

character and man's condition, duty, and destiny is a vain or fruitless thing. Such a faith is intimately related to experience and character. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." It has been rightly said, "A man's religion takes its character from his theology." The belief of what is false is misleading, but right beliefs are the roots from which right conduct grows. Those who have wrong thoughts of God, and of themselves and their duty, cannot render Him acceptable obedience. The mightiest motives to works of righteousness are supplied by a believing acceptance of the doctrines of the Christian religion.

The service which God requires implies the belief of what He has revealed concerning Himself. If we do not believe in God's power and holiness, we cannot serve Him with reverence and godly fear. If we do not accept the Scripture teaching respecting our guilt as sinners, we will never seek forgiveness and salvation. If we do not believe in the infinite love and power of Christ to save to the uttermost, we will not come to Him for deliverance and life. If we do not believe what is revealed respecting the future life, we cannot live and act under the power of faith in the things that are unseen and eternal. Christianity is an historic religion, presenting great foundation facts and principles for our acceptance.

Men disparage only what they do not believe to be true. Those who disparage the value of doctrinal beliefs, and talk as if the theologians of the past accepted their theology without proper inquiry, will generally be found to have a creed of their own,