

believes in God as the omnipotent Father of us all, belief in immortality appears to be a natural, if not a necessary, inference. The thought that man has been created in the moral image of his Maker helps one to realize that he who is the child of an immortal Being by creation may also be the heir of his immortality by inheritance.

However that may be, belief in personal immortality continues to be cherished, and will continue to be cherished, by some, on the ground of the convincing arguments in favor of it, and by others, on the ground of the divine authority on which the doctrine rests. These arguments have not been shaken. This authority has not been touched.

Thus the two fundamental objects of religious faith—namely, God and Immortality—remain unmoved. Not only do these two doctrines stand unshaken, but the necessary outcomes of them also are unshaken. The necessary outcome of the doctrine of God is the relation of the human spirit to the divine spirit, involving conscience and obligation, freedom and responsibility; the necessary outcome of the doctrine of immortality is the relation of the soul here to the soul hereafter, involving duty and destiny, reward and penalty.

In view of what has been stated, therefore, one need not hesitate to express, in the language of another, the unqualified conviction that "man's consciousness of his own personality, with its freedom and its responsibility; his belief in a Father Almighty; his hopes of a life to come; his recognition of a moral law and of the authority of an inward monitor will stand firm, whatever discoveries may be made of the evolution of life, of the relation of soul to body, of the nature of atoms and force, and of the conceptions of space and time."

III. Christ. The third religious certainty, or Gospel verity, is Christ. The two foregoing verities are the fundamental objects of faith in all religions; the present verity is the distinctive object of faith in the Christian religion. He is a religious man who believes in God and immortality, and acts accordingly; he is a Christian man who, in addition to the cherishing of this twofold belief, also cherishes belief in Christ, and lives in harmony with his faith.