

to work and cut up the Scripture narrative, retaining what suits their purpose and rejecting as unreliable and fictitious those portions which clash with their favorite theories, is a hard puzzle to others who demand that the whole Biblical testimony concerning the Lord Jesus be accepted or none of it.

What consistency is there in this mode of procedure, which accepts the apostolical records so far as they relate to the life and character of Christ; but reject the account of His origin, mission and work.

It is painful to the followers of the Lord Jesus—to those who have felt the burden of sin—who have groaned beneath its crushing weight, to hear the Saviour reviled. But the fiercest onsets of infidelity, the boldest assaults of rationalism need not disturb, weaken or overthrow the Christian's faith.

The enemies of the religion of the cross are numerous; but their weapons hitherto have been directed as much against each other, and with as powerful effect, as against the Gospel and its Sun and centre the Lord Jesus Christ.

This question through its antiquity has not lost aught of its interest. Nor can it, so long as saved and unsaved sinners dwell on the earth.

It is not an inquiry of purely speculative interest; for it would matter little to the mass of mankind whether it received any attention; but a question upon which man's happiness in this life and endless bliss depend.

Let our first inquiry be: What think ye of Christ; the son of man?

Modern infidelity in the main admits the fact of Christ's existence, although it does violence even to His humanity.

It agrees with the Christian Church in asserting that Christ was the son of man; but denies His stainless purity, and refuses to see in Him one who was absolutely perfect. It however lauds the meekness, forbearance, generosity and self sacrifice manifested in His life—

and in eloquent language renders tribute to the inimitable excellence of His character.

Surely that life which compels even its foes to acknowledge its unequalled greatness, if not divine, must at least be possessed of goodness to which no other human being can lay claim.

Follow the Saviour from His childhood, until His death upon the cross and you cannot discern even the semblance of a stain upon His unsullied life.

What higher ideal of excellence and holiness can human thought conceive of than that which was manifested in the life and work of the Lord Jesus?

In early youth displaying a wisdom that astonished and confounded those who were regarded as the most learned of their age; and yet He sought not to be the companion of the wise and great. Despised and rejected of men; yet He clings to those who spurn Him with undiminished affection.

Possessed of superhuman power; yet He never exercises His boundless might in His own behalf. At His command the water became wine, and the few loaves and fishes increased until hungry multitudes were fed and twelve baskets of fragments remained; but He wrought no miracle to allay His own thirst, or appease His own hunger. At His bidding the stormy sea sank into a peaceful calm: but when the fierce wrath of men and devils assailed Him, He quells it not by that omnipotence which could have annihilated the hosts of earth and hell, He could have consumed, but He pitied—spared, and sought to conquer by love. At His command the dumb spake—the deaf heard—the blind saw—the lame walked—the leper was cleansed—the palsied frame felt even the glow of health—the most inveterate and incurable diseases vanished, and the dead were restored to life.

Yet He performed no miracle for His own comfort or relief. He sought by