

be the final truth in relation to God and sin and salvation and human destiny. At least, until some new principle of truth not contained in the New Testament is found, until some of its principles have been outgrown or rendered obsolete, we will still hold these old teachings in undiminished confidence, undisturbed by the restless chafings of lower levels and tides of thought.

The final question which would have to be discussed to make our treatment complete is too vast to be more than mentioned. It is:—

IV. IS TRUTH AS IN JESUS PERVERTED BY THE INTERPRETATION WHICH HAS PREVAILED AMONG US?

There are two great doctrines which must abide if we are still to have a Gospel. Rob us of the Deity of our Lord, and the heart of truth is gone. Rob us of the doctrine of the vicarious expiation of our Lord, and the whole of truth about sin and righteousness and salvation is maimed. We must not allow men to rob us of a Divine Christ by exalting human nature to the stature of the Divine, and thus leaving Him human still. We must not allow a far-fetched interpretation, shaped through other than the plainest meaning of the Scriptures, to rob us of the cross, or rob the cross of its glory and power. If Christ were not God, or if He did not bear our sins for us, then there is no manifestation of God's love which makes angels and devils wonder and draws estranged hearts to His feet. If Christ did not offer Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice, there is no revelation in the cross of the inviolable righteousness of God and the guilt of sin which is fitted to subdue the soul into penitence. If the cross is but a place of martyrdom, then it ceases to be the very power-house of motive for a service and sacrifice unto death. Cast doubt upon these blessed doctrines and a growing and deadly paralysis will fall upon all our energies and enterprises, as hearts grow cold and enthusiasm wanes. These are the doctrines of a rising or a falling church. Tear them away from the confidence of men, and untold thousands would be thrown into hopeless skepticism, as their most sacred experiences, which were based upon the truth of these great doctrines, were proved delusive and false. Take them away and the New Testament is little more than a code of morals and ethical ex-