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Prayer Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham
on Saturday evening 2nd. June, 1973

Hymn 878

Reading 2 Timothy 3

In this chapter the apostle refers to the last days, and in some measure to the state of things that will then prevail, and truly, as we have read this, we have to feel that the times in which we are living, are to some point described here. But the apostle draws Timothy's attention to the fact that he had been, from a child brought to learn the "Scriptures which, said he, are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." It is one of the sad signs of the times that the Scriptures are not valued as they should be, but even so, there is a people who do value them, who are brought in their own experience to know and to feel that what is recorded in them can, and will as applied, "Make them wise unto salvation".

There is no book to compare with the Holy Scriptures, for they are divinely inspired. They have an authority that is beyond all comparison. There may be many valuable books, but there is only ONE BIBLE. The Bible takes us from the creation right through to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is as long as this world will last (and it may not be so very much longer). It does more than this, it takes us back before creation to the being of the eternal God who was from all eternity - before all time. It takes us to things after this world shall end, to the eternal state of all the redeemed of the Lord in heaven where they will be for ever and ever, and to the awful state of those that are lost, who will be banished from the presence of God for ever, where "Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched".

This is the only book that has been preserved through all the ages of time, preserved from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. This divine record has been preserved, now for thousands of years since the first inspired books were written, and truly it is a wonderful Book. Its preservation is a remarkable feature. There have been many attempts to destroy it, but all the attempts of those who would destroy it, have

turned rather to the furtherance of the Gospel. So it becomes us to value the Holy Scriptures. Timothy was favoured to know them from a child. "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures". Some of us, in our measure can say that from a child we have been instructed in them, which is a privilege indeed. It is a privilege to have the Bible in our homes, and in our services, for there were days when to possess a Bible has cost the life of a person, but now, we have the Holy Scriptures without fear. There were days when only parts of the Scriptures could be obtained, but now we have the Scriptures complete at a very small cost. May the Lord help us to highly value them; but we need more than the possession of the Bible to take us to heaven and to save our never dying souls. We need that power of the Gospel that the Scriptures reveal "To make us wise unto salvation". We need to have the saving application of them to our souls to be prepared to die, and to be saved with an everlasting salvation. May the Lord help us to acknowledge Him in this gift of the Scriptures, and bless them to our learning, edification and salvation.

Further reading from Luke 24. 40-53

Copies may be obtained from: 9, Sibella Road, London SW4 6JA, England