

THE DIVINE CHALLENGE

the examination of practical men. He is well aware that in the long run even the best and greatest of men must be judged not by anything they have said or taught, but by what they have done. We all admit this principle and we practise it. When we sum up the career of a statesman, we may read his speeches with interest, but the main thing to which we pay attention is the nature of the measures he passed, and the total quality of his impact on the public life. When we read Buddha's teachings of brotherhood, we admit their charm, but we judge their real value by the fact that for four thousand years in India the lives of the rich and the poor have run in parallel lines, and have never once met. A man's ideas and teachings are at all times but the flower of the mind, or of the soul, if you will; the great question is, is there fruit as well as flower, and has the blossom slowly changed into the fruit that is for the healing of the nations? Jesus knows that that question must be asked, and He not merely submits to it, He challenges it. Standing in the sad gloom of the premature end, knowing that His disciples will be tempted to think His life a failure, He now bids them, if they cannot believe in Him for His own sake, at least to believe in Him for His works' sake. Let them measure that work; let them regard the significance of Christ in history; and then let them judge whether or not He is divine. And that is the challenge of Christ to us also. We see what