

# THE BOOK

... the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible,"  
and which contains Four Great Treasures ...

## by BRUCE BARTON

### PAUL VISITS ATHENS

PAUL was a doughty fighter and he had good need to be. He and Barnabas were now ready to start on another missionary journey and a longer one. But they had a quarrel. Paul would not go if Mark went along, and Barnabas would not leave Mark behind.



Bruce Barton

And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other; and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Paul did not get on very well. He met a series of hindrances and changed his route several times. At length he came to Troas, the site of ancient Troy, where he fell ill and saw in a vision a man of Macedonia, saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Read carefully the next sentence (Acts 16:10); it is notable for its pronouns:

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia.

Where do we get this we? Who is it that comes into the narrative just at this point, under the shelter of this little word "we"? I is the physician-author, Doctor Luke.

From here on the book of Acts

is made up of two kinds of material, that which says "we" and that which says "he" or "they." The "we" sections show the times when Luke was present; the rest of the story he got from others.

And now the good news took on a new character. Paul had crossed into Europe and found a fresh field. He preached in Philippi, in Thessalonica, which is modern Salonica, in Berea, and even in proud Athens. That sophisticated city was the capital of the smart world.

For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.

Partly out of curiosity, partly from genuine intellectual interest, the Athenians allowed Paul to make his way up to Mars Hill and there set forth this new religion of which he was the representative. It was a keen test of his mental agility and he met it nobly.

Ye men of Athens (he began), I perceive that in all things ye are very religious. (Nothing in that to give offense.)

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

A magnificent flank attack. Sophisticated and cynical as they were, he had piqued their curiosity. They must hear about this unknown God or run the risk of missing some important "new thing," so they stood quietly and allowed him to finish.

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## TODAY and TOMORROW

by FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

### LOTTERIES . . . and morals

The whole subject of lotteries has been opened afresh by the action of the New York Municipal Assembly in adopting a plan for a city lottery to raise funds for the relief of the destitute.

That is an ancient and still popular way to raise money for public or charitable purposes. It seems to me that there is a decided difference between a commercial lottery operated for private profit and a public lottery in which the bulk of the money paid for tickets goes to a worthy purpose.

The outcry against any form of lottery, which has been embodied in the laws of every state and in the constitutions of some, is based upon the supposed debasing effect upon the winners, and the temptation to the poor to waste their scanty resources in the hope of winning a big prize.

I am not prepared to subscribe to the doctrine that it is a function of government to regulate any individual's private morals.

### GAMBLING . . . large and small

Where one should draw the line between the lotteries, gambling, speculation and the taking of risks in business is a matter that I have never been able to determine to my own satisfaction.

In a sense we are all gamblers. We use the term ordinarily to apply to games of chance, in which skill may or may not have a dominant part. The golfer who bets a ball a hole on his game is as much a gambler as the lady who plays bridge for a prize; no more and no less.

It seems to me that most betting is foolish, because the betters have no control over the outcome of the thing they are betting on.

But most people are foolish, anyway, and so long as that is so there will always be plenty to bet on the outcome of the World's Series or the chance of throwing seven in a crap game.

### SPECULATION . . . its scope

The Federal Government has im-

posed upon the Stock Exchange and the other public markets for securities and commodities, regulations intended to curb speculation. About one million persons, considerably less than one per cent of the population of the country, were engaged in speculation when the big crash of 1929 came. Many got out with profits; those who lost made a lot of noise about it.

The ones who lost had nobody to blame but themselves. They were the "easy marks" who think money can be made by people who don't know how to make it. No sane person would go into the grocery or hardware business without knowing something about it, or expect to make money out of it without giving it all of his attention, day and night. Yet folks who had been successful enough in their own businesses to accumulate a surplus went into stock market operations without knowing the first thing about the market, and risked their capital in an enterprise over which they could exercise no control.

That sort of speculation is pure insanity. But that doesn't mean that all "margin trading" is foolish or speculative.

### LAND . . . and values

I was in Iowa in 1917 when the big farm land boom was rising to its height. Farmers were paying from \$300 to \$600 an acre for ordinary farm land. Sensible men knew that there wasn't an acre in Iowa that could earn interest on such prices, but that wasn't what these buyers were thinking of. They were thinking of selling the land next week at a profit. By and by the crop of suckers failed, and the last buyers were left holding the land.

Much of the distress among farmers has its root in land purchases

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at exorbitant prices, on partial payments with a mortgage on which the land can never earn interest.

I was in Florida all through the great land boom there. It was the western farm boom over again in a different setting. People bought lots, not because they had any use for them or because they were worth what they contracted to pay, but in the hope of selling them tomorrow at a huge profit. For a while it worked. Then, again, the crop of suckers failed.

Iowa land and Florida land and corporation stocks and all the other commodities in which men have speculated and lost have real value, readily determined. I think that anything to prevent free trading in such things is contrary to the public interest and runs against the American tradition.

What is needed is wider education in what constitutes real value.

### LUCK . . . always a factor

There is no question that the element of luck plays an important part in all human affairs. Turn to the right instead of to the left and you may meet the man or the situation which will determine your whole future, which you would not have met had you turned to the left.

But luck is accidental, and those who stake anything of material value on it are taking unnecessary chances. Nobody can foresee the future. In a minute anything can happen which will change the whole course of human events.

I know a man who had just opened a restaurant on Market Street when the San Francisco earthquake occurred and ruined him. A cousin of mine cancelled his passage on the Titanic, only to be killed five days later in an airplane crash at Hendon.

The only safe rule of life is to earn your money by the methods of which you are a master, spend less than you earn, and put your surplus into commodities of enduring value at prices no higher than their permanent worth.

### Blossomtown

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Mann, of Georgia, have moved in their new home, which was recently completed.

The Rev. Bloxham, rector of the St. Agnes Episcopal church, Franklin, preached at the County Home last Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Pearl Stiles, of Franklin, spent a few nights last week with her sister, Mrs. Irene Southard.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Holbrooks and children and Jerry Holbrooks were visiting in South Carolina Sunday.

Alex Southard made a business trip to Cartoogechaye one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Doek Stockton and son, Furman and Mr. and Mrs. Thad Dowdle attended the singing convention at Franklin Sunday.

Bertie Nell Southard, of Cartoogechaye, spent Sunday with Dorothy Southard.

Mr. and Mrs. Thad Dowdle were in Clayton, Ga., shopping last Friday.

\*Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Long were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lester Southard Sunday afternoon.

Elbert Carpenter spent Sunday and Sunday night with Lester Southard.

Jerry Holbrooks spent Saturday morning in Franklin.

Miss Blanche Carpenter motored to Highlands Sunday.

Eva Lee and her mother were in Franklin shopping a few days ago.

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6:45 P. M. Leaves Brevard	Ar. A. M. 9:50
7:35 P. M. Leaves Sapphire	Ar. A. M. 8:55
8:15 P. M. Leaves Highlands	Ar. A. M. 8:05
8:45 P. M. Leaves Gneiss	Ar. A. M. 7:35
8:55 P. M. Leaves Cullasaja	Ar. A. M. 7:25
9:10 P. M. Leaves Franklin	Ar. A. M. 7:15
P. M.	A. M.

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\* Note—for your protection: The remarkable success of Vicks drops—for nose and throat—has brought scores of imitations. The trade-mark Va-tro-nol is your protection in getting this exclusive Vicks formula. Always ask for Vicks Va-tro-nol.

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