



DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
South Norfolk Baptist Church

July 20, 1960

Invocation

Hymn No. 140: "The Church's One Foundation"

Presentation: Library Committee - Mrs. Pattie Simmonds, Mrs. Alva McPherson and Mrs. Mary Parcell

History and Development

Announcements of Gifts

Scripture Reading

Many Books - Ecclesiastes 12:12

Paul's Books - II Timothy 4:13

The Open Book - Nehemiah 8:5

Jesus and Books - Luke 4:17-20

RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE TO GOD:

Pastor: For the ability to acquire knowledge of thyself through reading as a gift of God,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For the revelation and the records of thy truth in books,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For writers whose talents for expressions and interpretation are so widely used for the spread of information and the proclamation of that truth,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For publishers engaged in the printing and distribution of good literature,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For people who buy wholesome books, read them, and pass them on to others,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For libraries in which books are protected, and through which they are circulated for the benefit of all, and for this library in thy house, which has been planned and brought into being by those who love thee, thus seeking to honor thy name,

People: We praise thee, O God.

Pastor: For all who have had a part in the establishment of this library and other church libraries throughout the land,

People: We praise thee, O God.

"Thy Word Is Like A Garden Lord"

Mrs. Nagy

Message - *Pastor* - "The Book of Books"

RESPONSE OF DEDICATION:

Pastor: Because we desire that every phase of our church's ministry and work shall be wholly consecrated to the Lord,

People: We dedicate these books.

Pastor: Because we recognize to a limited degree our Christian obligation to spread the glad tidings of salvation through the printed Word,

People: We dedicate these books.

Pastor: Because we feel assured of the inestimable value of good, wholesome books in the hands of our young people and of our need to counteract the abundance of evil influences about them, and because we wish to lead our children to an early and wholehearted love for good literature,

People: We dedicate these books.

Pastor: Because we desire to make available in our church the printed Word which will instruct, inspire, and comfort our members as they try daily to follow after the Lord, and because we desire to add to our strength, virtue, and to our virtue, knowledge of all good things,

People: We dedicate these books.

Pastor: Because we earnestly seek to follow the apostle Paul's advice to young Timothy when he said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

People: We dedicate these books.

Pastor: Because we believe that through the reading and distribution of books we may better preserve the great Christian heritage that is ours,

People: We dedicate these books.

Therefore the intelligence of God expressed as best godly men through the ages have been able to grasp the truth about God and to share it with others. But there came a time when greater knowledge and truth than men had yet been able to understand was needed. If man was ever to be redeemed from his own folly and lack of wisdom and so John tells us that this Word became flesh and dwelt among us. In verse 14.

This is a picture of the open Bible with the face of Jesus shining forth its pages is the artist's way of saying to us that Jesus is the center and core of the Book which we call the Bible for in a very real and true sense the Old Testament covenant was according to Paul in a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. While the New Testament or covenant is a result of the efforts of men to put into words something of the richness of grace and truth that was incarnate in the only Begotten Son of God.

Jesus is greater than the Book. He transcends man's ability to confine within the pages of holy Writ. All of the grace and truth and light and love that was incarnate in God's only Begotten Son. He can truly be known to men only as they endeavor in each and every life situation to live as much of His truth as they can in their own daily lives, for did not Jesus say, He that doeth my will shall know the doctrine.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

INTRODUCTION: We come to dedicate our Library and we hope that it will soon be not only filled with books but with people using it. As a writer once said, I quote, "

"As sparrow sat on a window sill  
and shook his head in doubt  
He wondered where those book worms were  
He'd heard so much about.

Yes, we hope that our library will produce a lot of interested people who will be searching and seeking after books. And these books will be helpful to all who come, and use them.

"I would rather be a poor man in a garret with plenty of books than a king who did not love reading." Mat Cawley said.

Great inspiration has come from the reading of books and people have treasured books. Someone has said, "Never lend books, no one ever returns them." The only books I have in my library are those people who have lent me!" is a saying by Anatole Francis.

