

RELIGION AS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

witnesses with our spirit to the divinity of these writings, that those who wrote them had a right to speak in His name.

But at last, as men rejoiced in these partial glimpses of God, they were fitted for a fuller friendship, and He came among them in the form of man that they might speak to Him face to face, might see Him as He was, and thus know the full depths of His friendship for them. In Christ we have the fullest revelation which God has given of Himself, and that revelation culminates in His death on Calvary, because in that death He gave the measure of His love to men, and of the reality of the friendship He came to show by His life and by His death. The Gospels give us the accounts of eye-witnesses of that life, men who were His friends, who belonged to the little company called by Christ himself "My friends." They enjoyed that close fellowship with His earthly life that enabled them to describe it truly to the world, and in the gospels we have from four or more different pens a composite picture of the life and words of our Lord. We know it is true, not because these four accounts are in exact verbal agreement, for they differ in a hundred ways, to an