

**BIBLE THOUGHTS FOR
DAILY LIFE; OR,
FAMILY READINGS FROM
ST. MARK'S GOSPEL**

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Bible Thoughts for Daily Life; Or, Family Readings from St. Mark's Gospel by Mrs. Colin G. Campbell

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MRS. COLIN G. CAMPBELL

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BY

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HOSPITAL AND SICK ROOM VISITORS."

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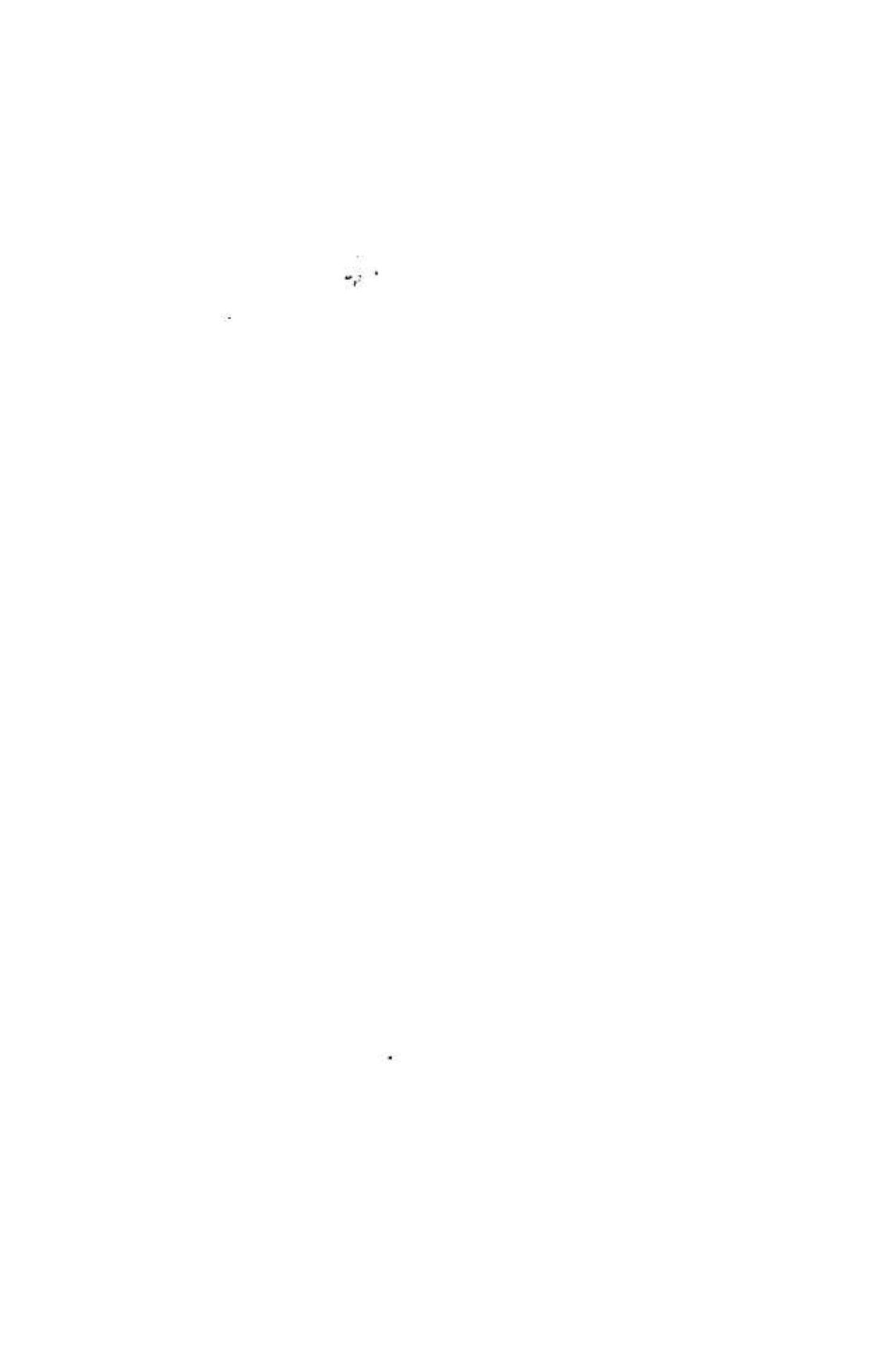
1016. f. 11.



PREFACE.

The object of the following pages is to offer some suggestions and interesting thoughts for family reading. The writer hopes that these thoughts will be found to be practical, and such as can readily link themselves on to the familiar words of the Holy Bible. The many excellent commentaries which have been written, treat fully of controversial and perplexing questions, and as those questions cannot possibly be entered into in the short time usually allotted to the morning family reading, no allusion has been made to them.

O. H. C.



INTRODUCTION.

THE mere letter of Scripture, read without comment or application, too often fails to lay hold of unreflecting minds—especially if much occupied with the businesses or the cares of life: and how few can claim exemption from these! The special efforts of Satan are employed to prevent the Word from entering the heart when it falls upon the outward ear, in the same manner as he attempts (and with such frequent success) to divert our thoughts when engaged in prayer. It is, of course, his interest and his policy to block up, as far as possible, these two principal ways of approaching God. The Spirit of God must indeed “open” and enlighten the heart to attend to, and receive, the message which each verse and word of Scripture conveys. In Lydia’s case, which we may take as a typical one, a blessing was given to the outward explanation of the Word, the Spirit making use of it so as to introduce and bring home to the heart the power of the Word itself.

In the busy whirl of this world’s demands upon us, only a limited time can be allotted to family prayer. Hence the necessity for brevity, and consequently for uttering, in our brief comments, if possible, something pointed, fresh, and stirring: something which, however practical, will convey the germ, at least, of the whole “counsel of God” as regards our salvation.

Even of those who habitually hear the Scriptures read, and perhaps read them themselves, how few are there who seem to have any clear and definite idea of "what" they "must do to be saved"—of God's way of peace, God's way of holiness, God's path to glory! Truly precious, then, are those few moments in each day, when the members and servants of a household are brought together to hear about the "one thing needful," and to seek together, in that little interval of stillness, for pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace; for more knowledge of a Saviour, for comfort under sorrow, relief under pain, strength under temptation, and for daily preservation and blessing, both in the things of time and of eternity!

The author of the following comments desires to convey some streams of living water to those who are thirsty: to speak "a word in season to him that is weary:" to lead others to that "fulness of joy," that unutterable satisfaction and rest of heart and soul which experience only can realize, which Heaven's teaching alone can impart, and which, as the world can never give it, so the world can never take it away.

May all these results be fully realized in this effort to glorify Him on Whose head are many crowns, and Who will not forget even the cup of cold water offered, in His name, to those for whom He has died!

G. V. CHICHESTER,

Rector of Wotton, Surrey.

March, 1884.

BIBLE THOUGHTS FOR DAILY LIFE.

ST. MARK I. 1-8.

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God ;

2. As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5. And there went out unto him all the land of Judæa, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

6. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins ; and he did eat locusts and wild honey ;

7. And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.