Another has said "Don't sell your books and keep your diplomas, sell your diplomas if you can get anyone to buy them,

and keep your books". Walter Ditkin.

Another has said, "A book may be compared to your neighbor. If it be good, it cannot last too long, if bad you cannot get rid of it too soon." Brooke.

Inspiration may come (for good or bad). Mark Twain said, "Bad books are fountains of vice". Therefore we should use our books as bees use flowers.

Books and study are merely the steps of the ladder by which one climbs to the top as soon as a step has been advanced he leaves it behind. The majority of mankind, however, who studies to fill their memory with facts do not use the steps of a ladder to mount upward but take them off and lay them on their shoulders in order that they may take them along, dlighting in the wake of the burden they are carrying. They ever remain below because they carry what should carry them. so a great writer once said.

(Jimmy Cricket) said, If reading maketh a full man, then the lack of it must leave him awfully empty - in the head.

When we think of inspiration and the Book of Books as (Daniel Webster) once said, If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses of this country and the people do not become religious, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation and the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every patriot and Christian. If the truth be

not defused, error will be. If God and His word are not known and received the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If these angelical volume does not reach every hamlet the pages of corrupt and lycentious literature will."

Of course, we know that at the center of our library will be the Book of Books. We speak of the Bible as the Word of God and this is true. Jesus Himself is the Living Word of truth which the Heavenly Father sent into the world that men might discover in and through Him what the heart and mind and soul of God was like. John the Beloved begins his gospel story about Jesus with these significant words, In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. John 1:1-4.

It is evident that the Word in this instance is being used as a symbol of intelligence. Johnisby has symbolic use of language trying to tell us that whatsoever of intelligence there is in the world much more of intelligence of man's with His finite mind has yet been able to discover understand and appropriate was in the beginning with the Heavenly Father and that everything that we see in this order of the world about us that gives evidence to thought enlightenment was made by the Word, the creative intelligence of God.

We leave them asleep here by your great river and tepees. They were tired, tried in many moons and their moccasins wore out.

My people sent me to get the white man's Book of Heaven. You took me to where your women dance as ours do not. But the book was not there. You took me to where they worship the great spirit with candles, but the book was not there. You showed me images of the great spirit and pictures of good land beyond, but the book was not among them to show me the way.

I am going back the long trail to my people who sit in darkness. You make my feet heavy with gifts and my moccasins will grow old in carrying them and yet the Book is not among them to show me the way. When I tell my people in the Big Council that I did not bring the Book, no word will be spoken. One by one they will rise up and go out in silence. My people will die in darkness and they will go on the long journey to others hunting grounds, no white man will go with him, no white man's Book will make plain the way. I have no more words.

The homeward journey was made as easy as possible for those two disappointed Indians. They were put on board the Missouri River steamer whose captain took the first fire canoe that ever made the long journey of 2200 miles to the mouth of the Yellowstone River. Ta-wis-sis-fim-mim who made this horrible speech at the banquet, died near the mouth of the Yellowstone River, so that only one of the four was left to

On the shelf in our library will be a Bible that has been translated in some part and in some languages beyond 1000 dialects. This book is being published, translated, and distributed through many sources of the American Bible Society employs a force beyond 3600 persons to carry on a world-wide ministry of getting the book out to the people.

There is a story that was published years ago which told of an Indian who lived in a section of the Great Northwest who heard about the white man's book of Heaven. They said it was the source of the white man's power. Traders had told them that some day missionaries would come from the country toward the rising sun with the white man's Bible and tell them all about the wonderful God. And so for years they waited and watched.

Finally a tribal council was called and after much deliberation it was decided to send five of their braves, three old men and two young ones on a long journey into the great unknown beyond the Rocky Mountains in search of a white man's Book of Heaven.

