

CHRISTIANITY AN INSTRUMENT OF REGENERATION.

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CHRISTIANITY is an instrument of regeneration. It found the world in a state of guilt, disobedience and estrangement from God. Man was enslaved and polluted, for passion had corrupted him, and temptation had led him captive. Mankind were sunk in depravity. God had "made man upright, but they had sought out many inventions," by which the soul was deluded, debased and enfeebled.

Christianity came to raise man out of this state. It came to reform the character, and to renew the man, — to change, not his nature, but its exercises, — to establish a new denomination within him, and to open a new world to his view in what he saw around him. Therefore was the instruction of Christ directed first and chiefly to this point. He sought the sinner, that he might rescue him from his degradation; and he addressed him as a sinner, that he might at once remind him of what he must do. The regeneration of the human heart, by which its dispositions, desires and purposes should be deprived of the evil quality which affected them, and be filled with that holy element which should convert them into acceptable offerings on the altar of religion, this was the object for which the Gospel was bestowed in view of the immediate wants of man, and this the result which it was intended in its primary action to accomplish. This result was witnessed. There is not a more remarkable chapter in the history of our race, than that which records