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"CHRIST OUR LIFE."

Coloss. III.: 4.

The more we think of it, and meditate upon it, the more we are impressed by the fact that Jesus Christ is the centre and the substance of all Religious teaching, and of all Christian life. No words are strong enough to convey to our minds the fulness of that truth. Let us look at this subject from the two-fold standpoint of Christian doctrine and of Christian life.

I.—I. When e.g. we look at theology as a study, as a science, we find that Christ is the life and the power of it all. For what, in one word, is theology? It is the life and the death of Jesus Christ in their practical teachings to men. It is no more; and it is no less. Theology is the whole body of doctrine that flows from the living Christ. Christ is like the blood that flows through the whole body and gives life and vigour to every member. Christ is like the steam that supplies the motive power to every wheel, and to every function in the whole machine. The smallest twig of doctrine has its root in Him. The tiniest stream of living truth flows out from Him.

2. And the reason of this is plain. Like other teachers, of course, Christ taught. But other teachers live in their thoughts and their words. They are nothing themselves; their thoughts and words are everything. In many cases the teacher himself is totally unknown. What influence e.g. has the personality of Shakespeare, of Thomas à Kempis, of Homer, had on their writings? Many have doubted even the existence of these men.