

## Study 19: The Christ of the Church

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### SIXTH DAY: THE MIND OF CHRIST IS REPRODUCED IN THE BELIEVER

1. The Christian life and character are a powerful proof of the truth of the apostolic gospel because they issue from devotion to Jesus Christ as He is set forth in the New Testament. The Christian of to-day boasts in the language of Paul that he is the slave of Christ. What must Christ be if this profession of servitude to Himself which His disciples have acknowledged through our era has not degraded the devotees? Is any mortal man sufficiently perfect, so safe in his judgments and sympathies as to be chosen for the ideal of the race? Why does a man who is worshiped or slavishly followed so soon become debased and degrade his admirers?

2. But the slavery of Christ has resulted in the highest freedom (Gal. 5:13), and in the truest and most heroic types of manhood. Frequently in history it is known that men of power have gathered round a hero with boundless admiration of him, but the next generation presents the world with successors who, being out of touch with the living personality, only copy slavishly the vices or the superficial virtues of their heroic type. They fall into a deadly worship of the letter. But it is not so with Christ. To-day He produces as heroic, original and virile manhood as He did in the first century.

3. The worship of Jesus is not a literal copying of His earthly life. His surroundings and works in Galilee cannot be reproduced to-day. We live in a different world. Who would profess to work His miracles, or even to apply every saying of His literally to the present? That life of Galilee was not exhausted by its contemporary appreciation. The teaching and principles of Christ are simple but profound, and are to be fathomed only by the repeated searchings of every age, just as in tropical seas there are treasures which seem to lie within reach, but are brought to the surface only by great toil in the depths.

4. The Christian character springs from "the mind of Jesus" (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5; Heb. 10:9, 10; 1 John 4:12-17). This is discovered chiefly in the gospels, and to-day to the great blessing of Christendom they are being studied more closely than ever. The dew seems to be always upon them as in the morning of a new day. These gospels make the mind of Christ concrete to us. His eternal, loving Spirit becomes more real and human to us, as we listen to His words and read His character in His works and conduct. We follow in His steps by allowing His living Spirit to direct us in the way that Jesus would walk were He now incarnate again on earth (1 Peter 2:21).