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A. J. McCarty

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Recommended Citation

McCarty, A. J., "The Honest Man" (1920). *Stone-Campbell Books*. 60.
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THE HONEST MAN

BY

A. J. McCARTY

KILLEEN, TEXAS

SIXTH EDITION

PRICE: 10 CENTS PER COPY; \$1.00 PER DOZEN;
\$4.00 PER HUNDRED

MRS. C. R. NICHOL, PUBLISHER
CLIFTON, TEXAS



THE HONEST MAN

"Why do ye not understand my speech?"—John 8:43.

"How readest thou?"—Luke 10:26.

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."—Luke 8:15.

It is a fact that the Bible is being read by a great many people. It is also a fact that we are all reaching different conclusions in our investigations. Is this the will of God the Father? To illustrate: There is one great central proposition in the Bible, viz: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God." Is it the will of God that one should, after reading the divine testimony, conclude that Jesus Christ was John the Baptist, and yet another that He was Jeremiah, or one of the prophets? I think not. God fully expects every one who has access to the Bible to believe with all the heart that Jesus is the Christ and yet some have read it (the Bible) and claim they have reached a different conclusion.

Paul says: "There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism."—Eph. 4:5—and yet I know people who say they are honest and believe the divine record, and at the same time practice three baptisms—pouring, sprinkling and immersion—and pray for two more, viz: A baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire.

Many plain passages (see John 3:16; Rev. 22:17) teach that God, in the gift of his Son and through him the blessed gospel, has made it possible for all men to be saved who will accept and obey, and yet all Calvinists say they cannot see it that way. They think that before the morning

stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted over a newly created world, God elected in Christ a certain number of men and angels to eternal life and reprobated the rest to an eternal hell.

Again, I ask why is it that men reading God's good Book come to a thousand conclusions on the vital questions pertaining to the salvation of man and the divine government of the kingdom of God? Is it true that God has not made His will plain enough in His word? This would be a reflection upon the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father.

Jesus says, "Why do ye not understand my speech?" The question is not, do you read the Bible, but "how readest thou?" Have you an honest heart, and do you desire the truth above all things else? I claim that if an honest and intelligent man or woman will lay aside all prejudices and predilections and come to the word of God with full purpose of heart to learn and do the will of God in order to be saved; he will most certainly find it. In speaking of this plain way God says in Isaiah 35:8, "The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

Here I will insert a few lines of poetry which show the reason why men who read the Bible reach different conclusions. Kind reader, read carefully and see if you are actuated by any such motives:

"'Tis one thing now to read the Bible through,
Another thing to learn to read and do;
'Tis one thing now to read it with delight,
And quite another thing to read it right.

"Some read it with design to learn to read,
But to the subject pay but little heed;
Some read it as their duty each week,
But from the Bible no instruction seek;

"While others read it with uncommon care,
With no regard to how nor where:—
Some read it as a history, to know
How people lived three thousand years ago.

"Some read to bring themselves repute
By showing others how they can dispute;
While others read because their neighbors do,
To see how long 'twill take to read it through.

"Some read it for the wonders that are there—
How David killed a lion and a bear;—
While others read it, or rather in it look,
Because, perhaps, they have no other book.

"Some read the blessed Book, they don't know why,
It sometimes happens in the way to lie,
While others read it with uncommon care,
But all to find some contradiction there.

"One reads with father's 'specs' upon his head
And sees the thing just as father did;
Others read it through Calvin or Scott
And think it means exactly what they thought.

"Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,
Thus understand but little what they read;
And every passage in the book they bend
To make it suit that all important end.
Some read as I have often thought,
To teach the book instead of being taught."

The sweet singer of Israel says: "Thy word is
a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,"
and it will guide the feet of the honest inquirer
into the right way, always.

If I should meet a man—honest, intelligent
man—who has never read the Bible, in fact, has
never seen a copy of it; a man who knows nothing
of the conflicting creeds, theories and orthodox
denominations of the present day, not even the
"Campbellite Church;" I say, if I should meet such
a man, and learning from him that he has never
seen the inspired word of God, I ask him if he

will read it through and study it carefully if I will furnish him with a copy. He promises me that he will do so; he tells that he is seeking for light and truth. Let us follow this honest man and see what are his conclusions in reading the Bible.

