

also, at the same time, really and truly a man, possessing a human body and a human soul, and all the faculties and affections and feelings of manhood, sin only excepted. The Scriptures inform us that He was miraculously conceived of a virgin, born in a stable and laid in a manger; was subject to His parents during His infancy; grew and waxed strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom; passed the time of His public ministry in going about doing good both to the souls and bodies of men—healing the diseased, comforting the sorrowful, instructing the ignorant, reproving and warning the wicked, and teaching the will of God and the way of salvation. And the Scriptures also inform us that His heavenly doctrines and works of mercy and labours of love excited the envy and malice of the Jews, that He was betrayed by one disciple, denied by another, and condemned and put to death by his enemies; that He was buried and rose again from the dead on the third day and ascended to heaven, to resume the glory which He had with the Father ere the foundations of the world were laid. Wherefore the apostle Paul says, regarding Him, that He “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” Such then is a brief view of the information which the Scriptures give us respecting the nature and dignity and history and character of Christ, who unites, in wonderful and mysterious person, all the attributes of Deity and all the faculties and affections and feelings of sinless and unfallen humanity. Now all these are things which those “who believe in the Son of God” must acknowledge and believe concerning him.

2. But still farther we would observe that faith or belief in Christ also includes

the knowledge and belief of what the Scriptures make known to us concerning Him in His official and mediatorial character. He took upon himself our nature and came into our world to perform a great and glorious undertaking—to expiate the guilt of sin and reconcile us to God by his cross, and to purchase eternal salvation for as many as obey Him. And in the accomplishment of this great work he sustained a three-fold character that of prophet, priest and king. Christ is the great prophet and teacher of his people. Under the Old Testament Dispensation he commissioned and sent his servants to declare the will of God to His ancient people the Jews. During His own personal ministry upon earth He instructed and reproved and warned with a clearness, power and authority which never man spake. And after His ascension to Heaven, He sent the Holy Ghost to enlighten and inspire His apostles and servants in the knowledge of things pertaining to His kingdom, that, by them, He might teach us and all succeeding generations the duties we owe to God, and point out to us the way of salvation. But Christ, in His mediatorial capacity, also sustains the character and performs the office of High-Priest to His people. He is the great High-Priest of the human family. As such he voluntarily undertook to make atonement for our sins. And this he actually did by the once-offering up of Himself upon the accursed tree. And now that He has entered into Heaven, He there like the Jewish high-priest in the temple of old, makes intercession for us and pleads our cause at God's right hand. But Christ is also the king of his people and the great Head and Governor of the Church. In virtue of his own essential dignity, as second person of the Godhead, he is equally entitled with the Father to the homage and allegiance of mankind. But in his capacity of Mediator, God the Father has given all power both in heaven and earth into his hand, and made him Lord of that spiritual kingdom which he has founded with his blood, and sovereign disposer of all those blessings which he once died to purchase and which he is now exalted to bestow. It appears then that Christ, in his mediatorial capacity, sustains the three-fold character of a prophet, priest and king. And all who “believe