

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

February 10, 2015

Issue No. 183 Mark Aites, Editor

Reading Books

"Of gifts, there seems none more becoming to offer a friend than a beautiful book." – Bronson Alcott

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." – Francis Bacon, *Essays*, "Of Studies"

"Books are not men and yet they are alive." – Stephen Vincent Benet

"The best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self-activity." – Thomas Carlyle

"Books, like friends, should be few, and well chosen." – Thomas Fuller

The term *bibliophile* has reference to one who is a "lover of books." Google states that more than 129 million books have been published. And we know that some folks are voracious readers. Those, so inclined, are rarely seen without a book.

We generally equate the idea of reading books with education. The more one reads the more one learns. However, the downside in this is that not all books are worth reading. Some contain false or bad information. Some are just plain trash and are not fit for human consumption.

If there is a library that is worth reading, it most certainly would be the Bible. So many have thought of the Bible as a single book, not realizing that it contains 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. 622,771 words in the Old Testament, 184,590 in the New Testament for a grand total of 807,361 words in Scripture.

What makes the Bible unique and worthy of reading is the authorship. What we read is of God. "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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17) "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

Now this is not to say that books written of men have no value. To the contrary, many biblical truths have been brought to the forefront through talented writers.

And again, a good book, well written, may also provide us enjoyment. For example, many are intrigued by murder mysteries. Even then, points of biblical morality are often highlighted.

Pity the person who sees no value in books, and tragically no worth in reading the Bible. If only people realized that even in the Day of Judgment, knowledge of what has been written will be crucial. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).