First I give him a copy of the "Old Testament" and tell him to begin at the first of Genesis and read on to the last chapter in Malachi; I tell him to mark the passages he desires light upon; ask me such questions as he sees proper, and when he is through, tell me his conclusions.

After having read the 39 books of the Old Testament through carefully, he comes back to me and says: Well I have read the book you gave me and am very much interested and my first conclusion, is that there is one true and living God, the Creator and Preserver of all things. I have been accustomed to worship a plurality of gods, but now I am convinced of the existence of the only true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (see Exodus 20th chapter.) I now understand how sin, sorrow, sickness and death have been introduced into the world. The belief of the lie that was preached by the devil in the garden of Eden and obedience thereto is the cause of it all. I see how and why God drove the once happy pair from the beautiful Eden of God's own planting, with its rippling waters and its life-giving fruit, out into the world and down, down, upon the plane of degeneration and death. And now, my dear sir, I have marked some passages and will ask you some questions upon which I hope you will give me all the light you can, for I am deeply interested. I tell him that I will give him all the light I can.

1. He directs my attention to Genesis 22:16-18, where God is speaking to Abraham, and says,

What does this mean? Have these things been fulfilled in Abraham? And has God blessed all nations through his seed? Please tell me!

2. Again, please give me light upon Gen. 49:10, which reads as follows: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

3. Give me light upon Deut. 18:18. Here is the way it reads: "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Who is this great prophet that God would raise up to be like Moses? Has he been born into this world?

4. There is an important question propounded by the old patriarch Job, chapter 14, verse 14. Here it is: "If a man die shall he live again?" Can you furnish me some light here?

5. While I am giving you passages and asking questions, here is one in Isaiah 2:2-4: "And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountain, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

6. Whom does the following language refer to? "For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."—Isa. 9:6.

7. Give me some light upon Isaiah 35:8. "And an highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those; the

wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

8. I read with great interest the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. Who is the wonderful personage that was to suffer so much? Isaiah says, "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before His shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. * * * He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed."

9. Isaiah 62:2 says: "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." What does this mean?

10. Jeremiah 31:31, 32 says: "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which my covenant they brake although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord."

11. Again please explain Dan. 2:44: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break to pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

12. Another wonderful passage in Joel 2:28 struck my mind with wonderful force. Please explain. Here is the way it reads: "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out my

Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

13. Amos 8:9 is another; see here: "And it shall come to pass that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon and I will darken the earth in a clear day."

14. Again, please give me light upon the following from Zech. 8:20-23: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts it shall yet come to pass that there shall come people and the inhabitants of many cities. And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying let us go speedily to pray before the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts. I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts. In those days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all the languages of the nations, even take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you for we have heard that God is with you."

15. The same prophet, chapter 9:9, says: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee. He is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

Please give the true meaning of the above, as I am deeply interested.

16. Again the same writer, in the eleventh and twelfth and thirteenth verses, says: "And I said unto them, if ye think good give me my price, and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver, and the Lord said unto me, cast it unto the potter a goodly price that I was

prized at of them, and I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."

17. The last question is in Malachi 4:4-6, which reads as follows: "Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Honest Man—Here are some sixteen passages which evidently point to some extraordinary person and things which are yet in future, I suppose. If they have been fulfilled, I would like to know it. Light is what I want and truth unmingled with error is what I desire.

The "honest man" having read the Old Testament through and coming to me for more light upon the many wonderful prophetic utterances concerning the Messiah, His kingdom and the redemption of the world through Him, I place in his hands the first four books of the New Testament, viz: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I tell him to read carefully and when he has finished to let me know his conclusions and if he still desires more light I will give it to him.

