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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: The Influence of the Bible

James Willeford

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Churches of Christ Salute You with a

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The Influence of the Bible

By James D. Willeford

No. 98

December 13, 1953

Herald of Truth

The Influence of the Bible

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Once a little boy sat with his sister during the worship service. After the evangelist finished his sermon, the little boy asked, "Is it all done now?" And the sister replied, "No, it has just been said. Now we must go out and do it." The truth expressed by this little girl is found on every page of the New Testament. Jesus asked, "why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46.) When the Bible is translated into action, it has a far-reaching influence for good. That influence has been demonstrated through the centuries.

It is as impossible to determine the full influence of the Bible on world civilization as it would be to go to the mouth of the Mississippi River and follow up the stream till we had ferreted out each tributary and discovered the exact source from whence each drop of water had come. But we can see much of the Bible's influence in every sphere of our life.

One fruit of the Bible is its elevation of the human being. Where it is not well known, as in China, India, Russia, and Japan, a human being is the cheapest commodity. Human life is not counted for much, and an ox is prized more highly than a man. Jesus was the first great teacher of men who showed a genuine sympathy for childhood. When he said, "Of such is the Kingdom of heaven," it was a revelation. Plato, Aristotle, and Seneca approved the killing of deformed or sickly children. (*History of the Christian Church*, by Philip Schaff, Vol. II, p. 360.) But Christ put a definite value upon child-life by his attitude toward children. He was never too busy to take them into His arms and bless them.

Another influence of the Bible has been the abolishment of slavery. "The Roman nation with a population of about one hundred and twenty-five million held more than sixty million people in the basest sort of slavery." (*Why We Believe the Bible*, by George W. De Hoff, p. 65.) Philip Schaff, a reliable church historian, says, "Heathenism had no conception of the general and natural rights of men. The ancient republics consisted in the exclusive dominion of a minority over an oppressed majority. . . The barbarians were taken in thousands . . . and sold as cheap as horses." (*History of the Christian Church*, Volume II, p. 350.) The slaves were overworked, underfed and killed at the pleasure of their owners. All this was done with the approval of the pagan priests and philosophers. Aristotle said slavery is "natural and indispensable." Cato advised that slaves be worked to death rather than let them grow old and unprofitable. (*History of the Christian Church*, Vol. II, pp. 348, 350.) Yet from the outset Christianity has labored for the end of slavery "not by impairing the right of property, not by outward violence, nor sudden revolution. . . but by its moral power, by preaching the . . . unity

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of all men, their common redemption through Christ, the duty of brotherly love, and the true freedom of the spirit." (*History of the Christian Church*, Vol. II, p. 348.) From the very beginning, slaves were received into churches of Christ on the same basis as their masters. Where Christianity has gone, slavery has either retreated or been destroyed. Even Thomas Huxley, the unbeliever, had to admit that "The Bible has been the Magna Charta of the poor and oppressed." (3000 Illustrations for Christian Service, by Walter B. Knight, p. 42.)

The influence of the Bible has also changed the position of women. Excluding the Hebrews, the women of all nations in ancient times were expected to assume the most degraded position. We are told that in very early Rome, a man might put his wife to death without so much as a trial. Also the Greeks honored the women who followed the most abject passions. But the Hebrews honored their wives and sisters for their purity. Only in the lands where the influence of the Bible has gone is woman taken from under the feet of man and placed at his side as a help suitable to him that they together might do the work that has been allotted them by the Heavenly Father.

Another great influence of the Bible has been its moral teaching. When Christianity was born, the world was morally corrupt. Even the pagan religions were but empty forms, catering to the basest forms of immorality and vice. Men neither feared nor revered their gods.

Gladiatorial combats were held, in which thousands were sometimes killed, just to amuse the spectators. Historians testify that most of these abuses were abolished as Christianity spread over the Roman Empire. The Bible has demonstrated its influence through changing the lives of ungodly men. "Did you ever hear a man say, 'I used to steal, lie, drink, swindle, abuse my family, gamble, break up homes, beat my debts and was an immoral citizen, but I was finally induced to read some books on infidelity, atheism, and doubt, and now I go to church, treat my family decently, pay my debts, live a moral life, try to be a good neighbor, and a good citizen as the result of the influence these books had on me?' No, you never will for the Bible is the only book that has such an influence on men." (*The Bible—It's Origin*, by Robt. W. Lawrence, p. 5.)

