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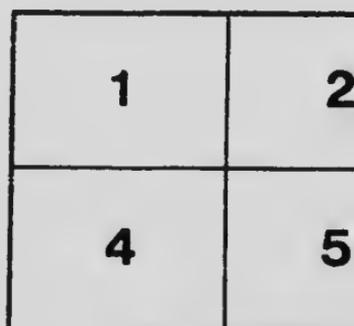
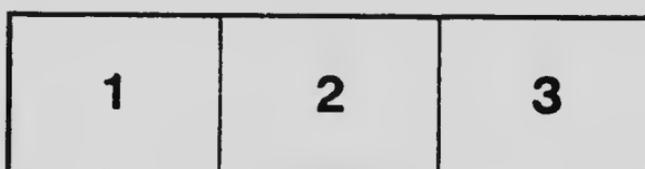
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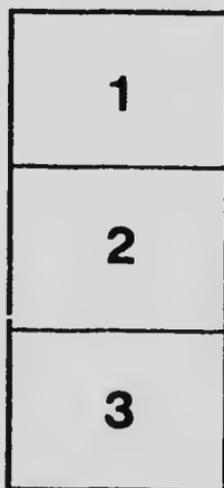
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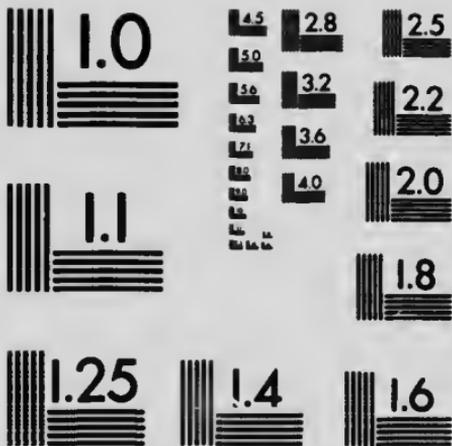
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UNITED CHURCH
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A COMPENDIUM
OF
THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

*"Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I
unto you a more excellent way."—1 Cor. 12. 31.*

SOMETHING EVERY ONE OUGHT TO KNOW

BY
REV. T. M. TALBOT,

B.A. Tor. Univ.
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ENDORSED BY

REV. DR. POTTS, Toronto; REV. DR. SHAW, Montreal;
REV. DR. MACLEAN, Halifax, and many others.
(See last page.)

SECOND EDITION
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NAPINKA, MAN.

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand nine
hundred and six, by T. MASON TALBOT, at the Department of Agriculture.

The Christian Religion

CHRISTIANITY is the religion founded by the Lord Jesus Christ, who has brought us a full knowledge of himself, man, his life and environments, duties and possibilities, and He reveals Christianity as follows. John viii. 12; Luke ix. 25; Luke x. 22-42.

- I. A life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. John xvii.
- II. An experience that cannot be avoided. Heb. ii. 6.
- III. A revelation of truth and duty. Rom. xvi. 26.

Life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

If one yields to the divine influence which is given to every man through the revelation of God, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the life of Christ, the spirit of His life will be in unity with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fruits of this union with Christ will be the development of all the noble powers and graces of his manhood in a continual and all embracing progress of perfection and beauty. 2 Cor. iii. 17, 18; Gal. v. 16, 26.

This is eternal life and salvation.

Eternal life then is the gift of God, born of the Spirit, and is sustained by living in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, reflecting on the truth set forth by Christ and imitating the example of Christ. Rom. vi. 23; John iii. 5; Luke xv.

II. An Experience that Cannot Be Avoided.

1. We may be passive towards Christianity and still experience the benevolent love of God, and God's love supplies His spiritual and providential help in private and public life. 1 John iv. 9; 1 Cor. vii. 17.

This enlightens the mind, making it powerful to act, thus increasing our opportunities in business and social life. 2 Cor. iii. 14; ix. 8, 9; Matt. v. 45.

It also helps to control the emotions and make them enjoyable; refines the morals; elevates society and promotes progress. Thus encouraging faith in God and man and high ideals. 1 John i. 3, 4; Rom. x. 17.