After having read carefully the four divine testimonials or biographies of Jesus Christ, he returns to me and says: The four books you gave me to read have given me a great deal of light upon the passages and questions I put to you. Ah, I now understand what God meant in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the women and between thy seed and her seed. It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Also Gen. 22:16-18. Matthew begins his testimony thus: "The book of the generation of

Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Beginning with Abraham and step by step down the royal lineage and through forty-two generations we come to the child of prophecy and thus with the golden chain of genealogy, Matthew binds Jesus Christ to the royal family.

Luke begins with Jesus and runs the line from generation to generation clear back to Adam "which" he says, "was the Son of God" and with his chain of seventy-three golden links, he binds Jesus the Messiah, to Adam, and thus establishes His divinity and proves beyond all cavil that He is the long promised Redeemer of the world.

He is the "Shiloh" of Gen. 49:10. The "prophet" of Deut. 18:18 that God was to raise up from their brethren like unto Moses and the one who broke the silence of the centuries and answered Jobs question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" The question is settled. Man shall "live again." Death is not an "eternal sleep." Jesus has conquered death and brought life and immortality to light, He has driven away the darkness and gloom that hitherto hovered around the tomb, and has planted the triumphant banner of victory over death, hell and the grave.

I now understand Isaiah 9:6, also 35:8, for Jesus, in His sermon on the mount, Matt. 7:13, 14, speaks of two ways, one leading to "life" and the other to death and "destruction." Jesus is the "man of sorrows" of Isaiah 53. The one who was "wounded for our transgression," He was bruised for our sins and by His "stripes we are healed." Zechariah 11:12, 13 is made plain by Matt. 26:15, where Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and also Matthew 27:5, 6, where he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself, and

the money was used afterwards to purchase a "potter's field to bury strangers in."

Amos 8:9 where He speaks of the darkening of the sun is fulfilled in Matt. 27:45, which says: "Now from the sixth hour (twelve o'clock), there was darkness all over the land unto the ninth hour." Yes, the inspired prophet saw Jesus as He passed through the agonies and sorrows of Gethsemane, he saw Him as He climbed the rugged heights of Calvary bearing His own cross, where He poured out His life blood for the sins of a lost and ruined world. I am so glad that I have the true light, and I can truly say, as Peter said in answer to Christ, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And now some of my questions have been answered to my entire satisfaction, still some are not. Please give me more light if you can. I see that John the Baptist came in the power and Spirit of Elias, Malachi 4:1-6 and Luke 1:17. Isaiah spake of the establishment of the "house of the Lord" in the last days and all the nations flowing into it. Dan. 2:44 spake of the God of heaven setting up a kingdom. I see that John the Baptist, Jesus, the twelve and seventy preached about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come," and again Jesus said, "upon this rock I will build my church." He also spake of the Holy Spirit coming to guide the apostles into all truth and showing them things to come.—John 14:16, 17 and 16:7-12.

Tell me, has the kingdom fully come in power as Jesus said in Mark 9:1? Tell me if the church has been built and if the Holy Spirit has come? Jesus said to His apostles after the resurrection, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy

Spirit."—Matt. 28:19. Again in Luke 24:46, 47. "And He said unto them (the apostles), thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem," and having commanded them to go to Jerusalem and wait the promise of the Holy Spirit, He then mounted the triumphant chariot which carried Him to the Father's right hand, where He took His seat to rule with all authority. Tell me, did the apostles obey His commands and carry out His world-wide commission?

In answer to all the foregoing questions, I place in the hands of the Honest Man a copy of the fifth book in the New Testament, called Acts of the Apostles, a little book of 28 chapters written by the inspired evangelist, Luke. I tell him to read it with care and then report to me when he is through.