An outstanding fruit borne by the Bible has been its influence upon marriage. In a special news item the Dallas News of Dallas, Texas, recently reported that an outstanding record in marriage relationships has been set by students of a certain college in that state in which the Bible is taught. Out of approximately three thousand marriages begun on the campus, there have been only five divorces, or a rate of one out of every six hundred. The editorialist of the Dallas News said, "Such a figure is very startling when compared with the national average of one marriage in every four ending in divorce." This is indicative of the good influence of the Bible when it is read and obeyed.

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

ALABAMA—				PORTLAND WPGW 1440 12:30 p.m.				LOS ALAMOS KRSN 1490 3:00 p.m.				BEAUMONT KFDM 560 1:00 p.m.															
Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.	IOWA—				Santa Fe KTRC 1400 3:00 p.m.				Ing Spring KBST 1490 1:00 p.m.															
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.	Cedar Rapids				WMT	600	7:30 a.m.	Leonia WLNH 1340 1:00 p.m.				Brownfield KTFY 1300 4:30 p.m.												
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.	Des Moines KSO				1460	1:00 p.m.	New York KABC				770	12:30 p.m.	Brownwood KBWD 1380 6:30 p.m.											
Brewton	WEBJ	1240	8:00 a.m.	Sioux City KSCJ				1360	10:30 p.m.	Rochester WET				1230	1:00 p.m.	Corpus Christi KEYS 1440 9:00 p.m.											
Florence	WJOI	1340	8:00 a.m.	Waterloo KXEL				1540	8:30 p.m.	Salisbury WSAT				1490	1:00 p.m.	El Paso KEPO 690 3:00 p.m.											
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.	KANSAS—				Wilkes-Barre WILK				980	3:00 p.m.	Fl. Worth WBAF 570 1:00 p.m.													
Greenville	WGYV	1400	4:00 p.m.	Coffeyville KGGF				690	2:00 p.m.	NEW YORK—				Graham KSWA 1330 4:30 p.m.													
Hamilton	WERH	970	1:00 p.m.	Dodge City KGNQ				1370	1:30 p.m.	Albany WROW				850	1:00 p.m.	Houston KXYZ 1320 3:30 p.m.											
Huntsville	WHBS	1550	7:30 a.m.	Great Bend KGVN				1590	1:00 p.m.	New York WABC				770	12:30 p.m.	Longview KFRO 1370 1:00 p.m.											
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.	Topeka WREN				1250	1:00 p.m.	Olean WHDL				1450	1:00 p.m.	Lubbock KFYO 790 4:00 p.m.											
Mobile	WALA	1410	9:30 a.m.	Wichita KWBB				1410	3:30 p.m.	Poughkeepsie WKIP				1450	1:00 p.m.	Marlin KMLW 1010 4:00 p.m.											
Montgomery	WAPX	1600	1:00 p.m.	KENTUCKY—				Rochester WRET				1280	1:00 p.m.	Midland KCBS 550 1:30 p.m.													
Scottsboro	WCRI	1050	4:30 p.m.	Bowling Green KWCT				930	1:00 p.m.	Saranac Lake WEAV				960	2:00 p.m.	Nacogdoches KOSF 1230 1:00 p.m.											
Selma	WGWC	1340	1:30 p.m.	Louisville WKLO				1080	1:00 p.m.	Syracuse WAGE				620	12:00 p.m.	Paris KPLT 1490 5:30 p.m.											
Talladega	WHTB	1240	1:30 p.m.	Mayfield WKTM				1050	4:15 p.m.	NORTH CAROLINA—				Pleasanton (Tues.)													
Troy	WTBT	1490	1:00 p.m.	Paducah WKYB				570	1:30 p.m.	Asheville WLOS				1380	1:00 p.m.	KROP 1380 8:00 a.m.											
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.	LOUISIANA—				Charlotte WAYS				610	1:00 p.m.	Quanah KOIJ 1150 12:45 p.m.													
Tuskegee	WTUS	580	1:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge WLCS				910	1:00 p.m.	Durham WTIK				1310	2:00 p.m.	San Angelo KGKL 960 1:00 p.m.											
ARIZONA—				Monroe KMLB 1440 2:00 p.m.				Fayetteville (Sat)								San Antonio KMCA 630 6:30 p.m.											
Bisbee	KSUN	1230	1:00 p.m.	New Orleans WSBM				1350	1:00 p.m.	Salisbury WSAT				1280	1:00 p.m.	Texarkana KCMC 1230 1:00 p.m.											
Clifton	KCLF	1400	3:00 p.m.	Shreveport KRMD				1340	1:00 p.m.	Wilmington WGNL				1340	8:30 a.m.	Wichita Falls KFDX 990 1:00 p.m.											
Flagstaff	KCLS	1360	8:00 a.m.	MAINE—				Winston-Salem WAIR				1340	1:00 p.m.	UTAH—													
Kingman	KGAN	920	1:00 p.m.	Bangor WABI				910	1:00 p.m.	NORTH DAKOTA—				Provo KCSU 1400 3:00 p.m.													
Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.	Portland WPOR				1450	9:00 a.m.	Fargo KFGO				790	1:00 p.m.	Salt Lake City KUTA 570 7:30 a.m.											
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.	Baltimore WFRB				1300	3:00 p.m.	Grand Forks KILQ				1060	1:00 p.m.	Vernal KJAM 1340 3:00 p.m.											
ARKANSAS—				Cumberland WDYK 1230 8:00 p.m.				OHIO—								VERMONT—											
Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.	MASSACHUSETTS—				Cleveland WJW				850	1:00 p.m.	Brattleboro WTSB 1450 1:00 p.m.													
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.	Boston WVDA				1260	1:00 p.m.	Columbus WHKC				610	1:00 p.m.	Montpelier-Barre WSKI 1240 1:00 p.m.											
Hot Springs	KWFC	1340	8:30 p.m.	Gardner WHOB				1240	1:00 p.m.	East Liverpool WOHI				1490	1:00 p.m.	VIRGINIA—											
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.	Lawrence WLAW				680	1:00 p.m.	Lima WIMA				1150	9:00 a.m.	Fredericksburg WFVA 1230 12:30 p.m.											
McGehee	KVSA	1220	9:00 a.m.	Springfield WSPR				1270	2:00 p.m.	Toledo WTOL				1230	12:30 p.m.	Norfolk WGH 1310 6:30 p.m.											
Springdale	KBRB	1340	6:00 p.m.	Worcester WORC				1400	1:00 p.m.	Youngstown WBBW				1240	8:30 a.m.	Richmond WXGI 950 1:30 p.m.											
CALIFORNIA—				MICHIGAN—				OKLAHOMA—								WASHINGTON—											
Bakersfield	KPMC	1550	10:00 a.m.	Battle Creek WELL				1400	1:00 p.m.	Ada KADA				1230	1:00 p.m.	Aberdeen KBKW 1450 9:00 p.m.											
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.	Bay City WBCM				1440	1:00 p.m.	Enid KERC				1390	1:00 p.m.	Omaha KMW 690 9:00 a.m.											
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.	Detroit WXYZ				1270	1:00 p.m.	McAlester KTMK				1400	1:00 p.m.	Pasco KPW 1340 3:30 p.m.											
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.	Flint WTAC				600	10:30 p.m.	Muskegon KBIX				1490	2:00 p.m.	Seattle KVI 570 3:30 p.m.											
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.	Lansing WTLS				1320	1:00 p.m.	Oklahoma City KTKO				1000	9:30 a.m.	Spokane KGA 1510 3:30 p.m.											
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.	Ludington WKLA				1450	1:00 p.m.	Tulsa KRMG				740	2:00 p.m.	WASHINGTON, D. C.—				WMAL 630 1:00 p.m.							
Porterville	KTIP	1450	3:30 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant WCEN				1150	2:00 p.m.	OREGON—								WEST VIRGINIA—									
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.	Muskegon WKEB				850	2:00 p.m.	Eugene KASH				1600	1:00 p.m.	Beckley WWNR 620 1:30 p.m.											
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.	MINNESOTA—				Medford KMED				1440	7:30 a.m.	Huntington WHTN 800 8:00 a.m.													
COLORADO—				Mankato KTOE 1420 2:00 p.m.				Pendleton KWRC				1240	1:00 p.m.	Parkersburg (Sat)													
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.	Minn.-St. Paul WTCN				1280	7:30 a.m.	Portland KEX				1190	3:30 p.m.	Wheeling WKWK 1409 1:00 p.m.											
Trinidad	KCRT	1240	11:00 a.m.	MISSISSIPPI—				Redmond KJUN				1240	3:30 p.m.	WISCONSIN—													
CONNECTICUT—				Booneville WPIC 1400 1:00 p.m.				The Dalles KODL				1230	1:00 p.m.	Green Bay WDJZ 1400 5:30 p.m.													
Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	9:30 p.m.	Centerville WGIC				1580	8:00 a.m.	PENNSYLVANIA—				Jacksa WKTY 580 10:00 p.m.													
Hartford	WHTT	1230	1:00 p.m.	Columbus WCBI				1340	6:00 p.m.	Harrisburg WCMR				1460	8:00 a.m.	Madison WKTV 1330 8:00 a.m.											
DELAWARE—				Greenwood WABG				960	1:00 p.m.	Johnstown WCMB				1460	7:30 a.m.	Milwaukee WCAN 1250 2:00 p.m.											
Wilmington	WILM	1450	1:00 p.m.	Jackson WSLI				930	2:00 p.m.	Lemoyn WFTL				560	2:00 p.m.	Neenah WNAM 1280 8:00 a.m.											
FLORIDA—				Kosciusko WKOZ				1340	1:00 p.m.	Philadelphia WCAE				1250	3:00 p.m.	Wasau WSAU 1400 9:30 a.m.											
Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.	Laurel WLAW				1490	1:00 p.m.	Pittsburg WMAF				1450	9:00 a.m.	WYOMING—											