One spring morning the five braves who had been chosen turned to the face of eastward but after two days of hard travel, one of the old men turned back saying, he was too old to endure the hardships on the way. The others traveled for months, 2000 miles across mountains, hills, plains, until they

reached St. Louis, Mo. then but a small frontier post where a few hundred settlers made their homes. Early one October morning in 1882 these travel-worn Indians saw in the distance the houses of this little settlement. It was the first town that they had ever seen, but if they were surprised, they gave no sign. They pushed their silent way through the streets looking to neither the right or the left.

When Gen. Clark, who was then in command of the barracks heard that ~~four~~ four strange Indians were without, he sent two officers to bring them in thinking they had come to make a treaty of some sort. The Indians entered the barracks and ~~sat~~ with calm and dignity and after greeting Gen. Clark, took their seats in silence. Days passed and still these strange messengers said nothing as to the purpose of this journey, but at last they told the meaning of it all. They wanted the white man's Book of Heaven. Would Gen. Clark give it to them? They wanted to know God as the white man knew him. Would Gen. Clark tell them? They wanted a teacher who would go with them to the land of the setting sun, there to break to their people the bread of life. Would Gen. Clark send one?

Gen. Clark hardly knew what to say. He told them all that he thought that they could understand about the white man's God but he had no Bible printed in the language those Indians used, and he was not in command of missionaries and so he could

not fully satisfy their strange request. All winter long the Indians waited and watched hoping to learn more than they had been told about the white man's God. During that time Gen. Clark planned (amusements) for them, and did everything that he could to make their stay a pleasure. That winter the two old men were weakened by their long journey, the second one died and in the spring, the two who remained indicated that their desire to start on that long journey back to their people.

Gen. Clark heaped (many rich) gifts upon them in parting and on the night before their departure he gave them a great banquet in his own home. When the meal was over he asked Pa-wis-fif-fim-nim, No Horns on His Head, to assist the company and these are the words which that silent Indian spoke as translated by another Indian who was present at the banquet and who acted as an interpreter.

"I came to you over the trail of many moons from the land of the Setting Sun. You were the friends of my fathers who have gone the long way. I came to you with my eyes partly open from our people who sit in darkness, I go back with both eyes closed. How can I go back blind to my blind people? I made my way to you with strong arms, through many enemies, and strange lands and I carry back to them the white man's books of Heaven. I go back with both arms broken and empty. The two pheasant who came with us were braves of many snows and wars

in short, this great sentence is far more than a proof text for inspiration, if it is carefully considered, balanced, and an authoratative statement of the Christian use of the Bible. There is the origin of the Divine Word briefly stated and it is profitable for doctrine, reproof, and correction. Here is the proof.

These are strong statements. They rest however upon more than assertion. Consider this fact, the word for scripture occurs 51 times in the N. T. ~~for~~ its first occurrence in Matt. ~~fill~~ its last in II Peter shows that in only this once instance it is linked with a full logical and diffinite statemnet not only of the nature of the Bible but also of its use and results of that use.

That Paul is declaring the God breathed nature of the whole of the scripture of undoubted. And he says that it is profitable for four specific uses. For doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

For Doctrine. It is used a totla of 21 times in the N.T., 19 times by Paul, twice by Christ, and we get here the meaning of teaching,

There is a term reproof which relates to chastisement or punishment. A conviction would seem to be a good rendering

It is also to be an conviction.

tell the story. He made his way back to his people with the message to cheer on him lips even if there was a bitter burning disappointment in his heart, he said, the white man will be sent with the book.

And today all over the U. S. and Canada even in the far-away places of Alaska, messengers of the cross are taking the white man's book of heaven to the Indians.

We know that this book of books through the centuries has been the rich source of the inspiration, the comfort of the people of every race, nation, especially is it ~~through~~ true through the dard ages when the book was chained to monasteries and there were few privileged monks who could have access to it and we remember the Prostestant Reformation and how the Book has been liberated and printed in so many languages, that we can say, Holy Bible, Book divine, precious treasure, thou art mine. Mine to tell me whence I came, Mine to tell me what I am.

