

line: In the four gospels is to be found all the truth concerning the Messiah, necessary to be *believed*, in order to becoming Christians. In the Acts of Apostles, are to be found all the divine commandments necessary to be *obeyed* in order to becoming Christians. In the apostolic epistles are to be found the things necessary to be observed, according to the appointments of divine wisdom in order to *live* Christians. In the Apocalypse, the great hope of christianity is defined.

Therefore, in order to the introduction and incorporation of christianity into the hearts and practices of mankind, no "Body of Divinity," arranged by the wisdom of man, is needed. No other creed setting forth the truth of Christ—no other guide or directory into the grace or favor of God—no other manual of exercises or book of discipline, can possibly be needed. Such books might be adjudged to the same fate as those containing "curious arts" at Ephesus, many centuries ago, and yet the Christian religion suffer nothing thereby. It is better to trust to the divine wisdom in all these matters, than to trust to the wisdom of man, however wise and sagacious. God having furnished all these things according to his own perfection, it is not well for man to think that he can amend them. "His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who has called us to glory and virtue."

By the orderly study of the Scriptures of the New Testament, it is fairly discovered that the gospel itself is divided into several complete departments. Which truth is evidently recognized by the Apostle Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, in which he says—"Study to show thyself a workman, approved unto God, that need not be ashamed, rightly *dividing* the word of truth." ch. ii. v. 15. This cannot mean a division of the book, for it was not then compiled, nor was it then all written; but it must mean the whole gospel system, as inculcated by the apostles. One should, then, "*study*" to make a *right* division. It is believed that such a division of the word of truth, will commend itself to the approval of all discerning persons, who are to any degree acquainted with the scriptures. The gospel system does most naturally divide itself in the following manner:—

1. The facts and truths of the gospel, to be *believed*.
2. The commandments of the gospel, to be *obeyed*.
3. The promises of the gospel, to be *enjoyed*.

The truth of the gospel is established by *testimony*, and therefore ought to be believed.

The commandments of the gospel are enforced by *authority*, and therefore ought to be obeyed.

The promises proceed from a source of *ability* and *integrity*, and therefore may be enjoyed.

Whoever, then, believes the truth, obeys the commandments, and enjoys the promises, is *sound* in the *faith*, *pure* in *heart* and *character*, and *perfect* in the *hope*. This view will give no one any license to trust in himself, or to his fellow mortals, for any thing, but all his trust must be in God and the word of his grace.