Jacksonville	WJHP	1320	8:00 p.m.	McComb WSKB				1250	2:00 p.m.	Rhode Island—								Casper KSPR 1470 9:15 p.m.									
Liesburg	WLBE	790	1:00 p.m.	Meridian WTOK				1450	1:00 p.m.	Providence WPJB				1420	1:00 p.m.	Cheyenne KPRC 710 12:00 p.m.											
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.	Natchez WNAT				1240	1:00 p.m.	SOUTH CAROLINA—								Codv KODI 1400 12:00 p.m.									
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.	MISSOURI—				Columbia WCOS				1400	1:00 p.m.	Laramie KOWB 1340 12:00 p.m.													
Sanford	WTRR	1400	6:30 p.m.	Cape Girardeau KFVS				960	8:30 p.m.	Florence WJMX				970	10:30 a.m.	Newcastle KASL 1240 12:00 p.m.											
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	1:00 p.m.	Kansas City KCMO				810	12:30 p.m.	Orangeburg WDXI				1450	7:00 a.m.	Rawlins KRAL 1240 12:00 p.m.											
Tampa-St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.	Rolla KTTT				1490	8:45 a.m.	Spartanburg WJAN				1400	1:00 p.m.	Riverton KWRL 1450 12:00 p.m.											
GEORGIA—				St. Louis KXOK				630	1:00 p.m.	Sumter WSSC				1240	1:00 p.m.	Torrington KGOS 1490 12:00 p.m.											
Atlanta	WGST	920	7:30 p.m.	Springfield KWTO				560	1:00 p.m.	SOUTH DAKOTA—								World KWOR 1490 12:00 p.m.									
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.	MONTANA—																							
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.	Bozeman KXLQ				1450	8:00 a.m.	Aberdeen KSDN				930	10:30 a.m.	ALASKA—											
Cairo	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.	Great Falls KXLK				1400	8:00 a.m.	Huron KIJV				1340	9:00 a.m.	Ketchikan KABI 580 9:00 a.m.											
Cartersville	WBHF	1450	10:00 a.m.	Helena KXLJ				1240	8:00 a.m.	TENNESSEE—								CANADA—									
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.	Missoula KXLX				1450	8:00 a.m.	Chattanooga WAPB				1150	1:00 p.m.	Toronto, Ont. CKEY 580 9:15 a.m.											
Dawson	WDWD	990	2:00 p.m.	NEBRASKA—				Columbia WJMX				970	10:30 a.m.	Winnipeg, Man. CKY 580 6:00 p.m.													
Macon	WNEH	1400	1:00 p.m.	Lincoln KFOR				1240	10:30 a.m.	Florence WJMX				970	10:30 a.m.	CANAL ZONE—											
Rome	WLAQ	1410	1:00 p.m.	N. Platt KNBR				970	9:00 a.m.	Orangeburg WDXI				1450	7:00 a.m.	Balboa HOG											
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.	Omaha KOIL				1290	5:30 p.m.	Spartanburg WJAN				1400	1:00 p.m.	BERMUDA—											
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.	Sidney KSID				1340	9:30 a.m.	Sumter WSSC				1240	1:00 p.m.	Pembroke ZEM				1:30 p.m.							
IDAHO—				NEVADA—				SOUTH DAKOTA—								FRENCH MOROCCO—											
Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.	Las Vegas KENO				1460	9:30 p.m.	Aberdeen KSDN				930	10:30 a.m.	ASRS				no time							
Pocatello	KWIK	1440	9:30 a.m.	NEW HAMPSHIRE—								Huron KIJV				1340	9:00 a.m.	PUERTO RICO—									
ILLINOIS—				Claremont KTSV				1230	1:00 p.m.	Tennessee—								San Juan WAPA 680 2:30 p.m.									
Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.	Laconia WLNH				1340	1:00 p.m.	Chattanooga WAPB				1150	1:00 p.m.												
Moline	WQUA	1230	7:00 a.m.	Lebanon WTSL				1400	1:00 p.m.	Jackson WJTS				1390	1:00 p.m.												
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.	Manchester WMUR				610	3:00 p.m.	Johnson City WETB				790	6:15 p.m.												
INDIANA—				NEW MEXICO—								Knoxville WBR				1240	1:30 p.m.										
Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:00 p.m.	Albuquerque KOAT				1240	3:00 p.m.	Memphis WHBQ				560	1:00 p.m.												
Bloomington	WTTS	1370	1:00 p.m.	Carlsbad KPBM				740	1:30 p.m.	Morristown WCRK				1450	9:00 p.m.												
Evansville	WJPS	1330	6:30 p.m.	Clovis KCLV				1240	1:00 p.m.	Nashville WSIX				980	5:30 p.m.												
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.									TEXAS—															
												Abilene KRBC				1470	1:00 p.m.										
												Amarillo KFDA				1440	1:00 p.m.										
												Austin KTBC				590	4:30 p.m.										

