

My own private opinion is, that the highest arch-angel, (though of course in a very different way and degree from us,) will be found in some way to own his standing to Christ, and that things in heaven, as well as things on earth, will ultimately be found all indebted to the name of Jesus. But I leave the case of the heathen to others, and will speak of matters nearer home.

One mighty consequence then which seems to be learned from this text, is *the utter uselessness of any religion without Christ.*

There are many to be found in Christendom at this day, who have a religion of this kind. They would not like to be called Deists, but Deists they are. That there is a God,—that there is what they are pleased to call Providence,—that God is merciful,—that there will be a state after death,—this is about the sum and substance of their creed. And as to the distinguishing tenets of Christianity, they do not seem to recognize them at all. Now I denounce such a system as a baseless fabric,—its seeming foundation, man's fancy,—its hopes, an utter delusion. The god of such people is an idol of their own invention, and not the glorious God of the Scriptures,—a miserably imperfect being, even on their own showing,—without holiness, without justice, without any attribute but that of vague indiscriminate mercy. Such a religion may possibly do as a toy to live with ;—it is far too unreal to die with. It utterly fails to meet the wants of man's conscience. It offers no remedy. It affords no rest for the soles of our feet. It cannot comfort, for it cannot save. Reader, beware of it, if you love life. *Beware of a religion without Christ.*

Another consequence to be learned from the text is, *the folly of any religion in which Christ has not the first place.*

I need not remind you how many hold a system of this kind. The Socinian tells us that Christ was a mere man ; that His blood had no more efficacy than that of another ; that His death on the cross was not a real atonement and propitiation for man's sins ; and that after all, doing is the way to heaven, and not believing. I