendants of monkeys teaching their pernicious doctrine of evolution in the colleges and universities of the land. Nor will it be solved by more bellowing, modernistic, Christ-dishonoring preachers, who have taken the depravity out of man, the deity out of Christ, the blood out of the atonement, the inspiration out of the Bible, the fire out of hell and the power out of conversion. The remedy lies in more old-fashioned home example and home religion, more homes where family prayers are offered. There is not another influence to be found on earth that is equal to the family altar. Family prayer builds walls of protection around the home and the children. God pity the child that comes into the home where none prays. Is it any wonder we hear the lamentations of parents over straying children, when seventy-five per cent of the so-called Christian homes don't have a family altar? The Christians of yesterday doubted the reality and genuineness of any one's conversion if he failed to erect a family altar. You say they were old fogies. Perhaps. But one of those good old-fashioned bread-making, sock-darning mothers in Israel could chase a thousand of the present-day fashion-loving, novel-reading, round-dancing, card-playing, tobacco-using, billy-goat-riding professors of religion; and two of them could put to flight ten thousand of such as I have described.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

6

The Looseness of the Divorce Courts of the United States is another great enemy of the home. The United States has the credit for doing two things, namely, giving the world the tobacco habit, and leading the world in divorces.

There is one state in the union that will not grant a divorce. There is another state that will give a divorce on one ground only. But in many states a divorce can be secured on any one of twenty different grounds, even on the ground of incompatibility of disposition. When any court will issue a divorce on any such ground it is striking a blow at the throne of God and at the very foundation of human well-being. The increase of this awful menace to society and the home is frightful. The population of our country has increased 110 per cent since 1867, but divorces have increased 700 per cent. It was once a disgrace to be divorced; now it is a custom.

Last year there were 180,000 divorces in the United States. For every six marriages there is now one divorce. If the divorces increase in the next ten years as fast as they have in the past ten years, the divorces will equal the marriages.

Eighty per cent of the divorces are instituted by women. It is my honest opinion that if the alimony and lawyers' fees were taken away the number of divorces would be reduced to a minimum.

Because there have been so many divorces in the past twenty years more than three million children are living in broken homes. Sixty-five per cent of the crimes committed come from divorced homes. Blighted lives are the product of broken homes.

I regard the looseness of the divorce courts as one of the greatest menaces to home life.

Again, there would not be so many divorces if there were not so many childless homes. Seventy-one per cent of childless marriages terminate in divorce, while only eight per cent of divorces come from marriages that have children. Back of many a childless home is one of two things: either criminal meanness or crystallized selfishness. Selfishness prefers a new car to a new baby, a new mahogany desk to a new gas range.

A childless home is either a great misfortune or a great crime. Mothers are an indispensable part of God's plan, and yet the philosophy of the first social circle is childlessness. Many of our modern women are noted for two things, namely, their love of display and their skill in avoiding motherhood.

Society has almost put maternity out of fashion. The result is childless homes; and seventy-one per cent of childless homes terminate in divorce, and divorces mean broken homes, and broken homes result in crime; for as we have said, sixty-five per cent of the crimes come from divorced homes.

You could go into certain parts of some of our larger cities and canvass every house for blocks and you would not find a single baby, but you would find a thousand dogs in the same territory. Many a woman is seen on the street leading a pug or a poodle who would feel disgraced to be found with a six-weeks-old baby in her arms.

One of the best things that could take place would be for an avenging angel to suddenly appear from heaven and strike every dog dead that had been brought into the home to take the place of a baby.

There would not be so many divorces if the parents would be a little more concerned about the proper mating of their children. There is many a mother's child living in a miniature hell tonight because the mother and father did not offer any advice. Remember, mother, if that daughter of yours makes a mistake in the realm of matrimony nothing but a funeral can relieve her.

Another cause for divorce is marrying for something other than love. I honestly believe that avarice, indolence, laziness, lust and money lead about as many to marry as does real love. Whatever you do, young lady, don't marry a man for his money, for if you do you will find it will be the hardest money you have ever earned in your life.

Too many girls are holding themselves too cheaply on the market for the first bidder ready. Too many girls are willing to pick up any Tom, Dick or Harry for an ice cream soda or a joy ride. Don't be worried lest you might become an old maid. There are lots of things worse than being an old maid, and one of those things is marrying the wrong man. You had many times better live in single blessedness than in double cursedness.

