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PALMER ON THE BIBLE

In Eloquent Address Dr. Ray Palmer Spoke of Its Value for History, Ethics and Literature.

STUDENTS NEED THE BIBLE

Test of Religion Is Its "Power to Make Bad Men Good," Possessed Alone by the Christian Religion.

Those who braved the inclemency of the weather to go to Fisher's opera house on Sunday afternoon were privileged to listen to a discourse of the highest order. Many regarded it as the best of the series of excellent sermons delivered by Dr. Ray Palmer during his stay in Astoria. It was truly an intellectual and spiritual feast. Dr. Palmer's theme was "The Bible," and was drawn from Matt. xxiv:35: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Dr. Palmer treated the subject under three divisions:
 First. He spoke of the bible itself.
 Second. Of the evidences of its inspiration.
 Third. Of its indestructibility.
 Under the first division the speaker rehearsed with great power and well chosen words the value of the bible as a history, as a book of ethics and as a book of the sublimest works of literature. It was written by inspired men from various walks of life, such as fishermen, kings, priests, lawgivers, prophets, poets, historians and theologians. He said it was invaluable as a text book, and that no student of history could be complete in his study without a thorough view of the bible, because it was the cradle of history. Dr. Palmer said that the bible had inspired the world's greatest artists, and furnished themes for their paintings and statues, instancing Raphael and Michael Angelo. The bible also had inspired many of the world's greatest writers and was quoted or incorporated in much of the best literature. This was illustrated by the many gems taken from the bible by Shakespeare, the world's greatest dramatist, also by the deathbed scene of Sir Walter Scott, the world's greatest historical novelist and one of the world's great poets, who said when dying: "There is but one book and that is the bible."
The Bible Needed in Schools.
 Dr. Palmer said that the bible was needed in all our public schools and colleges as a text book in history, literature and ethics, and that we ought not to allow the devil or anybody else to keep it out of our schools. He would not teach sectarianism in the public schools, but the morals of the bible were needed as well as its historical value and literary worth.
 Under the second division Dr. Palmer compared the evidences of the inspiration of the bible with the evidences of the inspiration of the Koran, the Vedas and other great religions. These all claimed to have come directly from the greatest God of the universe while the bible claimed that it was written by men inspired by God. The mere claim of its divine origin, which it held in common with other sacred books, was not sufficient to satisfy the skeptical inquirer.
A Challenge Test.
 The final test to which he challenged all other religions to meet Christianity was "the power which the bible had to make bad men good." In this challenge, he included Mormonism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism and all others. He cited the condition of Mormons and their practices as evidence of their failure to meet this test. Dr. Palmer claimed that the heathen darkness of the lands where the Koran and the Vedas were taught and obeyed is sufficient proof of the falsity of their claim to divine authorship.
 Under the third division Dr. Palmer showed the indestructibility of the bible by the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Egypt. That at one time it was the center of the world in power and learning, but now insignificant except for its ruins. The bible foretold that it would be one of the least of the nations of the earth. Through thousands of years the bible had stood firm, although kingdoms had arisen and decayed.
To Outlast Gibraltar.
 The speaker said the time might come when even Gibraltar might be washed away by the sea, but even then God's word would stand more firm than ever.
 Dr. Palmer closed with two touching scenes from his own life, one when a little boy he stood at his mother's deathbed. She died at the

age of 32. She kissed her husband and six children goodbye and then sang a hymn—and passed into glory. By this he knew that the bible stands firm even in death and defies its terrors. Again, many years after he and his brothers, two beside himself being ministers of the gospel, with his sisters, gathered at their father's deathbed. Although 92 years of age, his head white as the snow, he died with the bible as his guide to glory and the triumph of Christ's salvation as his crown of life.

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