But it also enlightens the conscience and thus opens the flood-gates of remorse and anguish of soul for neglect of

duty and causes an agitation that cannot be ignored. Rom. ii. 4, 5, 15.

2. One may attempt to remove the agitation by opposing Christianity and deny or refuse divine help.

This attitude leaves the soul benighted and deprives the mind of light for growth. Titus i. 15; John xii. 40.

It diminishes ones power by having his energies wasted in intemperance and opposition to God, turns faith into fate, makes personal life base and cowardly, and social life satanic. Prov. 23; Matt. xii. 45.

It destroys the best emotions by misuse and allows the worst passions to enslave the soul and make it miserable. removes from ennobling associations both divine and human. Eph. iv. 19; Ps. i. 5, 6.

It destroys the conscience, banishes from the kingdom, separates from God and good and degrades to hell's miseries and the resurrection of the wicked. Ps. ix. 17.

No thoughtful person can take such an attitude.

3. We may accept Christ and experience the complaisant love of God and fellowship within the Kingdom of Heaven. John xiv. 23; Rev. iii. 20; Matt. xviii. 4.

This keeps the soul innocent, gives peace to conscience, strength and purity to spiritual life and exalts man to union with God—the greatest satisfaction. Ps. xix. 13; Isa. xxvi. 3; Luke i. 52; Ps. cvii. 9.

It brightens the mind by revelation, making it able to comprehend all law, order and wisdom of the universe, and enables us to use this knowledge for the noblest ideals—a source of great pleasure. 2 Cor. iii. 14; Rom. xii. 2.

It develops the best emotions, and so fulfils our happiness. Rom. viii. 15; Phil. 7.

It confirms our faith, perfects in purity and gives heroic courage, manhood and Christlikeness. Heb. xi.

It gives wisdom in business and power to produce wealth in both temporal and spiritual things, and the power also to preserve the wealth. Ps. cxii; Ps. i. 3.

It confirms the love and protecting care of God for the individual, for society, and for the state, through the Church, and guides all to perfection, giving full assurance of Sonship. Ps. ciii. 13; Mal. iii. 17; Ps. xcii. 12.

It more than compensates for the adversities of life, provides happiness and salvation for both body and soul in time and eternity, for those shall rise from the dead, as He rose, and dwell with Him for eternity, who become one in spirit with Jesus Christ. Matt. vi. 33; John xiv. 2.

III. Truth that Necessitates Belief.

Christianity teaches us to believe concerning God, Man, Present and Eternal life, as follows :

1. God our Father is one eternal spirit, a unity in a trinity, coexisting from eternity as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. God is love, all-wise, all-powerful, ever-present, perfect in holiness, justice, mercy and truth. John iv. 24 ; 1 Tim. i. 17 ; 1 John v. 7 ; John i. 1 ; Rom. xvi. 27 ; Ps. xviii. 30 ; Deut. xxxii. 4.

2. God the Father is He from whom the Son received power and instruction, whose work He continues, whose will He does. He so loved the world that He sent His Son, the Holy Ghost, and the Gospel to save us. He does the first work to save every man, and He alone knows when Christ shall come again. Acts x. 38 ; Luke xxii. 42 ; John iii. 16 ; John xiv. 26 ; John vi. 44 ; Mark xiii. 32.

3. God the Son, the only begotten of the Father, is the creator and sustainer of all things, and is our sympathetic brother and mediator with God. He was born as a man, lived as a man, taught and set forth a full knowledge of God and man, and present and eternal life for our salvation. Being crucified by Pilate, He died an unblemished sacrifice, making an atonement for our sins. He arose the third day for our justification and ascended to God--the first fruits of those who are at rest. All power is given unto Him and He shall come again to judge and reward every man, so we should be ever ready for his appearing. Col. i. 16-18 ; Heb. iv. 15 ; 1 Tim. ii. 5 Gal. iv. 4 ; Gal. iii. 13 ; Rom. iv. 25 ; 1 Cor. xv. 20 ; John v. 22.