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

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The Bible exerts a mighty influence in the home. The Social Security Agency of our government has said, "The child who has had the advantages of living in a home with a religious background—that type of religion which is practiced as well as preached and which teaches the individual to think in terms of others than himself—finds that something very fundamental and important has been woven into the moral fabric of his personality. Religion helps to give to the boy or girl that sense of security and worthwhileness about life both present and future that the maturing individual needs." (Guiding the Adolescent, Social Security Agency, U. S. Children's Bureau, Pub. No. 225, p. 83, Revised 1946, Washington, D. C.) Our own FBI pleads for Christian homes where the Bible is taught. Our judges all testify that very few young people who have been taught the Bible consistently are ever brought before them for misdemeanors.

No man can measure fully the influence of the Bible upon our country. Herbert Hoover said, "As a nation we are indebted to the Book of books for our national ideas and representative institutions. Their preservation rests in adhering to its principles." (3000 Illustrations for Christian Service, by Walter B. Knight, p. 53.) Daniel Webster said, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity." (Ibid., p. 43.) On his deathbed, Andrew Jackson said, "That Book is the rock on which our republic rests." Friends, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence—even the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms are built upon the principles set forth in the Bible.

If you want to test the influence of the Bible upon nations, just contrast the lands where the Bible is read and respected with the lands where it is suppressed or banned. It does not take a wise man to see the difference between the progress made in such nations as the United States, Canada, England, Denmark and the backwardness of nations like Spain, Mexico, and the countries of South America. In these latter countries the Bible does not have free course among the common people, and the nations are reaping the consequences.

Where the Bible goes civilization follows. This fact may be illustrated by the story of a converted African cannibal who sat reading his Bible when a European trader passed by and asked him what he was doing. "Reading the Bible," was the reply. "That Book is out of date in my country," said the trader. "If it had been out of date here," said the African, "you would have been eaten long ago." (3000 Illustrations for Christian Service, p. 51.)

The influence of the Bible is strongly felt in the educational realm also. Sir Isaac Newton said, "I count the scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy." In Europe between 1550 and 1700 twenty great universities were founded all by religious people, who believed in and accepted the Bible. In America almost all of our great universities were endowed and built by religious men. Harvard was founded by the Puritans,

and its first benefactor, John Harvard, was a preacher. James Blair, another preacher, was active in the founding of William and Mary College. We could repeat this story many times in giving the history of our great schools if time permitted. Skeptics and infidels have charged Christians with trying to "bootleg" the Bible into our schools, colleges and universities. Bootleg indeed! Christianity and the influence imparted by the Bible has founded almost all of these schools. Men, who believe the Bible, endowed and built these institutions of learning in our land. But how many colleges and universities have been built by atheists? If the skeptics want to teach their various brands of infidelity, let them build their own schools and stop "bootlegging" their doctrines into the public schools of our nation.

