

men appeared to him and in this character he has presented the Saviour to the world. So also with Mark, Luke and John who give us different portraits of the same blessed life. For Christ, ever one and the same, does yet appear with different sides of his glory reflected as four different portraits—profile, full-face, and three-quarters, right, and left, but all a likeness of the same person. The evangelists themselves were men of different temperaments and apprehensions. They had each the special needs of a different class of men in their eye when they wrote and so they adapted their Gospel to their special wants. Christ's life was so full of grace and truth that it required more than one record to present the whole of it. Hence we have four Gospels, and each one has divine lessons peculiar to itself. One man sees things from one stand-point, and another man from another. And so the several evangelists sat down to give us a faithful account of the life of Christ, but each one selects a distinct aspect, and portrays special features of that wondrous life. Each one dwells on what has come with peculiar power and sweetness to his own heart, and tells what has impressed itself most upon his own life, and this accounts for the variety and agreement which we naturally expect in a true record from several faithful witnesses.

Studying each Gospel, reading over one, another, a third and the fourth, is no work of supererogation. Reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is not reading the same thing over and over again, for each one has its own lessons and special features, and it takes them all to give a full portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost had a gracious design in these differences which are intentional, and should be studied with loving care far more than is common among his professed children.

The burden of all the Gospels is Jesus Christ, and the aim of all is to bring him as a personal Saviour into vital fellowship with the heart of man, and to give full, rich, soul-satisfying disclosures of God's love. Each had the same purpose though John expresses it in plain terms: "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

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