ENEMIES OF THE HOME

by

Forman Lincicome

7

Lack of Belief in the Bible. Any one who is an enemy of the Bible is an enemy of the home, for the home and the Bible are joined together. The home rests upon the Bible and draws its substance from it, and, when correctly organized and established and operated, it will vindicate the Bible.

The enemies of the Bible are making three direct attacks: attacking God by doubting His existence; attacking Christ by doubting His deity; attacking the Bible by doubting its inspiration.

The first enemy of the Bible is the man who says the Bible is not divine. If I were arguing with such a man on the finality of this proposition I would present this statement: The Bible is either the word of God or the work of man. If it is the work of man then man ought to make another as good, unless he has degenerated. In fact, man ought to make a better one, for he now has greater resources from which to draw. Those who wrote the Bible lived on the hills of Palestine in a territory not much larger than the county in which you live. They did not have printing presses; they lacked the learning of the schools; they had but few if any libraries to consult, no steamboats to carry them around the world to make them acquainted with the various countries, no telegraph wires to bring them the news of the world, no newspapers spread before them to tell them of world events. Science had not unlocked nature's door or revealed the secrets of the rocks beneath and the stars above; and yet they grappled with every problem that confronts mankind, from the creation of the world to the eternal life beyond the tomb.

Let man come on with all his boasted knowledge and write a better book. If he can not, it proves one of two things. It proves that man has degenerated or that the Bible is from a higher source.

The Bible is the only book that has ever been written that can't be mended or improved. It is a stereotyped book made perfect — the only perfect book that ever came from the hand of its author. I argue the inspiration of the Bible from the perfection of the book.

The enemies of the Bible have not been able to destroy the Bible, to say nothing of producing a better one. It has been the most hated book in the world. But this itself is strong evidence or argument in favor of its divine origin.

Voltaire boasted that he would destroy in a few years what it took Christ and His apostles 1800 years to establish, but he did not do it. The old printing press on which he printed his infidel literature has been used since to print copies of the Word of God, and the old log cabin in which he lived has been packed to the roof with Bibles.

Tom Paine said he had cut down the trees of paradise and so thoroughly uprooted them that no power could make them grow; but Thomas was mistaken, for since he gave utterance to that saying

882 millions of Bibles have been sold. The Bible has survived every effort of the past to destroy it. What other book possesses such vitality?

Again, I argue the inspiration of the Bible from the standpoint of the impartiality of its biography. When a mere man writes the story of a life he usually photographs the mountain peaks and does not descend into the valleys and canyons or commonplace prairies. Biographers do not include in their description of a senator the record of his infamy. Some great statesmen and politicians have been bums and drunkards, but you would never know it by reading the official story of their lives.

When a famous biographer was asked why he omitted a very important fact in recording the life of a great man, he replied, "To have told the truth would have hurt the sale of the book." But when inspiration writes a book, both the bad and good qualities of the one of whom it has been written go into the book.

If uninspired man had written the Bible he never would have told us about Noah getting drunk after he came from the ark. He never would have told us about Abraham on one occasion twisting the truth, nor about David committing adultery, nor of Solomon having four hundred more wives than Brigham Young; he never would have told us of Judas selling his Lord for less than eighteen dollars, nor of Ananias and Sapphira lying to the Holy Ghost. But when God writes a book He puts it all in, the good and the bad. To us this is strong argument in favor of the inspiration of the Bible.

The inspiration of the Bible is seen, not only in the perfection of the book and the impartiality of its biography, but also in the blessedness of its influence on individuals, on society and on nations.

The Bible for 3000 years has been one of the greatest potencies on earth. It has been and is to this moment a greater power than Rome and Greece and Babylon ever were. Though it has not conquered the world, it has advanced farther toward it than Alexander ever did. It has done more to govern and renew the human heart than all the laws enacted by legislatures and all the maxims devised by the uninspired sages. The chief stay of society, it has been for a thousand years the most widespread, the most important, and the most powerful influence on earth.

It has controlled the religious opinions of a large part of mankind for nearly forty centuries. It has molded characters and directed the efforts of men whose lives and labors introduced new epochs and shaped the destinies of nations and turned the course of the world's entire history. It has begotten and fostered the purest virtue, the sublimest manhood, the noblest beneficence, the sincerest charity, the tenderest kindness and all the blessed sainthood that has ever been upon earth. A million well-known men and women have by its power been saved from the "guttermost" to the uttermost.

