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BRIEF OUTLINES OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.

I.

IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

The term "theology" in its strict sense, means the doctrine of God; but it is commonly used to designate the whole science of religion and divine things. There is at the present time a wide-spread tendency to disparage creeds, doctrines, and religious beliefs. It is frequently intimated that if one's life is in the right it is not of much consequence what he believes. This is a serious mistake. In all the affairs of life the conduct of people is the outcome of their beliefs, except in the case of acts that are the result of thoughtless impulse. This is as true of our religious beliefs as of those relating to our ordinary business. It is freely admitted that theology is not religion. A nominal profession of faith, or mere mental assent to a creed, does not transform the character and life. But this is no reason for assuming that a living faith in the great truths of revelation concerning God's