# REIMGIC

The Open Bible

BY M. ISAACS

mphasis is being placed on 'The Open Bible," for its benefits, alternatives to things seen and unseen, drawing power, wisdom and doctrines are of no effect until this book is opened and read. This book, which has survived through the ages, contains the MIND OF GOD, THE WAY OF SALVA-TION, THE HAPPINESS OF BE-LIEVERS AND THE STATE OF MAN. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. Many of us own a Bible, but, judging by the character of our society, few open and read it on a regular basis.

Bible doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are

In the Bible paradise is restored, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell revealed. The object of the Bible is Christ Jesus; the design of the Bible is the good of mankind; and the Glory of God, its end. With that, in America and indeed throughout the world, it should fill our memory, rule our hearts and guide our feet. It has been given to us in this life, and will be fulfilled in judgment and will be remembered forever, even by those who have not read and understood. The Bible is the Guide of Life to all Christians who seek to KNOW the Ways of God.

Jesus, The Christis given several names in the Bible that explain and give significance to past, present and true. It is the pilot's compass, the future phases and events and histories

soldier's sword, life traveler's map. of mankind. Jesus is called "The Word", "The Way", "The Light", "The Lily of the Valley", "The Sun of Righteousness", The Lamb Slain for the Sins of the World", "The Rose of Sharon", The Bright and Morning Star", and John 3:16 states: "For God so loved the world, he gave his ONLY BEGOTTEN SON that whosoever believeth should not perish, but have eternal life." Wise Men came from the world's end, bringing to the Christ Child, their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh -- Gold for the King, Frankincense for the High Priest, and Myrrh for the Great Physician.

The Bible explains and elaborates on the five stages of man -- birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension; and God, The Trinity -- God's

Almighty Power, God's All Knowing Wisdom, and God's All Embracing Love. From the Bible, spiritual strength is given to withstand the many temptations and trials of the times.

Those who open and read and believe the Bible are able to stand against the "Winter of Life," to rejoice in the "fruitful Part of Life," to mature spiritually in the "Summer of Life," to be sanctified and justified in "Our Souls or Immortal Part of Life," and to watch, work and maintain soberness in the "Creative Part of Life." The Bible, with these lessons, portray human life with its promises, its disappointments, its expectations, its pains and its glory -- all so dependent upon the source of LIGHT --THE GOD OF ALL.

# St. Mark Baptist Church

103 NE Morris St., Portland, OR 97212

- Sunday School -9:30am
- Sunday Morning Wor-
- ship Service 11:00am Sunday School Teacher's
- Meeting Tues 6:30pm
- Bible Study Wednesday -
- 6:00pm **Prayer Meeting**

Wednesday - 7:00pm

Church Phone Number 287-7457



Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

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# A Society Of Excuses

BY M. ISAACS

n unhealthy, unholy development in our society, which has become more apparent since the ending of World War II, is the offering of excuses for life failures among is a way which seemeth right unto men. We live in the gray area between right and wrong, good and evil, moral and immoral be- young adults have been taught to havior, self-indulgence and the cover faults, and blame others, giving of self for the benefit of rather than face and overcome others; and we tend to cloak all shortcomings; and being good stuthese gray areas in intellectual dents, they do this even to the extent exercises which deny the spiritual man the ability to live above him by natural or carnel men.

Many men/women, in the time frame mentioned, see adand our "enlightened" society uses these circumstances and failures as excuses, reasons, to accept and sustain this inadequate behavior. Rather than understand God's testing-blessing pattern as a means of molding and purifying mankind into better and more honorable people, society perpetuates mankind wallowing in selfpity and bitterness. We, therefore, face several generations of people, void of conscious, compassion and hope.

Public compassion is now expected for serial killers, because (excuse) they had a lousy childhood or they came from a broken home or they were victims of incest and/or rape. Why is society so focused on reasons why these things happen and speculate continually (in news media, talk shows and magazines, etc.) on excuses for the atrocities committed by these sick, hopeless people? It would seem more compassionate and honorable to focus on the victims of these amoral

"Come to me all you who are

meary and heavy laden and I

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11:00am Morning Worship

7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study

and Prayer

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will give you rest."

people, victims families, the living people who have suffered greatly at the hands of these weak, us an antidote for carnal bitter, violent children our society has spawned.

Scripture (Bible) says: "There a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death". Our children, of murder of friend and foe alike.

Status in this society, matethe injustices and wrongs done to rial wealth means more to these generations than human lives and we excuse this behavior by law, in some instances; and consciousless verse circumstances as inflicted people acquire more wealth by on them by other men/women. using these excuses supplied by Their won failure to endure the our "enlightened" society. Hate in they thoughts; and curse not through Christian virtues. It is trials of life result in depression groups are allowed to thrive and the rich in thy bed chamber: for a attack defenseless citizens because of some "quirk" in society's thinking that decides "rights" are entitled, even when a group, or persons breaks the law, injuring or killing other people. Juries are expected to examine "mind-sets", reasons for actions, instead of determining guilt or innocence based on fact and evidence. Rapists are released early from prisons because they, themselves, were raped when young...thus more victims are at their mercy. We excuse everything from obesity to homosexuality; from school bully to rape by Priests; from drug abuser to abortionist; from mercy killings to ritual sacrifice of chil-

Society, as we now perceive it, is/has become spiritually dry and death seems to be the end results of everything man touches. We are a carnal-minded society, seemly bent on self-destruction; all the while proclaiming loudly our "rights"; our god-like mentality and our control over our

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minds, souls and spirits.

The Scriptures (Bible) gives mindedness. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind" and "We have the mind of Christ"; and also, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus". Our nation must return to the Lord; we must have our minds reprogrammed. God Said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts; neither are my ways your ways". If we allow God, He will teach us to think His Thoughts. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister GRACE unto the hearers". Eph. 4:29. Ecclesiastes 10:20 says, "curse not the king, no not bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter". We must cease our discussions about other people, control our forkedtongue." We debate and reason, "What we say about others is truth, therefore permissible to say or discuss. We state, "We don't gossip or spread lies or excuse reprehensible behavior; we are simply relating the truth", therefore, "Why can't we discuss it?" The Scriptures repeatedly tells us,

however, that Christ-minded people must not participate in character evaluations or assassinations of others. This nation must return to the God of our fathers and the greatness which we once

enjoyed. God does not fix us with patches and splints, but with His own parts in which there is no shame, no blame and no excuses. He replaces our lives and nature with His own life and nature. This work is accomplished on the IN-NER PERSON. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2nd. Cor. 5:17. this nation must renew its spiritual foundation, shun the appearance of evil, and take hold of the "freedom" established only through victory in Christ Jesus is righteousness established in all people.

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