

Before the end of the century in which Christ was born four original histories of His life and character were in circulation in the Church. And we are safe in adding that previous to His Advent no other event had been similarly recorded in four simultaneous histories. His coming alone was to be so honored. It is quite evident that the Holy Spirit would not have given the Church four Gospels in such a small book as the Bible, had there not been a distinct purpose to serve by each of them. And it must be of great moment to ascertain that purpose, and become familiar with the distinctive features of each of the four Gospels. While they all reveal the same Saviour, each one sees Him through a different medium, and from his own particular standpoint. Four times does the Lord of Glory walk before us, clothed in a different vesture each time, but none can fail to discover that it is the same Divine Redeemer—the same friend of publicans and sinners, full of grace and truth.

Four biographies of the same man, by as many authors, may each be different, and yet all be singularly true; for each writer proposed to himself a different object, and therefore he makes prominent certain features that carry out his plan. Suppose *e. g.* four men—a politician, a financier, a literary man, and a Christian author desirous of tracing the works of grace—were each to write a life of Gladstone, the four biographies might be all true, but it is quite certain they would differ widely from each other. The politician would bring out those features of the great British statesman that have made him the admiration of the world, while by no means overlooking his many other noble qualities. The financier would dwell at length, and chiefly on what was most congenial to his own mind and speak of the marvels of Gladstone's budget speeches, and his wonderful capacity for finance, that in former days both delighted and astonished the House of Commons. The literary man would, of course, make most prominent his literary ability, and emphasize the important services Gladstone has achieved in the great republic of letters, while the Christian philanthropist would delight to tell of his deeds of charity, his devoutness of spirit, his reverence toward God, and all things sacred, and the services he has rendered to the Church by his life and labors. We have a life