Its influence upon the welfare of nations may be estimated in part from the bloody codes and infamous administrations and social degenerations and far-reaching wretchedness of those countries where it is rejected or unknown, contrasted with the blessedness and peace of those who have received it. It was the great Milton who said, "There are not politics like those which the Scriptures teach"; and in proof we only need to look at Judea when it knew no laws but those which the Book contained. How smooth and steady were the wheels of public justice, and how beautiful was the flow of natural peace in those golden days of the old Hebrew commonwealth. Look at its influence in the

sphere of learning and literature. It is to the world of letters what the sun is to the solar system. It has produced more books than any other thing in existence. It has fostered learning when there was no other stimulation to its cultivation.

As a Book among books, it has wrought wondrously upon the thoughts and productions of authors of all classics. The visions of Dante are largely drawn from it. Milton's matchless songs of paradise are from an inspiration which the Bible alone could give. From the same source came the immortal dream of Bunyan. Scores of others are vastly indebted to the Scriptures for whatever excellence is found in their works.

The circulation of the Bible speaks to me of its inspiration. After a long period of more than 2000 years it is the world's best seller. A decade usually sees the death and burial, without hope of resurrection, of the average textbook. There is scarcely a textbook that is ten years old but what is out of date due to the progress of the age. Most books begin to die before the ink dries on their pages. Even the masterpieces of antiquity line the shores of time with pathetic wrecks. But look at the Bible. Eighty thousand copies or portions of Scripture published daily, thirty millions published and sold annually in 936 languages and dialects.

Again, I argue its inspiration from the sublimity of its doctrines. The gods that have been made by men have been stupid and sensual, hideous, and indifferent to the needs of humanity. They have been provincial; god for a limited field or locality. But the Bible reveals God as kind and good and merciful and eternal.

The Bible reveals man as a being created by God and made in the image of God. It reveals man as a sinner, as a sinner by nature and a sinner by choice. In this Book men are invested with immortality. The enlightened nations of the past never showed any capacity to produce such doctrines.

The wonderful teaching of the Book that I am talking about suddenly appeared among men and has not been improved upon in 2000 years. Men such as wrote the Bible could not have produced doctrines so sublime, doctrines that have stood the test and criticisms of the ages. This is no reflection, either, on the caliber of the men whom God used to write the Bible, because for the most part the Bible was written by educated men. The first five books, which lay the foundation of the Bible, were written by Moses. One-third of the New Testament was written by St. Paul. Thus it is seen that one-fourth of the Bible was written by these two men, and they were both educated men; and it would not be hard for me to believe that many others who assisted in giving us the Bible were men of very high scholarly attainments.

Now let us look at the unity of the Book. Some tell us that the Bible is not a book. They tell us it is a library of sixty-six books. Others tell us that it is a book of sixty-six chapters. There is no real unity in a library, but there is in a book. So we prefer to think of the Bible as a book having sixty-six chapters.

The Bible was written by a number of different human authors, yet only one real Author. It is composed of the writings of forty different men, but they wrote as the Holy Spirit dictated.

Notwithstanding the fact that the many authors came from all walks of life, there is a remarkable unity in the Bible. The men who wrote it were removed from each other by 1600 years of time, and yet when they were brought together the combined results of their effort formed the most perfect literature in the world. What explanation have you to offer for this marvelous unity? There is just one, and that is that the writers were under divine inspiration and direction.

Then let us look at the boldness of its condemnation. The Bible has given man an exact photograph of himself and his works. It does not praise his science, his art, nor his literature, nor his philosophies. There is no admiration expressed for his family tree. The Bible represents man as totally depraved and hellward bound. Could a mere man write such a book of condemnation and make it attractive to man?

Wesley's proof of the inspiration of the Bible can not be excelled. He said, "The Bible is a fact that can not be denied. How did we get it? It must have come from good men or angels, or from bad men and devils, or from God. It could not have come from good men or angels, for they would not constantly lie by saying, 'Thus saith the Lord,' one thousand times. It could not have come from bad men and devils, for they would not be such fools as to write such condemnation concerning themselves."

There is one more great argument in favor of the inspiration of the Bible, and that comes from the standpoint of prophecy.

