Sermon
June 17, 1925

Class numbered 16.
Deo 8-By 1940 Castella

Good,

Text, Psa. 119:130 'Thou
Dispensing of the Word truth
Light.'

Subject, His Bible

Scripture. I Th. 3:1-17.
The Bible

The Opening of Thy Words
Giveth Light. Ps 119:130.

Our word Bible comes from a Greek word Biblos which originally was used to designate, even as late as Chaucer's time, any book. It is now applied exclusively to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

The Bible gives us a faithful record of the revelation of God to man as man was progressively able
to understand. It was a progressive revelation from half light to full light—not as some think from error to truth. It began with signs and symbols during the centuries when man was unable to read but could understand signs and symbols. It ended as an authoritative written revelation of God in Jesus Christ—and the establishment of the improved order of worship in His church. This written revelation is being better understood.
as knowledge in the fear and love of God increases. This was my hope in establishing this institution— to get the knowledge of God into the understanding of the educated man. Not the theological theories nor the scientific theories. Long established ideas often are not about the Bible and what it teaches. The Bible really is, must be clearly understood. For example, until only one generation ago men loyal and sincere taught
That the world was made in six days, 24 hours each. Some scientists tried to show that these men were wrong. Many concluded immediately that the Bible was wrong. Then a calm settled the debate and men began to study to see what the Bible really said. The result was that the Bible stated the truth of creation according to the facts discovered by the scientists. There can be no conflict between true religion and science. It is the men who are wrong about the
The theories from the Bible and about science are often at odds and will be at odds. But God's work revealed in the written page of the Bible and His work revealed in the natural world will always, when both are understood, be found in harmony.

The Bible reveals that God whom the natural world requires. You cannot understand His knowledge gained in school unless you understand His hand.
Book of Knowledge, the Bible. Of understanding English literature that is the literature of the English language, it has been said that a knowledge of the Bible is necessary. Talc Drummond. "Like Hezekiah's, backward run to the shadow of my day." or "Perhaps like Hezekiah in Holy Writ. Our listners kept his best until the last. These are Bible references. You cannot read Tennyson, Browning, nor Carlyle, nor Macaulay, nor Huxley nor Shakespeare with entire intelligence if you do not know his your greater facts and spirit of the Bible. The opening of Thy Word giveth light even in literature.
I love to see a well-equipped laboratory under the direction of a Christian teacher. The more we learn of science and art and literature, the better we ought to understand God and His Word, the Bible.

Botany gives us an insight to the beauties of the vegetable kingdom. It asks us to see God's love to us expressed in green grass beneath our feet, in the great arms of trees that protect our path from the...
sun. The flowers that cheer us with their laughing glad colors, and sweeten our lives by their fragrance. A well rounded, educated man will see through his botany, the loving hand of a Heavenly Father. Boling reference book of the Natural World. The Opening of the Word Birth Light.

The study of zoology is still more astounding in the revelation of God's work. It reveals the greater mystery of animal life leading up to man, of whom Mr. Eshenwist said, "He is fearfully and wonderfully made." Zoology introduces us
The mineral kingdom which shows us the antiquity of our world.

Chemistry tears apart and brings together in new combinations certain elements for the advancement of man. Its wonders have not yet been fathomed. Physics is helping us to solve our doubts about the possibility of certain Bible statements such as, "Every eye shall see Jesus when He returns in glory. How can such a thing be? Impossible."
was the conclusion now we are reading through or by or in these unknown wavelengths not only a photo of that man speaking but his voice.

In an instant the wave lengths carry around the world. We listen in now and hear the bells in Westminster Abbey strike the midnight-hour or hear the weather report for the day from Melbourne.

Physicists have opened God’s word and given us the light. God’s word is being opened to us daily by the work of the archaeologist, cities unearthed for centuries.
are bringing forth their testimony in favor of the statements of the Bible. The Babylonian, Persian, and Egyptian ruins preserved for us by the winds of time are now substantiating what the Bible has always stated as true. Sir W. Ramsey says: "The spade of the excavator is digging the grave of many enemies of the Bible."

