

## **BIBLE ON THE MOON**

Harry Foster

THE moon is dry and airless. This means that matter does not decay up there. The instruments and flags which the astronauts left behind after their various visits will still be there at any future time when man may land there again. As a matter of fact nobody plans to land on the moon again, so it seems that the different human articles left there will remain forever unused and undisturbed.

Two years or so ago, when Apollo 15 landed its commander, David Scott, and another astronaut on the moon, they finished their assignment and when they blasted off again they left behind a Bible. So there is a Bible on the moon. It is interesting and rather wonderful that the Word of God should have been honored in this way but, apart from the curiosity, there does not seem to be much value in their action. In some senses, that Bible is a wasted message.

We are not told that God loved the moon, but we are told that He loved the world. God did not send His Son to the moon, but He did send Him to this earth of ours. God has not given any life to the moon -- it is a completely lifeless planet -- but He made provision for eternal life to be given to those who live on the earth. So there is a sense in which we may say that God has no message for the moon, and therefore the Bible deposited there is really a wasted book.

Not that this matters. There are so many other copies of God's Word in the earth that just one may well be spared as a relic to be left on the deserted surface of the moon. The sad thing is, though, that this is not the only wasted Bible. How many more copies of this wonderful book, with its thrilling message of love, are just as neglected as though they were lying up there among the moon dust. Nobody opens them. Nobody reads them. Nobody seeks light from God from their pages. Nobody makes use of them to receive the message of life through Christ the Saviour. A Bible on the bookshelf, a Bible in the attic, can be just as closed and powerless as that Bible on the moon.

It was an English Bible. In China and in Russia they cherish the few Bibles that there are, because it is difficult, and sometimes almost impossible, to obtain a copy. Why, in some of those countries, one page of the Scriptures is treasured and valued beyond everything else that the owner possesses. We English people have so many of them that we are apt to despise them. Perhaps if the Word went round that there was only one Bible and that was lying on the moon, men might be more anxious to recover and read it. It is interesting to realize that even if every copy of the Word of God were destroyed down here on this earth, there would still be a fadeless, fresh copy stored away on the moon.

But it should not be stored there so far as you are concerned. And it should not be stored in the church or in your bookcase only. It should be stored in your heart. For this is not like any other book; it is a life-giving message from God. The psalmist tells us what he had done with his Bible: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart" (Psalm 119:11) and he tells us why he had done this: "... that I might not sin against thee." The Bible keeps us from sin. But more than this, it tells us of God's remedy for sin which is the sacrifice of Christ our Saviour.

What have you done with God's Word? Have you left it as a dead museum piece, like the Bible on the moon? It need not be so. You do not have to be blasted off into space and journey a long way to find God's message of love. All you have to do is to open your heart to its living message and find how willing the Lord Jesus is to come into your heart and stay there with you.

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