

than a study—yet it is a study. He who is without knowledge is without religion, “For he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him.” He who comes to God seeks truth and submits to its claims.

Man's first religious step is submission. He grounds the weapons of his warfare and submits his heart to God. A man cannot be accountable for that of which he is ignorant; he must know, and his first spiritual act is heart submission. This places him on the right side of the line of separation between the world and christianity. Whenever this step is taken man is conscious of the fact, conscious that it is the turning point of his life—that he is at the beginning of a new career. He has submitted to the truth, to God's truth, not that every truth is understood and obeyed, but all known truth is submitted to, with an honest desire to know more and a deliberate determination to obey all truth discovered in future. Thus religion is a state of mind, or heart, and will, and secures that which nothing else can, namely: practical heart-satisfying experience of saving truth. Every one in this state of mind will live the life of Christ—will do the work of Christ.

It is very evident that undue importance may be given to the letter, we must not rely upon a mere knowledge of the truth; undue importance may also be attached to ceremony—the bible itself may be superstitiously relied upon. Ceremony may be worthless, the Spirit cannot be; external observance may be mockery and an injury. Right action devoid of the spirit is without merit. On the other hand we can conceive of the right spirit when the outward act cannot be performed, and it is meritorious, even when its necessity is unknown. But the spiritual state of mind will not permit the neglect of known duty, ceremonial or otherwise. The spiritual state has no desire to avoid duty, its meat and its drink is to do the will of God, but it will not inspire with a knowledge of duty—that is a matter of study. The Spirit of God is not given to construe sentences. When Jesus says: “The words that I have spoken unto you are spirit and are life.” He does not mean that all who hear them will be imbued with spirit and life. No, it is this, if we understand and obey the truth contained in His words, they will move, start into action, spiritual life in man. A ceremony may be very important as a symbolic exhibition of a fact, or an object lesson teaching truth, or belief. In such cases the more important thing, or the essential thing, is the state of mind repre-