The renewed interest in ancient languages went along with the
The pick and spade, 
the cuneiform characters of ancient people have 
helped to open our 
understanding of God's 
word. In Joshua 
it is stated that the 
"sun stood still," that 
is what the translators 
thought the Hebrew word 
meant. It was certainly 
what the Hebrew word 
did literally mean. Dr. 
Robert B. Wilson of Princeton 
after 30 years of study 
of fully 30 different 
languages and dialects 
found that the word 
translated "Stand Still"
in the Hebrew word a root meaning in several older dialects "to eclipse, to cover," which information clears up this matter for us. The "are standing still" the standards of morality in the Bible, in certain portions of the Bible, they tell us, are not to be condemned. Remember this, they are not standards of morality of the Bible but of the men who recorded the Bible. The Bible does not appear of
those standards. It distinctly disappears of such low standards. Remember also that the Bible is a series of short biographies of men who lived over a period of many centuries. The Bible, in recounting the lives of these men, stated the bad as well as the good. We don’t have to approve or accept all the standards of those men. When has it ever been even in our day that we all accept the standards of any man? The Bible is a faithful record of the acts of men, of
both the good and bad sides of his character, of his mistakes as well as his virtues. The Bible has greatly suffered from the zealous support of those who feel they have to accept and approve all things the Bible says. And thus, those who oppose the Bible and throw it all overboard because these wrong standards of men are recorded in the Bible.
There has been enough folly committed by both sides to make us go slow in our judgments. We must acknowledge the difficulties, the problems. It would not be a book worthy the study of centuries nor would it serve the race as a standard of our highest aspirations if we understood and explained all there is in it. In higher mathematics, the pursuit of all sciences, we have a sign representing a known, incomprehensible quantity which we call infinity. Explain to me a mango - tree.
inside a kernel, protected by a hard covering with a skin or more of succulent meat, over which is a skin. How and why is it that the sap of the tree produces fruit, the trunk, and also fruit? I cannot explain to you why the mango tree does not produce apples. I only know it does not.

The best things in life cannot be explained. We accept them as facts. We
act on them by faith. From experience we know they are true. This acceptance of the unex-
plainedable does not however exclude our continued study of the present un-
tainable knowledge.
I commend through systematic study of the Bible to you. Out of this fountain of knowledge, wisdom and inspiration the poets have drawn from its pages musically:
for their elevated thought. His drawn for the famous painting of the Crucifixion.
and Leonardo da Vinci his last supper and Macaulay's "his Moses."

Read the Bible not for the direction of other men's faith but for your own faith and practice. Keep an open mind and an open heart as the Holy Spirit leads you through to higher visions and deeper appreciation of its truths. This book is the most practical, the most valuable and the most substantial in
its teachings. It is the only book you understand of which will make you religiously good-natured, with sincere, deep conviction of your faith in Jesus Christ. No one can understand the Bible and be a fanatic. No one can understand the Bible and be indifferent, spineless in his religious life. Opening up and understanding God's word you will become generous of your time, of your possessions of yourself in service to others. It will inspire you, it will give
a vision of what you should become. Try to read your Bible through once each year. It is related that David Webster laid his hand on a copy of the Bible and said with great emphasis: 'This is the Book! I have read through the Bible many times, I now make it at practice to go through it once a year. It is a book of all others for lawyers as well as preachers. It fits
a man for life, and
prepared him for death."
Do you know your Bible?
asks Amos R. Wells.

Do You Know Your Bible?

"I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, First of Proverbs,—
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!
But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.

"You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble, here and there,
Just before you kneel, aweary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer,
You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through!"

—Amos R. Wells

You have not realized
its value if you have
not read it all, and
understand
what you read.

Years ago an old lady in
living alone in her home
was found dead. Her only
son was in America. He
and sent his widowed mother his savings monthly for years. She had carefully kept all his letters. They searched all the house and found not a grain of food of any kind. She had died of starvation. As they opened his letters they found in each one the monthly check. It amounted to several thousands of dollars. She did not know the value of those colored papers, and died in poverty possessing wealth.
How very much like Christian people, God has sent to me this letter, the Bible. You lay it aside content in the mere possession of it. The recording angel will some day return answer to Him who sent you that letter. It will be "stood to death."

Do you realize what the treasures are found in the Bible? Joy, peace, hope, faith and love. In the form of privileges you have direct communication with Him who made the worlds and all that in them is. The treasure
Of a life made especially for you by your Father in Heaven, with an outline of its duties, of how to solve its problems. The Opening of Thy Word Giveth Light.

This book, the Bible, is the library of the University of God. In all libraries there are books some on evil, on wrongs of society, some on the virtues of man. Some to be emulated, others to be detested. Just as with this book, the Bible, it is all profitable but not
all to be commended. It takes more than casual reading to find the good.
You will find God's standard of right, which has to be commended, at times all through
His Bible. You will find other standards of men who have tried to follow God's path. These
are on the opposite side from the right. They are to be detested and avoided.

Let me close with Dr.
Jedmac's Vision of the King
Through His Bible with
some changes—
A Vision of the King Through the Bible

"Twenty-two years ago, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered this wonderful temple called Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art gallery where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, and Daniel hang on the wall. I passed into the music room of Psalms, where the spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wall of the weeping prophet Jeremiah to the grand impassioned strain of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ of nature responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes, where the voice of the preacher was heard, and into the conservatory of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley's sweet-scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, then into the observatory room of the prophets, where I saw telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events, but all concentrated upon the bright and Morning Star, which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience room of the King of Kings, and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; passed into the Acts of the Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was doing His work in the foundation of the infant Church. Then into the correspondence room, where sat Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, and Jude, penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks, and I got a vision of the King sitting upon His throne in all His glory, and I cried:

"All hail the power of Jesus' Name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!"

Let us study the Bible
God's holy Book of Truth.
The blessed staff of holy age
The guide of early youth.
It's many a dreary road
Its sum blurs its glorious height.
The voice that speaks a Savior's love
And calls us home to God.