With great interest he follows the apostles as the divine Spirit guides them into all truth under the last and great commission to a lost world. Having read Acts of the Apostles, he returns, saying: I have found the answer to my questions: 1st, the prophecy of Joel 2:28 is fulfilled in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit came and filled the apostles and thus inspired them. Peter says: "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel," verse 16. 2d. The God of Heaven has set up the kingdom according to Dan. 2:44, or as Isaiah 2:2-4, put it, the mountain of the Lord's house is established in the last days, and the nations are flowing into it. The law has gone forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Jesus said to Peter, Matt. 16:19, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth

shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

I now understand my duty and desire to do it; I know "what to do to be saved." Remission of my sins is what I desire. I will tell you what I believe to be my duty or the steps I am commanded to take in order to the remission of my sins:

1. I am commanded to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark 16:16; John 3:16; Acts 16:31.

2. I must repent of all my sins or I will perish. Luke 13:3 and 24:46, 47; Acts 17:30.

3. I must confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus. Proof: Matt. 19:32 and 16:16; Acts 8:37.

4. I must be baptized by the authority of Jesus Christ. Proof: Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15, 16.

5. I desire to be baptized upon a confession of my faith in Jesus the Christ, for the remission of sins.

I ask him where he got that idea.

Honest Man—Acts 2:38 says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," and Acts 22:16 says, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." I want to be baptized for the same purpose that the people on Pentecost were, and also Saul of Tarsus. The Lord Jesus accepted their obedience and if I do exactly what they did, and for the same purpose, He will surely accept and save me. If not, why not?

In answer to this honest inquirer who has so earnestly and honestly read the word of God and nothing but the word, I say, you are certainly right, sir. If you follow the word of God and do exactly what it teaches, you will surely be saved.

Honest Man—I will tell you how I want to be baptized. From Matt. 3, we learn that John was baptizing people in the River of Jordan (Mark 1:5) and Jesus came and demanded John to baptize Him, v. 16 says, “And Jesus when He was baptized went up straightway out of the water.” John 3:23 says, “John was baptizing Aenon because there was much water there.” John 3:5 says, “Born of water and of the spirit.” Acts 8:38 says, “And he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch and he baptized him, and when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip that the Eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing.”

With a heart full of faith in Jesus the Christ, and having turned away from all his sins, he boldly confesses his faith, or makes the “good confession” which is unto salvation. Rom. 10:10. I then take him according to the above passages and examples and by the authority of Jesus Christ, I bury him in baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, for the remission of all past sins, and when I raise him up out of the water, he is “rejoicing” and says: “All my sins are forgiven; I am now saved.”

After his “obedience to the faith,” he happens to meet up with some gentlemen and he is so much rejoiced he has a conversation with them on the subject.

He returns to me and is in much trouble; I ask him to tell me what has come over him that he looks so sad.

Honest Man—Why I met up with some men down town and told them of the book I read called the Bible; told them how much interested I was

in it, the conclusion I had been led to, what I had done, how I did it and what I did it for, and just when I was made to rejoice in the pardon of my sins, and another man walked up and asked me to make the same statement to him. I did so and he said, Well, sir, you have made a great mistake, you are a Campbellite and have joined the Campbellite church. They are the worst people in the land; I wouldn't belong to them for anything. I told them that I knew nothing of the "Campbellites" or the "Campbellite church." That I never heard of such a church or people in all my life, that I had just read the Bible, believed it and did just what it directed me to do. Now I come to you for more light. What am I and what church am I a member of?

I give him the twenty-one epistles of the New Testament, from Romans to the epistle of Jude.

I tell him to read each and every one carefully and when he is done, let me know of his conclusions, and if he is still not satisfied and desires more light to say so and I'll furnish it.

Honest Man—Well, my dear brother, I am satisfied now; know what I am, and what church I am a member of. I am a member of the same church the Corinthians were, for I learned from Acts 18:7, 8 that Paul went into the City of Corinth and preached the gospel. The 8th verse says, "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized." Now this is just what the Pentecostans did in Acts 2, also the Samaritans and the Eunuch in Acts 8, Cornelius, Lydia and the of Christ, by my doing the same, why am I not a member of the same body or church? I have jailor. I say if obedience of these things made them members of the church of God or the church

found out that the primitive disciples were misrepresented and persecuted and "reproached." Peter says, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you. On their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busy body in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian (not a Campbellite, Methodist, or Baptist), let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf."—1 Peter 4:14-17.

