

PRINTED IN A BOOK

“Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!” (Job 19:23-24 KJV)

Job believed in the resurrection. This truth was so important that he wanted his words to be printed in a book or graven in stone so that future generations could read them.

There was a Biblical precedent for such thinking. God commanded Moses to write down things for future generations (Ex. 17:14; 34:27; Deut. 27:3) The Hebrew people were to write the Law on the door posts of their homes and tied as symbols on their hands and foreheads (Deut. 6:4 - 9). God commanded Jeremiah to write His words in a book (Jer. 30:2). Ezekiel was commanded to write the Laws of God in the sight of the Israelites (Ez. 43:11). Etc.

Gutenberg invented the moveable type printing press and the first major work he printed was the Holy Bible. He wrote: *“God suffers because of the great multitudes whom His sacred Word cannot reach. Religious truth is captive in a small number of manuscript books which guard the treasures. Let us break the seal which holds the holy things; give wings to the truth that by a means no longer written at great expense by the hand that wearies itself, but multiplied by an unwearied machine, it may fly to every soul born in the world”.*

Unfortunately, the communists appear to be more aware of the power of the printed page than Christians. Milton Martin in his article *“The Power of the Printed Page”* points out that every year the communists print three pieces of literature for every man, woman, and child on earth. In one large Latin American country, they have 22 daily communists newspapers and 32 weekly publications. In Mexico City alone there are at least 28 communists bookstores. Karl Marx wrote just one book, *Das Kapital*, yet his teaching dominates 20 countries and almost two billion souls. When Lenin took over Russia he said: *“the people will never believe or understand communism unless they are indoctrinated with communism by the printed page”.* The communists proudly boast: *“Let the missionaries teach the people to read; we will provide them with literature.”* Today in some areas of India, 70 % of all literature is printed by the communists.

Someone has said:

“The printed page never flinches, never grows tired, never gets discouraged; it works while we sleep; it travels cheaply and requires no hired halls; it never loses its temper; and it continues to work long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back”.

While most of us will never be famous authors, we can still have an impact on others by what we write. In 1860 a little girl from Westfield, New York, named Grace Bedell, promised to get her brothers to vote for Abraham Lincoln if he would grow a beard. She continued that he “would be much improved in appearance, provided you would cultivate whiskers. You would look a great deal better as your face is so thin, all the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President.” The rest is history. Mr. Lincoln was the first president in American history to wear a beard.

Anne Frank was one of six million Jews put to death by Adolf Hitler. One thing, however, that distinguished her from others is that she wrote a diary. After her death it was first published in its original Dutch, then in English. It became one of the world’s most widely read books and has been made into numerous plays and movies.

On Oct. 31, 1971 James A. Deitz wrote a brief poem in the form of a prayer. He died Aug. 17, 1974, and his beautiful prayer was discovered by his family after his passing. Someone quipped that the faintest pencil mark is better than the best memory. This is true! So if you have something to say to some you love, be like Job and write it down. His prayer for immortality has been answered, for his words are indeed written in a book, the Holy Bible. Now we know that though heaven and earth pass away, the words of Job will not.