

"We see that the ethnic religions can only be understood when viewed in relation to Christianity, and Christianity cannot be fully understood unless viewed in relation to these religions." We should try to grasp the spiritual problems with which the races and nations of the earth have been wrestling, and ponder the solutions they have furnished, then shall we see more clearly the one true solution that Christianity furnishes. We should learn the answers other religions have given to the great questions of the soul, then shall we understand better the nature of that satisfying answer that has been given in Christ. We should look with the utmost candour upon the ideas and ideals set forth by other religions, and then shall we see how peerless is the ideal set forth in the religion of Jesus Christ. In the midst of other religions we shall see the Christian religion standing in her divine beauty, luminous and glorified.

It should not be forgotten either that this study is helpful in the understanding of the Bible. Some texts are illuminated, and some portions receive clearer interpretation, and in general, the more we know of the religious yearnings and the religious nature of man, the clearer do we see the fullness of meaning in that Book which in its teachings meets the religious nature of man and the spiritual wants of man at every point.

The study, too, has in it a moral and consecrating impulse. Sometimes the serious study of the faiths and practise of non-Christian peoples throws into light defects in the followers of Jesus. We stand rebuked before their devotion. The tremendous efforts of men, goaded on by superstition impel us to a closer discipleship and a deeper consecration. When we see the courage and self-sacrifice of the devotees of a false religion, shall we not walk worthy of our calling and cease to be ashamed of Jesus.

The apologetic value also of this study is one that should not be overlooked. Among the defences that may be set up for the Christian religion, that which the study of other religions affords is one most valuable and readily appreciated. It should not be forgotten that this subject, which may be so helpful to the strengthening of Christian faith, may also