

Of the incomparable treasure of the holy

Scriptures, with a prayer for the true use of the same.

Here is the spring where waters flow, to quench our heat of sin:	(Isa. 12:3 and 49:10; Rom. 5:16 and 6:17)
Here is the tree where truth doth grow, to lead our lives therein:	(Jer. 33:15 and Ps. 119:160)
Here is the judge that stints the strife, when men's devices fail:	(Rev. 2:7 and 22:2; Ps. 119:142,144)
Here is the bread that feeds the life, that death cannot assail.	(John 6:35)
The tidings of salvation dear, comes to our ears from hence:	(Luke 2:10)
The fortress of our faith is here, and shield of our defense.	(Eph. 6:16)
Then be not like the hog that hath a pearl at his desire,	(Matt. 7:6)
And takes more pleasure in the trough and wallowing in the mire.	(2 Pet. 2:22)
Read not this book in any case, but with a single eye:	(Matt. 6:22)
Read not but first desire God's grace, to understand thereby.	(Ps. 119:27,73)
Pray still in faith with this respect, to fructify therein,	(Jude 20)
That knowledge may bring this effect, to mortify thy sin.	(Ps. 119:11)
Then happy thou in all thy life, what so to thee befalls.	(Josh. 1:8)
Yea, double happy shalt thou be, when God by death thee calls.	(Ps. 1:12; 94:12,13)

O Gracious God and most merciful Father, which hast vouchsafed us the rich and precious jewel of thy holy word, assist us with thy spirit, that it may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort, to reform us, to renew us according to thine own Image, to build us up, and edify us into the perfect building of thy Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The preceding poem and prayer, from the 1599 Geneva Bible (the source copy for this edition), has been itself updated in accordance with standards we employed with the full Bible text and its annotations, as explained in the Preface. —Editor