

Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati 405 West Seventh Street Cincinnati, OH 45203 (513) 381-3858 <u>www.union-baptist.net</u> Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

## **EXALT HIM**

"Be still and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world." Psalm 46:10 (NLT)

Since its first publication in 1880, Lew Wallace's novel Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ has never been out of print. It has been called the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century, and it continues to draw readers today as it weaves the true story of Jesus with that of fictional young Jewish nobleman named Judah Ben-Hur.

Amy Lifson, writing in <u>Humanities</u> magazine, said that the writing of the book transformed the life of the author." As Ben-Hur guided readers through the scenes of the Passion, so did he lead the way for Lew Wallace to believe Jesus Christ." Wallace said, "I have seen the Nazarene....I saw him perform works which no mere man could perform."

The Gospels' record of the life of Jesus allows us to walk alongside Him, witness His miracles, hear His words, and see His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday. At the conclusion of John's gospel, he wrote, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31).

Just as Lew Wallace's research, reading of the Bible, and writing led him to believe in Jesus, so God's Word draws us to a transformation of mind and heart by which we have eternal life in and through Him. AMEN.

Lord, may the record of your life be written on our minds and hearts so that we may have ever-increasing faith in you. AMEN.

Many books can <u>inform</u>, but only the Bible can <u>transform</u>. AMEN.

## Dave Branson

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

