

the grace of God no one of us would deserve anything good at His hands but as a result of the preaching of the gospel, the result of the Christian ~~en~~ environment ~~effect~~- affecting us, and the result of the Holy Spirit working ~~in-our-hea-~~ in us has improved us in many points but we have a long, long, ways to go before we are ~~we~~ conformed to the image of ^{Christ} ~~God's grace~~-and so every one of us, we are not at a certain level, ~~we~~ our goodness ~~is-not~~ has not risen to this level. We are good in this regard and bad in that regard. It's up and down, up and down, and we are, everyone of us, a mass of contradictions. God wants us to learn to let His Spirit enter into our hearts, and search and examine ~~ed-b-~~ and bring to the surface so we can see the places where we are wrong and lead us to understand and see how we can improve and how we can the Spirit of God can come into our hearts and change us and ~~reform-us-to-~~ conform us to His image. Jonah was a man of contradictions, so are we, but Oh, how different the Bible is from most human books. You read the life of some human being and if it is written by some of his enemies, you see what a bad man he was, and if it was written by some of his admirers, you see what a perfect man he was. But comparatively rarely do you see a man with his good and his bad, with his aspirations, and with his frustrations, with his successes and with his failures, and, incidentally, here is a truth that the Bible is God's word, ~~the-Bible--Bible-is-the~~ The Old Testament was in a sense the national literature of Israel. This is the book that the Israelites followed and loved and gave their lives for, and yet you will never find anything anywhere that speaks more strongly of the wickedness of the Israelites ~~that~~ than does the O.T. You don't find any other nation exalting as ~~is~~ its wonderful literature books that point out its weakness and its sin the way the Bible does. And look at this story of Jonah here. Look at the way it ends up, with the picture it gives you of Jonah's character. How did such a book ~~ever~~ get preserved if a man had no use for Jonah, He wouldn't have bothered to ~~bring-~~ bring these facts back ~~to-~~ from Nineveh, back to Israel and write them up in a