The influence of the Bible in the field of education is readily recognized. In nations where it is not only freely taught but individuals are urged and encouraged to read it regularly the illiteracy rate is much lower. The following figures will serve as examples. In Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico from fifty-four to eighty-two percent of the people cannot read or write. In Spain fifty-eight per cent are illiterate; in Portugal, sixty-eight per cent, and in Italy seventy per cent. (Figures from *The American Protest*, New York, April, 1953.) Now let us take a look at the countries where the Bible is freely read by anyone who desires to read it. In the United States seven per cent of the people cannot read or write. In Canada eleven per cent are illiterate. In Australia the figure is less than two per cent; in Holland eight-tenths of one per cent; in England, 1.8; in Denmark, .2; in Scotland 1.6; and in Sweden, .2. We truly believe that the same spirit which leads nations to want their citizenry to know more about the Bible will also cause them to provide facilities for their education that they may be able to learn more about it.

A further indication of the Bible's influence is the fact that manual labor has always been esteemed and highly regarded in Bible lands. The Bible and its influence have given a dignity to labor which it never enjoyed before. Plato and Aristotle taught that labor was degrading. The Emperor Augustus once executed a senator for working in a garden to help a friend. In the Old Testament times every man was encouraged to learn a trade. David was a shepherd boy; Amos, a farmer; Christ, a carpenter; some of the apostles, fishermen; and Paul was a tent-maker. It is a direct influence of the Bible which has permitted laborers to gain their position and has given us cooperation instead of exploitation.

The Bible also manifests its influence in our literature. That influence affords a dramatic illustration of the sway of the Bible in our civilization.

The Bible is the 'source book' of all good literature for all good books or good writings are only the Bible in dilution. If you were to remove everything from our books which came from the Bible you would delete the bulk of Shakespeare and Milton; spoil the style of Addison; the pathos of Dickens; remove the charm of Longfellow; render worthless the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the

Atlantic Charter; remove mercy from all of the laws; the songs from most of the poems and banish all hymns out of existence. You would completely destroy one third of all books, and render another third useless.

Once an atheist sent a parcel of infidel literature to a young man, advising him to read it in preference to the Bible. The young man replied: "Dear Sir: If you have anything better than the Sermon on the Mount, more beautiful than the story of the prodigal son or the Good Samaritan; or any code of morals higher than the Ten Commandments or the 'Golden Rule' of Jesus Christ; or more consoling and beautiful than the Twenty-third Psalm; or anything that will reveal to me a more loving and merciful God, or will throw more light on the future—send it along." (3000 Illustrations for Christian Service, p. 68.) What other book has had such influence?

The final test of any work is its fruit. Jesus said, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." (Matt. 7:18.) The fruit speaks either for or against the tree. We are willing to test the Bible solely by its fruits. Upon this one point we are willing to rest our case that the Bible is inspired of God and is not the writings of unaided men.

There is not a person listening to me—not even a skeptic or an atheist—who would be willing to move his family into a land where the influence of the Bible has not been felt. Surely such a Book deserves your careful investigation.

A comparison of the fruits of the Bible with the fruits of infidelity will at once convince any thinking man of the superiority of God's word. Infidelity has never built a hospital or an orphan home; it has never explored a new country or carried the light to those who sit in darkness. It never has reached down into the clutches of sin and vice to take hold of a wretched soul and lift it up to higher planes, and save it at last from sin and death.

The Bible has transformed both men and nations. Its influence was powerful enough to change a murderer like Saul of Tarsus. He had been persecuting Christians, but when the word of God was planted in his heart he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus instructed him to go into the city of Damascus and it would be told him what he must do. After he went into the city Christ sent Ananias to tell Saul to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16.) The Word of God had such an influence upon Saul that he believed it, repented of his sins, and was baptized into Christ. From that day forth, he lived and breathed the message of the gospel. When he came to the end of life's way, he was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Tim. 4:7,8.) The gospel can have the same influence in your life that it had in Saul's if you will receive its message of redeeming love.