The Bible is the only book in the world that contains predictions. Other nations have books of a religious character called sacred books, but not one of them contains predictions concerning the future. Had they attempted it they would have furnished the strongest evidence of their deceptions.

God's prophets peered into the future from one to 1500 years and said certain things would come to pass, and they came to pass just as they were predicted. Many a person and place was accurately described before it had an existence.

The outstanding object of prophecy is Christ. The details of His life were marked out hundreds of years before He arrived. You don't need to go to the New Testament to learn of His birth, life, character and death. The old prophets have told us all of this.

The Old Testament writers foretold in detail many events that did not take place until hundreds of years after they themselves were dead. Isaiah 44:28 says that Jerusalem would be built; also the temple by King Cyrus. And history records at the close of the seventy years' captivity that Cyrus did issue two decrees: one to rebuild the city, and another to rebuild the temple. How did Isaiah know that a king named Cyrus would issue such decrees, fully one hundred years before Cyrus was born?

Isaiah 9:6 predicts that a God Child would be born. That was 700 years before Christ. Then turn to John 1:1, 14, and find that a God Child was born. Isaiah 7:14 informs us that this God Child would be born of a virgin, and Matthew 1:18, 20, tells us that He was born of a virgin and that Mary was His mother and the Holy Ghost His father.

Micah 5:2 declares that the God Child would be born in Bethlehem. That was about 700 B.C. Then the writer Matthew informs us that Christ was born in Bethlehem.

Zechariah 9:9, written about 500 B.C., predicts that Christ would enter Jerusalem as a Being riding on an ass; and Matthew informs us that He did it.

David, in Psalm 22:8, predicts that His garments would be parted among His enemies, and John 19:23, 24, tells us that very thing came to pass. How did David know this a thousand years before Christ was born? There is only one answer to this: His words are inspired by God.

David predicted in Psalm 69:21 that they would give Christ vinegar to drink, and John 19:28, 29, declares that they did it. How did David know this a thousand years before Christ was born?

Micah tells us where He was to be born; Zechariah foretells His betrayal; Isaiah describes His crucifixion, and David predicts His resurrection. Who among the learned today could tell us who will be born 800 years from now? Who could tell us of his birth, life, character and death? None of you had better try it, lest your folk become concerned about you.

How are we to account for this sure word of prophecy? There is only one way to account for it, and that is that the Word of God is divinely inspired. This of itself ought to lift the Scriptures out of the realm of forgery and uncertainty and close the mouth of every infidel in the whole wide world.

The Bible is one book from which to remove a single "T" or to scratch out one "dot" is to bring upon yourself the judgment of God spoken of in the Revelation.

The second great enemy of the Bible is the so-called higher critic. He is more dangerous than an open enemy. The atheist approaches you boldly and tries to blow out your light. The higher critic comes to you in the guise of a friend and politely says, "Isn't the light too near your eyes? I fear it will injure your sight," and then proceeds to move the light little by little.

William Jennings Bryan says that as a rule the so-called higher critic is a man without spiritual vision, without zeal for souls, without a deep interest in the coming of God's kingdom. Mr. Bryan goes on to say, "He does not accept the Bible, nor does he defend it; he mutilates it. He puts the Bible on the operating table and cuts out the parts he thinks are diseased. The higher critic begins his investigation with his opinion already formed. After he has discarded the Bible because he can not harmonize it with the doctrine of evolution he labors to find evidence to support his preconceived notions."

In matters of religion the higher critic is a dyspeptic. The Bible does not agree with him; he has not the spiritual fluids in sufficient quantity to enable him to digest the miracle and the supernatural. He is a doubter and spreads his doubts. The higher critic has dethroned the Bible in his home and the practice of family prayer has died out. The man who dethrones the Bible will soon dethrone the home.

Dr. Talmage, one of the greatest preachers of the last generation, has said of the destructive critics, "When I see ministers of religion finding fault with the Scriptures it makes me think of a fortress terrifically bombarded, and the men on the ramparts, instead of swabbing out and reloading the guns and helping to fetch up ammunition from the magazines, are trying with crowbars to pry out from the wall certain blocks of stone because they did not come from the right quarry.

O ministers of the gospel on the ramparts, had we not better fight back and fight down the common enemy instead of trying to make breaches in the wall? The higher critic is throwing ink at a Book which has withstood the assaults of materialists and agnostics for centuries and is vain enough to think that he can blot out its vital truths.