There is no question that is more important the that which has to do with the authority of this Book of Books. What we believe about God, about sin, about Jesus Christ, about the Christian church, the ultimate destiny of the human soul, all of these depend upon this book. Now on what do we base our confidence that the Bible is the Word of God. How do we know

that the Bible is inspired. What is the ground for this authority?

We believe in the inspiration of the scripture because of its perfect unity. This book is made up of 66 different parts, written over at least by 40 different authors over a period of 1500 years between the writing of the first and last book. We should naturally expect variances and discord but yet when we come to study we find that each fits into the other. There is unity of prophecy. There is unity of definite purpose in mind.

There is a remarkable unity of the gospels. They are different and yet they are one; Matt. was written for the Jews, that Jesus was the long promised Messiah, Mark's gospel was for the Romans, here Jesus is the God of might, Luke wrote for the Greeks and revealed to us Jesus as the God of beauty and wisdom. John wrote of the world and shows us Jesus the final expression of the Father.

We believe in the inspiration of the Bible because of the moral law which is therein contained to deny the inspirations of the Bible is the raise at once questions far harder to answer than those which come from a full and complete acceptance

But the greatest of all the foundations stones of our belief is that the power of the Bible is to change the hearts of

men and women. They will stand up today and state that the Bible has been the book that transformed their lives and instead of darkness there is light, instead of death there is life.

In our library you will find this book which inspired because it is inspired. The stories told about an Italian girl who ~~found~~ was found by an unbeliever reading the Bible. He asked here why she read the Bible, and he inquired why she spent so much time reading that book. "Because sir," she said, "it is the Word of God". "Nonsense, who told you that it was the Word of God". "God, Himself", sir, she replied. "Impossible," said the man, "how could God tell you?" For a few moments there was silence. She said, "Sir, who told that there was a sun in the blue sky?" "Who told me?" replied the man. "Nobody, I do not need anybody to tell me. The sun tells me". Yes said, the girl, "that's the way God tells me. As I read, I feel the warmth and the light".

So we come to realize that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and more literally all scripture is God breathed. God inspired, it is also profitable and rightly so because these words are of immense importance to the Bible doctrine of inspiration.

The Greek text of the sentence contains 28 words. Of these the first five ~~xxx~~ assert that all scripture is God-breathed and profitable. A super-natural origin of the scripture



## *"Oh, How I Want That Book"*

A newly arrived Mexican, when the Bible was placed on display and explained as being available, came over to the Bible distributors and said: "So this is the Bible, the Word of God!" He picked it up reverently and gazed at it the longest time. Finally he said, "Oh, how I want that book! But I have just arrived; I have no money." He walked away a pace or two, but was soon back and just stood there, contemplating the Book of Books he so longed to possess. Suddenly we missed our friend. But when the service was over he came dashing from the edge of the crowd. Holding a few Mexican pesos, he looked earnestly at us and said: "This is all the money I have in the world, every cent. I know it is not what the Bible costs, but will you please let me have a copy for this amount?"

We accepted his few pesos, not wanting to spoil his true sense of ownership. He walked away, Bible in hand, with the keenest satisfaction we have ever seen displayed on any face.

speaking. It brings the message of truth home to the soul.  
 As we consider the Book of Books to be the central provision  
 in our library so let us give heed at all of these other books  
 shall be leading us to this book and pointing up the truth.  
 Here will be an excellent source of inspiration for the young  
 It will be a place to provide comfort for the aged, there will  
 be instruction and help for S.S. teachers and others, and  
 now in closing I should like to give to you from William L.  
 Stidger, the poem titled Books which I have included here  
 with this text.

#### Books

Books! Books! Books!

And we thank thee, God

For the Gift of them;

And the lift of them;

For the gleam in them;

And the dream in them;

For the things they teach;

And the souls they reach!

For the maze of them

And the blaze of them;

For the ways they open to us

And the rays that they shoot through us.

