

and for practical utility worthless. Do those who hold the Augustinian or Calvinistic systems confess that they have wandered away from the thoughts of the Bible, away from Christ, led by the hand of inexorable logic, until they find themselves in the waste, howling wilderness, their only hope the possibility that it is not yet too late to retrace their steps and get back to Christ?

They believe that their feet are already resting firmly on the Rock of Ages, and that their Confession of Faith is founded on and is agreeable to the Word of God. Whilst in a very few exceptional cases there may be a desire to get free from the Confession as hindering unfettered progress in the search for the truth; whilst in many cases there is a desire to exchange some phrases for others more modern and less ambiguous; and whilst there is in other quarters a demand for a shorter and simpler Confession of Faith, it is a gratuitous assumption, unwarranted by facts, that we are about to abandon, or have in our hearts already done so, our Confession, and consign it to the lumber room. We are not yet standing on the deck of a ship which has carried us so far away from the past that we are about to throw overboard our creeds, which have sometimes been called our church clothes, as a worn-out garment, unadapted to the new climate, and out of keeping with our changed circumstances.

In all such statements and assumptions there is a latent charge of hypocrisy, which occasionally finds its way to the surface when some bolder spirit is speaking. For if we profess to believe what we have ceased to hold, and at every ordination and induction of our ministers, and at every ordination of our elders, call upon them to subscribe to that which has grown so effete that we no longer believe it, this would be such rank hypocrisy, and that in the high places of the field, that the result must inevitably be that the good seed of the kingdom will be completely choked.

“Let us get back to Christ.” “Having found Christ, we go on to preach Him to others.” When we do this, what are we going to say? We must do something more than utter and repeat the name Christ. We must present Christ to those to whom we preach, and this can only be done by speaking of Him as He is set before us in the gospel. We must declare His divinity, and proclaim His humanity, His incarnation, His life, His miracles, His words, His death and resurrection; and when we have done this we have a Christology, a system of theology respecting the Christ, founded on the Word of God. And as our religion is Christocentric, we must go on and complete the work of placing in position all the arcs which together constitute the complete circle of truth.

This crying out against creeds, which is so frequently heard in these days, is mearingless. It is quite true that if we had no skeleton we could