

CHARMS OF THE BIBLE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649397815

Charms of the Bible by Jesse Bowman Young

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JESSE BOWMAN YOUNG

**CHARMS OF
THE BIBLE**

CHARMS OF THE BIBLE

A Fresh Appraisalment

By
JESSE BOWMAN YOUNG, D.D., LITT.D.



NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS
CINCINNATI: JENNINGS & GRAHAM

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CHARMS OF THE BIBLE

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul:
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart:
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever:
The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold,
Sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned:
In keeping of them there is great reward.

—Psa. 19. 7-11.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Collect from the Book of Common Prayer.

A glory gilds the sacred page,
Majestic like the sun;
It gives a light to every age—
It gives, but borrows none.

—William Cowper.

PREFATORY

To call forth in fresh array the beauties of the Scripture; to illustrate by pertinent citations and in systematic order those features of the Book which invest it with perennial attractiveness; and to indicate anew the main reasons which underlie its supremacy in the world—these are the aims of this volume.

This supremacy—considered in view of the Bible's literary qualities, its gradually perfected moral standards, its world-wide scope and message, its vitalizing religious doctrines, and its fadeless portrait of the Perfect Man; and especially when brought into comparison with the status and claims of other so-called sacred books, representing various pagan faiths—gives this Book a place which, like that occupied by the sun in the solar system, is unique, central, commanding.

This place of intellectual and moral rulership it holds to-day over a vaster realm than ever before—an empire which enlarges year by year, and thus steadily increases the multitudes in many lands who are able to say with one of the poets of ancient Israel, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psa. 119. 105

On the other hand, there are hosts of people who deliberately neglect or carelessly ignore the Bible, by reason of absorption in matters pertaining entirely to this life, or perhaps on account of an agnostic, worldly,