

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(By a few brethren in Chicago who prefer to remain anonymous.)

(Reprint page 4472, start with bottom four lines, column 2) "As for our-selves, we can only say that we are so satisfied with the divine plan that we could not part with a single feature of it. During the 35 years of the harvest time in which we have been proclaiming these truths, we have had nothing to discard, nothing to reject as erroneous. On the other hand, our pathway as promised, has been shining more and more as it led onward. No steps have needed to be retraced. We have no expectation that the Lord leads his people in a wrong way for 35 years, nor for 17 years, and will then need to wake them up to retrace their steps. On the contrary, 'Our King is marching on' and all who are following him will continue to find that he leads in a right way and that their 'pathway shineth more and more unto the perfect day.'" (Written in 1909.)

(Reprint page 4474, first sentence of first paragraph - 1909) "The fact is that we are teaching no new doctrine and disowning no old doctrine."

(Reprint page 4684 col. 2, par. 3 - 1910) "The application of the Scripture Studies are, of course, based upon those of the Lord and the Apostles. We do not feel that it would be in our province to give an interpretation except that which would be either already given by our Lord and the Apostles or such as would fit and dovetail with their interpretations as to leave, in our judgment, no doubt as to the proper application of the Scriptures referred to and explained."

(Reprint page 4685 par. 4 and 5 - 1910) "Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by it-self, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the Scripture studies aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years--if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he merely read the Scripture Studies with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures. Our thought, therefore, is that these .Scripture Studies are a great assistance, a very valuable help, in the understanding of God's Word. If these books are to be of any value to us it must be because we see in them loyalty to the word of God, and as far as our judgment goes, see them to be in full harmony with the word and not antagonistic to it." (col. 2, par. 4 and 5) "This is not, therefore, putting the Scripture Studies as a substitute for the Bible, because so far as substituting for the Bible, the Studies, on the contrary, continually refer to the Bible; . . . We might remark that quite

a number of the friends in the Truth are making it a rule to read twelve pages of the Scripture Studies a day, and that we do not know one who has been following this course and making use of the various means of grace the Lord provided who has gone out of the truth."

(Reprint page 4736, col. 2, par. 7 - 1911) "We have no fault to find with the chronology, nor with the prophetic periods built upon it, as already presented to our readers in STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. We would not know how to improve on the statements therein presented if the books were to be written today."

(Reprint page 4744, col. 2, par. 6 and 8 - 1911) "The above illustrates a principle to which we have already called attention time and again. We find what we seek! Those who approach the Bible with earnest desire to find in it God's Message will be guided of the Lord. . . The same principle holds true with the Scripture Studies. Those who so desire can pick flaws in the Bible and turn and twist its statements into unreason; they can also similarly pick to pieces the divine plan of the ages.

(Reprint page 4753 col. 2, par. 4 - 1911) "While our hands are so full of important work, and while the Church evidently needs to study more deeply the Six Volumes already possessed. . .

(Reprint page 4772, col. 2, par. 2 - 1911) "If in any class of Bible Students, STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES BE NEGLECTED, WEAKNESS, WORLDLINESS, LOVE OF pleasure, lack of zeal in the Lord's service, etc., are sure to manifest themselves."

(Reprint page 4822, col. 1, par. 6 - 1911) "But while considering these perplexities, and considering also the fact that we have no fault to find with the chronological features of the Bible, our mind is directed to an old Scripture which suddenly seems to have a new importance."

(Reprint. page 4909 par. 1 - 1911) ". . . Show him also the SCRIPTURE STUDIES and in a few, moderate, well-chosen words let him know your estimation of them and how you wish that all Christians could have them and obtain from them the same blessing which you and thousands of other Christian men and women have experienced."

(Reprint page 5143, col. 2, par. 14 - 1912) "We urge all the dear brethren that they keep up the regular reading of the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, ten to twelve pages a day, wholly regardless of the Berean lessons. What will be read will be so much of aid in connection with the lesson studies."

(Reprint page 5347, col. 1, top - 1913) "We wish the dear friends to feel assured that if our judgment changes respecting any important truths we will put the change before all THE WATCH TOWER readers as speedily as possible. Until you see such changes mentioned in THE WATCH TOWER give no credit to them; esteem the statements of the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES just as though they were written yesterday and direct to yourself."

(Reprint page 5450, col. 2, par. 5 - 1914) "The chronology seems as strong as ever to the Editor. He sees nothing to alter or amend."

(Reprint page 5794, par. 7 and 8 - 1915) "We have recently heard of a colporteur who felt a little hesitancy about selling STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES in view of their reference to the year 1914, and who, therefore, turned his attention to the sale of SCENARIOS. In our opinion the brother took a wrong view of matters. STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES are not prophecies. The fact that our expectations respecting the 'change' of the church in 1914 were not realized does not signify that the prophecies failed. Our readers should know that we never prophesied anything. We merely gave our opinions respecting prophecies and gave the reader the reasons for those opinions, showing the chapter and verse. . . What the Scriptures did clearly seem to teach, and what we did seek positively to affirm, was that, so far as the Bible chronology would show, the times of the Gentiles would expire with the fall of 1914.

(Col. 2, par. 14 and 5) "Any who are not rejoicing, but who, on the contrary, are feeling discouraged, despondent and disappointed and ashamed of the truth, have evidently wrong impressions. . . We know of nothing so good to give them as the six volumes of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. In our opinion they need no change nor alteration. . . We urge the colporteurs, therefore, not to permit any misconception or false shame to interfere with their scattering of the only literature in the world that gives an accurate and reasonable account of the Bible pro-gram, and that has shown in advance experiences upon which the world has already begun to enter."

(Volume III, Author's Foreword, page 1, par. 2 - Oct. 1, 1916) "Although we disclaim anything akin to inspiration in connection with these STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, nevertheless we are glad that because we are in the dawning of the New Dispensation, the light of Truth is shining so clearly and the Divine Plan is so manifest that scarcely a word of the Volume would need to be changed if it were written today--26 years later."