From the above I learn that Christian is the God-given name bestowed upon the disciples first at Antioch. I have the divine interpretation upon Isaiah 62:2-4. "The mouth of the Lord was to give the 'new name' when the Gentiles should see His righteousness." The Gentiles first saw the righteousness of God when the apostle Peter, Acts 10, went down to the house of Cornelius and preached the gospel to them. The eleventh of Acts and 26th verse says, "And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." In Acts 26:28 is where Paul "almost persuaded Agrippa to be a Christian." Peter says we must "suffer as Christians" and thus we glorify God. James says, 2:7, "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called?" Paul says, Eph. 3:14, 15, The whole family both in heaven and in earth is named after Christ, therefore I am not a Campbellite, Wesleyite, Johnite, or any other kind of an "ite" or "ist," but simply a disciple, a follower of Christ, a Christian, and if I am simply a Christian I know I am a member of the church of Christ. I am determined to have nothing but the inspired word of God as my guide. I believe "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.”—2 Tim. 3:16, 17. I will identify myself with the people who are simply “Christians,” who claim to belong to no church but the one we read of in the New Testament, “The Church of Christ.”—Matt. 16:18. I will diligently follow every good work, I will add to my faith all the Christian graces (see 2nd Peter, 1st chap.) and virtues and excellencies that give amiability and dignity to the Christian profession and character. The new covenant sealed by the death and blood of Jesus shall be the rule of my religious life. And now, my brother, I see that Jesus and apostles speak of a resurrection from the dead both of the righteous and the wicked and a judgment to come. (John 5:28, 29; Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4.) Can you tell me more about these things? If you have any more light upon these soul stirring questions I would like to have it. Where will the pure and good spend Eternity? What will become of the wicked who die in their sins?

I place in his hands the last book in the Bible, called “Revelations,” and tell him to read it with the same diligence he did the other parts of the Bible. I tell him he now has all the divine light in his possession ever given to the children of men. Read it and let me know of your conclusion.

Honest Man—I have read the wonderful book you gave me called “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass. I am perfectly satisfied; I do not wish any more light. God said it is enough; woe unto the man or angel who adds to or takes from the inspired records—See Rev. 22:18, 19. My questions are fully answered. The apostle John describes the judgment scenes in the 20th chapter. He says: “I saw a great white throne and Him

that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, both 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 the things which were written in the books, according to their works * * * And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." And again he says: "But the fearful and the unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolators and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

The Bible tells us the origin of evil. The devil as the first murderer and the first liar; his history is wonderful. His influence over the human race to cause it to sin and fall and die has been very great indeed. Thousands today are rallying under the black banner of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience. He once held the keys of death and the grave (see Heb. 2:14, 15), but Jesus, the "Lion of the tribe of Judah," has conquered. John says: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8. Jesus said to John on Patmos: "I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore. Amen: And have the keys of hell and death."

The downfall and final overthrow of Satan and all of his diabolical deeds is certain. It is written in God's immutable Book. The devil with all of his angels, ungodly and rebellious forces will be cast into the lake of fire and shall be tormented forever and ever, ages and ages.

The Destiny of the Righteous

"Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city."—Rev. 22:14.

What city?

Answer—"And He carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."—Rev. 21:10, 11.

In the above chapter the dimensions of the city of God are given. It was measured by the angel with a golden reed. He says: "The city lieth four-square and the length is as large as the breadth, and he measured the city with the reed—twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is of the angel."

Its walls are of jasper, its gates are of pearl and its streets are pure gold.

Nothing shall enter the city that in any way defileth or worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

It shall be lighted with the glory of God and the Lamb.

The river of Life shall be in the city flowing out from the throne of God and the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it and on either side of the river was there the Tree of Life, which bear twelve manner of fruits, and yielded

her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

There shall be no more curse, no sorrow nor crying; no more sad disappointments there, no tears, for our divine and loving Father, with His own immortal hand, will wipe all tears away.

