

mankind, you must give the glory to the name which, for goodness, is above every name—Jesus.

Take *righteousness* and it is stating a truism which no intelligent man will deny, that for righteousness the name "Jesus" is "above every name."

There were some great names in pagan history of men who lived and taught a lofty virtue. But Cicero expresses the mind of that age in the words "In whom truly there shall be absolute perfection we have not as yet seen; we have seen no one perfect. It has only been expounded by philosophers what such a one would be if there should be such a one."

Not one of the philosophers dared to offer himself as the ideal of the virtue which he taught—but Jesus did. He dared to stake His truth upon His character, and challenge the world to convince Him of sin. That challenge has been before the world for nearly 2,000 years. "Which of you convinceth me of sin, and if I say the truth why do ye not believe me?" Enemies have not been able to impeach his purity. No breath of slander has ever dimmed its luster. No shadow, even, of a tradition exists to stain His memory. Remember that such a claim must have startled men, and been subject to the keenest scrutiny.

You may say that the character of Christ has simply become idealized in the minds of His disciples. But St. Paul lived close up to the time of Christ. His writings are accepted as authentic. No one to-day claims for Christ diviner honors or a diviner perfection than Paul does. It is incredible that he should have given up his life to an ideal which had no existence in fact.

No character of history has ever provoked keener criticism than the character of Jesus, and yet in every age criticism has been compelled to come back from its investigations and confess "we find no fault in this Man."

He is distinct from all other moral teachers, in the fact that He lived the righteousness which he taught. He was Himself the righteousness to which He calls us.

To be a Christian is not so much to do as Christ commanded, as to be as Christ was; to be like Him, pure in heart; to reproduce in our lives His meekness, his forgiving temper, His unselfish charity towards men; His faithfulness and truth and honesty—in brief, to "let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus."

Take *moral power*, and here again the name Jesus is above every name. He has not only lived the righteousness which he taught, but He has also been the most powerful incentive to its practice. Not even His perfect example could have wrought the moral changes which have attended the preaching of His name. He has been more than an example. His name has been, and is, a great moral force, working through and upon the entire range of our civilization.

There have been great names in history, of kings and conquerors, statesmen and reformers, poets and sages, but their influence has been local and special. They have been influential in some one department of thought or activity.

But this carpenter of Nazareth, after three short years of active life, ending upon the cross of a malefactor, became a power which has survived through every age, and in every department of our history.