4. God the Holy Ghost is the administrating spirit sent by both the Father and the Son to everyone. He inspired the holy men who wrote the Bible and baptizes into a new creature which is indispensable for salvation. As a spirit to our spirits He constantly supplies all necessary help for growth, beauty and perfection—a help whose refusal is the unpardonable sin. John xvi. 7-14 ; John xiv. 26 ; 1 Cor. xii. 7 ; 2 Peter i. 21 ; John iii. 5 ; Rom. viii. 1-27 ; 1 Cor. iii. 16 ; Phil. iv. 19 ; Matt. xii. 31.

5. The Bible is the Word of God ; written by holy men of old, inspired by the Holy Ghost, confirmed and exemplified by Christ and the sufficient rule of belief, duty, life and practice. 1 Thes. ii. 13 ; 2 Peter i. 21 ; Col. iii. 16 ; John xii. 48 ; Rev. xxii. 19 ; 2 Tim. iii. 15.

God reveals Himself also in nature, history and the human heart, as established in truth, justice and mercy.

Man is immortal, made in the image of God and originally innocent. He fell in Adam, but rose again in Christ, and may continue so by fixing his first love on God; is capable of falling again by wilful sin only, and can rise only by the help of the Holy Spirit. Man's responsibility is to develop the noblest possibilities of his life and soul. This is salvation. Matt. xxv. 46; Gen. i. 27; Gen. iii. 5; 1 Cor. xv. 22; Matt. xviii. 3; John iii. 5.

Salvation is obtained by allowing God to work in and through us, to will and to do according to his good pleasure: in personal life, by giving our heart to God; in family life, by training them to love and imitate Christ; in social life, by using our vote and influence to elevate society; in religious life, by consecration to the Church. Phil. ii. 12, 13; Prov. xxiii. 26; 1 Tim. v. 8; Rom. xiii. 1; 1 Cor. xii. 26, 27.

The Church is the holy society of believers, which Christ founded; of which He is head, and in which He dwells by His Spirit, and though made up of many different organized communions is yet one in Him. It was organized by Him to include all believers and their children that they might devote themselves systematically to its work. Eph. v. 23; Eph. ii. 22; John x. 16; 1 Cor. xii. 13.

The work of the Church is to edify its members for mutual edification, to confirm the work of the Holy Ghost, to preach the Gospel, to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to convert sinners, to teach righteousness to the state and to society. Baptism by water typifies justification, regeneration by the Holy Spirit and membership in His Church. The Lord's Supper bread and wine symbolizes the life and death of Christ for us, also the unity of the members of the Church with Christ. It is a public confession of Christ and a pledge of brotherly love. Matt. xviii. 17; Mal. i. 11; 1 Cor. xiii. 2, 3; Mark iii. 14; Jas. v. 20; 1 Cor. x. 16.

The Kingdom of Heaven is the Divine Empire established by God to save man; and includes Christ and all unto whom all power is given, the Holy Spirit and all regenerated men, whether alive or at rest, as subjects. It is lost by sin, which is any lack of righteousness as defined in chaps. i. and iv., the condition of re-entrance is repentance and faith. The condition of citizenship is the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and the systematic practice of Christianity. Matt. v. 20; Luke xiii. 3; Eph. ii. 8; 1 Cor. xiv. 40.

IV. Duty that Requires Systematic Practice.

Christianity should be practised as follows:—

A. Seek first the Kingdom of God.

(a) In your environments,

In your heart, by unreserved consecration. Eph. vi. 6.

In your family, by Christian care and Godward guidance.

Train youth to love and imitate Christ. 1 Tim. v. 8.

In your social life, by using your vote and influence as a sacred trust. Ex. xviii. 21; Isa. xxxi., xxxii.

In the church, by enthusiastic partnership and energetic work. 1 Cor. xiv. 12.

(b) With all your possessions. Especially devoting at least:

1. One-seventh of your time directly to God. Ex. xxxi. 15 (The first day of the week). John xx. 19, 26.

2. One-tenth of your income directly to the Kingdom of Heaven. Matt. xxiii. 23.

3. One of your best talents directly to the Church. Prov. iii. 9.

B. Seek the righteousness of God. Matt. v. 33.

(a) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul, and mind, and strength. Luke x. 27.

