

be definitely understood that if Christ were not sinless and Divine He would be lower, not higher, than all who have lived holly on earth; for then His claims would be false, and His personality stained with the poor vice of self-satisfaction." Strauss admits that if Christ really advanced the claims which are set forth in the Gospels, he "should lose faith in His excellences as a man." These are remarkable words of Lessing: "If Christ is not truly God, then Mohammedanism was an undoubted improvement upon the Christian religion. Mahomet, on such a supposition, would indisputably have been far more veracious, more circumspect and more zealous for the honor of God." There is no escape from the great dilemma. Either we must cease to revere Christ as a good man or we must bow before Him in adoration and hail Him Lord of all. The appeal has been "Back to Christ." By this test we are prepared to abide. When St. Peter in answer to our Lord's challenge made his great confession, his faith rested upon convictions to which he was impelled by the facts of Christ's earthly life and the spiritual experiences it awakened in him. As Dr. Forrest has ably demonstrated, there is no contradiction between the historical and the spiritual; the latter to be real must rest upon the former. The experience of the Christian Church would be worthless were it not founded upon the great redemptive facts recorded in the Gospels. On the other hand, it is only in the light of a genuine spiritual experience that the facts themselves can be truly appreciated. Our right position is at the feet of the Christ. "Come to Me," He pleads; "learn of Me."

To the question of Nathanael, Philip's answer, "Come and see," presents at once the simplest and the profoundest apologetics. In a time of stress and conflict, when our Lord suggested "the possibility, yet the incredibility, of His desertion by the Twelve," it is St. Peter who replies, "To whom shall we go?" Admitting that there are difficulties, problems that perplex and confound us, to whom shall we carry them? Who will do more for us than Christ? Who will give us clearer guidance? As has been well said, "Simon Peter could stand with His Master in a minority. He accepts Christ, hard sayings and all. He looks at every hard saying in the light of Christ, not at Christ in the light of the hard saying."

Christ cannot fail us. Let us not fear to trust Him. "I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life." And that Light, we know, "shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

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