The destructive higher critic is as a rule opposed to revivals; in fact, it is one of the tests by which he can be distinguished from other preachers. He calls the revival a "religious spasm." He understands how one can have a spasm of anger and become a murderer, or a spasm of passion and ruin a life, or a spasm of dishonesty and rob a bank; but he can not be made to understand how one could be convicted of sin and in a spasm of repentance be born again. "That would be a miracle, and miracles are inconsistent with evolution. It shocks the higher critic to have the prodigal son come back so suddenly after going away so deliberately."

Another enemy of the Bible is the evolutionist. The evolutionist is a very progressive enemy because he denies the contents of the Book by setting up another story of creation. The Bible says that God created man. But the evolutionist would tell that away back in the remote past a few germs got together and formed a sort of vegetable stuff, and this by innate force developed into a tadpole and the tadpole into a pollywog, and the pollywog by innate force developed into a fish and the fish into a reptile and the reptile into a quadruped, and the quadruped by some mysterious force worked its way into a baboon and the baboon into a man.

Which account of your creation will you take? God's account as recorded in Genesis or Mr. Darwin's account? Personally I prefer to believe the Genesis account, since God was there on the morning of creation and Mr. Darwin wasn't. Mr. Bryan says the evolutionist has the advantage of us Christians. Instead of going to church on Sunday morning he can go out to a zoological garden, stand in front of a cage of monkeys and congratulate himself on how far he has gotten, while we have to go to church to see how far we have yet to go.

There is no such thing as an evolutionist. There is the hypothesis of evolution. There is the guess they call evolution. There is the hypothetical evolutionist. The advocates of this pernicious doctrine are compelled to admit that evolution has not yet arrived. Evolution is a guess and only a guess. Mr. Bryan says that any man who says he got here any other way than by the Genesis account is a liar, whether he be a university professor or a tramp.

Another enemy of the Bible is the atheist. This enemy denies that the divine being exists. He denies the existence of God for a reason. He is anxious to put out of existence the Bible. The Bible calls such a man a fool — "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." No one but a fool would give utterance to such an expression. All anybody needs to do to know that there is a God is just to open his eyes and look and open his mind and think. For every body knows that back of every

thought there is a thinker, back of every design is a designer, and back of every effect there is a cause.

There are a lot of little fellows running over the country with Henry Clay heads on them (leave the Henry off), who are posing as infidels, who have not brains enough to be an infidel. I know some who have brains so small that if they were dynamite and were to explode they wouldn't even blow their nose.

What does an infidel know about the Bible? He is not a student of the Bible. Many of them don't know any more about the Bible than a crocodile knows about roller skates.

The last enemy of the Bible is the "nonuser." The Bible has 1,189 chapters. By reading three each day and five on Sunday you can read it through in a year. It has been in some homes, and homes that profess to be Christian, for many years, and has not been read through once. There are plenty of church members who are reading novels and letting their Bibles mildew; sitting around quoting the Apostles' Creed and going to hell on the gallop. When you take the old Book and put it on the shelf you are its enemy. The Bible isn't getting a chance. Magazines are getting a chance; newspapers are getting a chance; but the Bible is not getting a chance.

There is an obligation to read it. We are commanded to "search the scriptures." Don't forget, it is by the Holy Scriptures that we will be judged. This being true, then our greatest concern should be to know whether it condemns or approves me now.

We are under obligation to read it. Your mother's letter can not remain in your pocket unread. When your mother writes it and sends it she has put upon you the responsibility of reading it, and you can not put her letter in your pocket and say, "I will read it when I get time." Mother is first and her message must be first. Mother's wants and mother's pleadings must be read now.

Who wrote the Bible? God the Father, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. Can I lay it aside and read it just when I have time? No. There is an obligation to read it, and if you are to get the most out of your reading you must not read it by chapters. The chapter divisions of the Bible are purely man-made, and no inspiration is claimed for them, and they are often more mechanical than logical. To read the Bible by chapters is many times, if not at all times, to lose sight of the Holy Spirit's design; for there is a symmetry in the plan of each book of the Bible, just as there is a symmetry in the plan of the entire Bible.

We can not as Christians hope to make the right kind of progress in our Christian lives without a broad knowledge of the Bible. We are to desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow. There can be no spiritual growth where there is not spiritual nourishment. To get the most nourishment from it we must read it repeatedly, systematically, prayerfully and believingly.