No death there. Ah! the death angel will never enter that immortal home to lay his cold, icy hand upon our loved ones. Here he comes into our homes and takes away our dearest and best friends, but there in our Father's home will be no death.

There we shall see our Father's face and love Him with a heart that knows nothing but love. There we shall meet our loved ones.

Abraham will be there; Paul, John, Peter, the prophets and all the apostles, and martyrs who waded through blood and flames in proving their loyalty to their God and Lord! John saw the great harvest of all ages. First he saw and heard the number that were sealed of the tribes of Israel, an hundred and forty-four thousand. He looked again and saw a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindred and people and tongues. John says they all "stood before the throne and the Lamb clothed with white robes and palms in their hands." The angel that showed these things to John said: "These are they which come out of great tribulations and have washed their robes and had them made white in the blood of the Lamb."

My dear brother, I am perfectly satisfied with the blessed Bible; it contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of saints. Its teachings are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and decisions are immutable. In reading it, my brother, I became wise, and in be-

believing and obeying its divine mandates I became safe and happy. In it I found light to direct my feet and food to support and comfort, to cheer me amid the trials of life. The Bible is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened for the righteous, and a hell disclosed for the unbelieving and disobedient. Christ is its grand subject, man's present good and final salvation its design, and the glory of God its end.

Conclusion

Dear reader, methinks if I should meet the Honest Man while on his dying couch he would take me by the hand and say: My dear brother, I am about to pass over the river of death; I am dying the death of a Christian, my faith in God is strong. When you found me I was in ignorance and heathen darkness; I was bowing down to stocks and stones; you gave me God's holy word, the Bible; in it I learned of the true God, also of His Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world; it led my wife to be a Christian; it taught us how to raise our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and now, my brother, I want to thank you for the light you gave me upon all the questions I put to you. You did not give me one single opinion of yours—not one of your "think-so's"; in fact, you did not answer my questions at all, but every time you gave me nothing but the inspired word of God; it, and it alone, has been my guide and has led me in all my ways and conclusions and now as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for Jesus is with me. His blessed presence will drive away the darkness, and His rod and staff will comfort me.

Go on, my brother, and tell the old, old story of

the cross; tell the world of the love of God; the death, burial, resurrection and glorious ascension; tell the world of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Tell sinners of the blood-sealed promises of God, persuading them to become Christians. Teach the children of God to live as the Bible directs; do your whole duty as a man of God and your reward is sure; the crown of righteousness is for all who love the appearing of the Lord. Farewell, till we meet again in our Father's home around the glorious and shining throne of the Eternal, where we will live and walk together forever.

Dear reader, you have followed the "Honest Man" in his investigations of the word of God, and now, in conclusion, I desire to ask you a few questions:

1. In your reading of the word of God, have you reached any such conclusions as the "Honest Man" did?

2. Was it not the word of God that led him? And if he was led by the word of God, most assuredly he was walking in the true light. By walking in the light we reach the blood of Jesus, and when we reach the blood we come to salvation or remission of sins.

3. Will this man be eternally saved by reading the Book—the Bible—as he did, simply believing and obeying God as it directs?

4. In other words, is it safe to follow the Bible and the Bible alone?

5. Will it not lead a man to be a Christian and into the right church?

6. Will the Bible lead a man into the "narrow way?"

7. Does not the "narrow way" lead to life?—Matt. 7:14.

8. If a man follows the dictates of God's holy word and is always led thereby, then God is leading him, and if God leads him, he is being led by Christ, and if God and Christ are leading him the Holy Spirit is also his guide, and Paul says: (Rom. 8:14) "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God;" 'and John says: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not."

9. My dear reader, will you take the Bible for your guide, believe it, obey it, love and obey the God of the Bible, honor and follow the blessed Christ of the Bible, be animated by the Divine Spirit of the Bible, be a faithful worker in the vineyard of the Lord, be a true and faithful Christian, walk in the "narrow way," practice the pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father?

If you will, you will be happy in this life, and when life with its labors are ended you can die in the blessed hope of the Christian and in the world to come God will give you eternal life.

Mercy and grace be with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