Correction. Is similar to reproof. It literally signify  
 restoration to an upright or a right state. Hence correction  
 or an improvement.

Instruction in righteousness. This means to be instructed  
 to be wholly trained and educated as a child in relation to the  
 cultivation of the mind and the morals that are employed for  
 this purpose and for his commands. Wherever in adults also  
 cultivates the souls especially be correcting the mistakes  
 and curbing passions. Hence instruction which aims at increase  
 of virtue.

We must consider that the Book of Books will be this  
 central book in this church library and it is the Book of  
 Life and all of the other books will be pointing up to this  
 Book of Books.

Consider its permanence. Yes the O.T. has stood in tact  
 for over 2300 years and the N. T. has lasted throughout  
 1500 years. The literatures of nations come and go. Scientific  
 books are re-edited every ten years or oftener but this book  
 is permanent.

Consider its popularity, which has been unique. Other  
 religious books as ancient as the Bible but they have never  
 had the slightest claim the world's best seller. Millions  
 of copies of the Bible are circulated each year and no writing

▶ In Indo-China a drunk man staggered into a Christian meeting and a missionary suggested, "Take these tracts and read them when you are feeling better." One year later a well-dressed man approached the missionary, said he had been saved through the tracts, and that 62 people were waiting in his village to hear about Jesus!

▶ A rebellious Japanese ex-soldier turned to crime in his shattered homeland and ended up in prison. Ten years later he began a Bible correspondence course, was saved, started a prison Bible class, and gained an early release by exemplary conduct. His Christian home is now a testimony to his community.

of Shakespear ~~XXXXXX~~ or Wells have been printed in this way.

Consider the precision the Bible frequently makes statements which relate to science phenomena and which in this day seem to be unbelievable. This fact is questioned by many who have not thought out all the facts in the case. At this point ~~we think~~ about the Research Science Bureau of Los Angeles Calif. a group of 200 scientists represented a wide range of scientists who offered 10000 to anybody who could prove any scientific statement of the Bible to be false. As yet no one has earned that award.

Consider the peculiarities of the Bible. They are unique. There are many events described which are super-natural. God has taken a peculiar interest in the affairs of men and at times in over-ruled the unusual action of the laws of nature, for the children of Isreal, the River Jordan was divided and released, the plagues of Egypt which condemned Pharoahs' oppression. We think about the miracles of Elisha and Elija which indicates God's supervision of human history in the N. T. We meet with the miracle of the Virgin Birth, the Messiah and the ministry of Jesus feeding 5000. As we look at such records they seem almost unbelievable.

Consider the prophecies of this Book. Over and over again we find declarations of Thus sayeth the Lord, definitely for-

telling the future events as related to persons and cities and nations. Man's wisdom has never been able to foretell the future of cities and nations but there are prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments which have not yet been fulfilled especially those relating to the Kingdom and the reign of the Messiah of Isreal, and the resurrection of the just but in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus we find over 100 distinct items of prophecy literally fulfilled.

Consider the power as we look into another realm. No other literature has influenced man as this Bible. Shakespear was profoundly ~~interested in~~ influenced by the Bible and quoted from the pages hundreds of times in his writings. Blessings have resulted from the Bible being opened in the homes in cities, and in nations.

Consider the preiminance of this book. Supernatural in its composition, it has never failed to make good its claims of the written Word of God. It reveals facts and policies which are entirely apart from man's knowledge and reason. It finds men's hearts and speaks to their condition, the dying sinner often regrets his neglect of the message. The dying saint takes comfort in its promises.

The Book has a message of good news. It is like a pocket radio all wired up with a transmitter, the Word of God as faith turns on the power of God's Holy Spirit we hear God

Books! Books! Books!

And we thank thee, God

For the light in them;

For the might in them;

For the urge in them;

And the surge in them;

For the souls they wake

And the paths they break;

For the going in them

And the song in them;

For the throngs of folks they bring to us

And the songs of hope they sing to us!

William L. Stidger

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