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FIRST PRINCIPLES.

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READING AND STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

We trust it has been made abundantly clear that the religion of Moses is no longer among the living, and therefore not binding, and that the religion of Christ is found in the Christian scriptures or New Testament. The following portion of an essay, in tract form, written by A. P. Jones, is worthy of strict attention in view of reading with profit the various sections of the new oracles:—

1. The first department of the New Testament comprises all that which treats chiefly on one main subject, being the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and having for their subject the history of Jesus of Nazareth, from his birth to his coronation in the heavens, as Lord over all. Take notice then that this department develops the truth concerning Jesus, of his nature, his office, and his works—he is the Son of God—he is the Messiah, the Apostle of the Father—he died and rose again for us. These three are the great truths of the gospel, but the greatest of these is the first. It is this which renders the other two peculiarly interesting—(for God formerly *sent prophets*, who were evilly treated and slain—in this it was *God's Son* who was *sent* and suffered.) Being the Son of God, he “is heir of all things”—“Lord over all”—the rightful sovereign of the universe. Notwithstanding which, it was *he* whom God sent to mediate a peace with man—to recover man from sin and sinful practices. In the prosecution of which, “it behoved him to suffer”—he died, certifying to mortals the sincerity and integrity of his mission, and “rose again from the dead for our justification”—conquering “him that had the power of death,” and “delivered them who all their life time were subject to bondage, through fear of death,”—leaving this example of the power of God to raise the dead, with the assurance that there shall be a “resurrection both of the just and the unjust.” In these books, or this department, then, one may learn the things necessary to be *believed* in order to his becoming a Christian; for herein is contained all things that pertain to Jesus, his nature, his office, his character, accompanied by signs and miracles sufficient for a conviction of the