By genuine repentance, which is forsaking sin. Isa. lv. 7.

By faith, which is acting on our belief in Christ and letting Him rule over our hearts and lives. John viii. 31, 32.

By prayer, which is adoration, thanksgiving, confession and petition. Matt. vi. 9-15; and should be incessant and aided by the Holy Spirit. Jude xx.

By diligent study of the Scriptures. John v. 39; Especially the Decalogue. Ex. xx. The Beatitudes. Matt. v., vi., vii. The more excellent way. 1 Cor. xiii.; Ps. i; Ps. xxiii; Rom. iii; John iii; Isa. liii; Matt. xviii; John xiv;

By zealously practising the example of Christ. Luke x. 28.

(b) Love yourself, by earnestly cultivating the virtues and graces. 2 Pet. i. 5-10.

Faith by experience with God. Ps. ix. 10.

Virtue, by purity of heart. Phil. iv. 8, 9.

Temperance, by self-control. Gal. vi. 1; 1 Cor. ix. 25.

Godliness, by putting on Christ. Gal. iii. 27.

Lovableness, by kindness, sympathy, patience. 1 Cor. xiii.

(c) Love your neighbor as yourself. Luke x. 27.

In love, purifying and beautifying him. Ps. cxlix. 4.

Enlightening and developing him. Hosea xiv.

Love, think, act, eternal spirit, and thou shalt live and enjoy life. Luke x. 27, 28; Matt. vi. 25-33.

Questions Suggested.

1. What is the Christian religion? Under what heads may it be presented, and what is the Christian life?
2. What different experiences may we try with Christianity? Give the result of each.
3. Distinguish conversion and the new birth salvation and immortal life?
4. How does the Holy Spirit direct our movements?
5. Name exercises for developing spiritual life?
6. Distinguish between God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost?
7. What is the Bible, and how was it written?
8. Set forth the attributes and responsibilities of man?
9. What is the Church, what is its purpose and work, and what is a Christian's duty to the Church?
10. Who are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, and what is the condition of citizenship and re-entrance?
11. How may we seek the Kingdom of God?
12. How may one love God, himself, and his fellow man?
13. Give a clear explanation of the righteousness of the Kingdom, and man's duty to God, and his neighbor?
14. What is the test as to our prayers and impulses being inspired of the Holy Ghost?
15. What change does our conversion work in God's attitude to us, and His blessings for us?
16. What is the most powerful factor in developing man's mind, heroism, manhood, social and material progress?
17. What is the relation of infants to the Kingdom of Heaven, and how may they continue so?
18. Who may be baptized, and who ought to take the Lord's Supper and unite with the Church?
19. What is Repentance, and what is saving faith?
20. What two calls are necessary to qualify a man to preach the Gospel and who gives them?
21. Give four features of prayer, and repeat the Lord's Prayer; the Decalogue; the Beatitudes?
22. Repeat the chapter of the Bible that teaches us how to be beloved, (*i.e.*), the more excellent way?
23. What day has Christ and His disciples honored as the Sabbath, and for what purpose is the Sabbath?
24. What verse in the Bible should guide us in our political vote, what in our business life?
25. Give the different effects of our treatment of Christianity (*a*) On our spirit, mind and body?
26. (*b*) On our moral life, present life, and eternal life?

ENDORSATIONS.

"I have examined the Compendium and rejoice at its publication. I would like to see it in the hands of every young person connected with our Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues. It would be beneficial also to those who are no longer young to ponder the contents of the Compendium. I am surprised at the amount of information contained in so small a compass, and wish heartily for its wide circulation. I fear we are neglecting too much the catechism and doctrinal preaching."—REV. JOHN PORTS, D.D., Secretary of Education for The Methodist Church, Victoria College, Toronto.

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"Its definitions are clear, and yet there is a fulness of statement, and the classification is so thorough that, with the Scripture references, it will help the student to grasp the truths and strengthen his faith. It would make a good outline for Bible study and a suggestive course for addresses at prayer meetings.—*Halifax Wesleyan*."

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