

We believe that these complaints have a measure of justification ; and are sure that the War has forever disqualified such a religion from obtaining the approval of the educated conscience of mankind. We do not, however, regard the contrasts mentioned as being absolute. Rather do they respectively indicate aspects of the Christian Salvation, which cannot be omitted from any adequate presentation of the Gospel.

1. Salvation is indeed deliverance from sin's guilt and power. But it is also the transformation of a nature which sin has marred, till it reproduce the likeness of Christ, who is at once the revelation of God, and the revelation and perfecter of humanity.

2. It is indeed intensely individual, and consists in a personal relation to God through faith in Christ. But it does not leave the individual in his isolation. It makes him a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, and it can be realized by him only as he accepts his calling, as the servant of God and of his fellowmen. His salvation is not a prize he can carry off and enjoy by himself. He stands committed to continue the career of Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister ; and there is a sense, without treading on the uniqueness of his Redeemer's work, in which he must imitate his master, and give his life a ransom for many.

3. It does indeed concern the world to come, and irradiates the darkness of the grave with the hope of immortality. It speaks with due reserve of that other world, which sets this one right. But it assures us of the beatific Vision. It promises that we shall be like Christ and shall serve Him forever. It declares to us in the darkest hour, that Christ is King, that He must reign till He put down all His enemies, and that He is coming, the second time, to close the history of the present age, and to surrender the Kingdom to His Father.

But it does not belittle this present world, or treat our life in it as insignificant. It claims this world, which even under the shadow of sin, is still the Father's for Christ, as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. And it commissions and empowers the servants of Christ, to indicate His supremacy in every field of human life and action. Everything which stands between man and the fulness of his humanity, in body, mind, soul and spirit, is the enemy of God and is to be fought as such by every servant of God, till it be replaced by such conditions as shall further the realization of all that God meant man to be. Sin and disease, ignorance and poverty, stand out conspicuously as such enemies of God, and against them the Church must wage unending war. The battle-front is far extended and includes Parliament House, and Court