

and Christianity and Religion, somewhat interchangeably. Can there be correct morals without religion, or religiousness without correct morals? In the popular conception of religion, the world affords too many examples of the fact that they are divorced; but in the correct understanding of each they are inseparable. The natural conscience has always been fortified by natural religion, and Christian morality is simply applied Christianity. Man is religious by nature, and the world is full of religions, false and true. But confining ourselves to the Christian religion, a good deal of what passes for popular Christianity is merely disguised Hedonism, or Utilitarianism. The man whose object is to obtain all the happiness and joy he can out of religious exercises, and religious experiences, and religious meetings, is only a Hedonist, or if he is solely calculating the benefits of religion to him and his family, he is a Utilitarian.

Christianity, however, is in essence an ethical system. It appeals to, and lays its foundations upon, the capacities of the natural conscience. Paul speaks of "commending ourselves to every man's conscience by manifestations of the truth." This is how the truth as it is in Jesus finds a response in the heathen world. The great atonement has many aspects, and it is only by unduly exaggerating and perverting its forensic aspect that it is made to appear as an unjust and immoral substitutionary suffering of the innocent for the guilty. It is also the highest act of self-sacrificing love, and is from a Father as well as a Judge. Pardon and justification institute a change of personal relations to a personal God, and do not do away with the natural consequences of past sin, and it remains universally true "that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The only escape is the escape which a new life and better habits will give. Repentance is a moral act, implying insight into sin and an abandonment of sin. Faith is a moral act, for as repentance puts right with the past, so faith puts right with the present by right relations, and conserves right for the future. I need not multiply Scripture teaching upon the direct moral power of true religion, as when it is said, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the