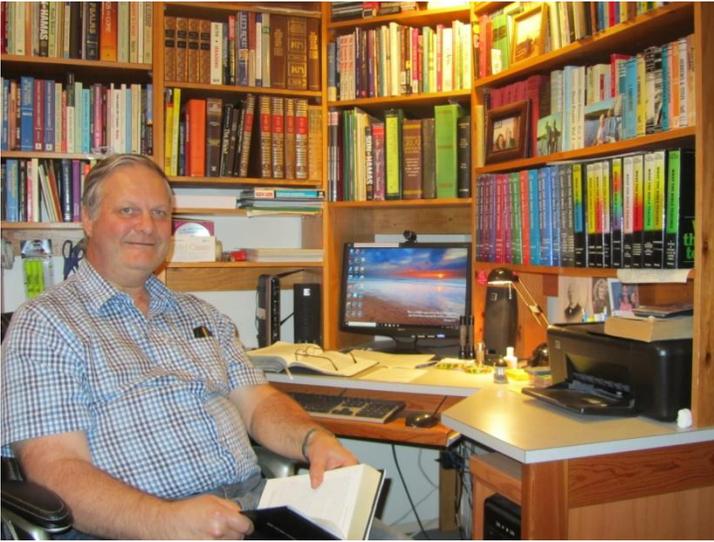


# *Correspondent's Corner*

## **The Best Book**

**March, 2019**



The story of Ivan Panin who was born in Russia on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1855 is a very interesting story. He grew up as a nihilist which is someone who generally rejects the common view of morality and belief in God.

He was involved in plots to overthrow the Czar and his government. He died at Aldershot, Ontario, Canada on October 30, 1942 at age 87. He was an agnostic who was exiled from Russia and then studied in Germany for a number of years. Ivan then moved to the U. S. A. where he became a literary critic. In 1890 Ivan was reading the first chapter of John where we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Ivan wondered why in the original Greek the definite article "the" was before the first title "God" but not in the second title "God." He then noticed that the words of this verse had a numeric pattern. In the Greek language the number system is in the Greek alphabet. In other words in Greek different letters have different numeric values. The same holds true for the Hebrew language which has its number system in the Hebrew alphabet. Ivan Panin's studies of the prolific numeric patterns found in the Bible soon convinced him that the hand of God must be recognized in His Word. The agnostic Ivan Panin then trusted the Lord Jesus as his own personal Saviour. History tells us that the newspapers carried headlines of Ivan's conversion to Christ. Ivan Panin then devoted the next fifty years of his life to the study of and recording of these patterns.

According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over **5 billion copies** sold and distributed as of this year. The statistics are staggering concerning this Book of Books. It is no wonder though because the Bible is the Word of God and the message it contains for humankind is, according to its pages, the only hope for humanity beyond the grave. Acts 4:12 says: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There have been many attacks against the Bible throughout history but the Bible has withstood them all. The Bible will continue to withstand the opposition, God has promised its perpetuity (Psalm 12:6, 7; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:25).

On a personal note, since trusting the Lord Jesus as my own personal Saviour in mid-February 1977 there have been a multitude of times that the Scriptures have been a great help to me. In many varied circumstances the Bible brought me through difficulties. One such difficulty is a recent one with my health. After four years of doctors and specialists they haven't settled on a positive diagnosis as of today. One morning in early 2017 around 2:00 am I was up and prayed that the Lord would give me some help with it all. I opened up my Bible and read in the Old Testament prophet Joel. My thought was there would not likely be any help in that little book. I kept reading though and not until chapter 3 verse 10 did I find the help I was looking for. The end of the verse says "let the weak say, I am strong." I thanked the Lord and went back to sleep trusting things were in His hands. The Bible is a living book and speaks to our hearts if we let it.

Read through the Gospel of John where you will find the greatest love story of all. John 15:13 says: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." It is no mystery as to who the One is that has the greatest love and who He laid down His life for, namely us in our sins.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this article by using the contact form on the "Contact Us" page. I will respond with no obligation on your part.