

**THE FIRST EPISTLE OF
JOHN; OR, GOD
REVEALED IN
LIFE, LIGHT, AND LOVE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649387014

The First epistle of John; or, God revealed in life, light, and love by Robert Cameron

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OR

GOD REVEALED IN LIFE, LIGHT, AND LOVE

BY

ROBERT CAMERON

*Author of "The Doctrine of the Ages," and Editor of
"Watchword and Truth"*

*These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that
ye have eternal life.—The Apostle John.*

PHILADELPHIA

A. J. ROWLAND—1420 Chestnut Street

1899

PREFACE

THIS series of studies upon the First Epistle of John is the outgrowth of two convictions: First, that this Epistle has much valuable truth for the upbuilding of the Christian life; secondly, that no condensed and connected development of the truth contained in the book has been published for many years. Students of the Bible have often spoken of their difficulty in understanding this Epistle. The writer confesses that he had a similar experience himself. When he first began to study the book he could say with an ancient author: "I am far from understanding all; I read, but it seems to me as if what John meant were floating before me in the distance, and even when I look into a passage altogether dark, I have a foretaste of some great, glorious meaning which I shall some day understand." The simplicity of the language in which the majesty and the depth of thought of this Epistle are expressed has hindered that careful study of this book needed to trace its connecting links. The profound mysteries of the relation between God on the one hand, and the world, the soul of man, the evil one, deceiving spirits, and the coming Antichrist, on the other, are stated in language adapted to the understanding of a little child. But they challenge the most profound

consideration of those who are deeply taught of God, for they all have their roots in the unseen, the everlasting, and the absolute Source of Life.

This apparent hiding of the meaning is not a matter of wonder. Life in its essence has never been discovered. Its phenomena are all we know. This book treats of life—life in God, revealed through Christ, and imparted to us. Its structure is in harmony with its theme, as is always the case in the word of God. All the words used in Scripture, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, show a sympathetic capacity to deal with the truth under consideration never found in other writings. This is strikingly seen in the Gospel and Epistles of John as well as in the Apocalypse. The writer has sought to trace the course of these vital undercurrents of life pressing their way through the whole book.

The text used, in the main, is that of the Revised version. Hence there is no discussion of some of the mistranslations or unfortunate insertions that appear in our King James version of this Epistle. The writer has sought, however, to get at the fundamental meaning of the book through the Greek text, without explaining the process, and without troubling the reader with too frequent reference to the original. The truth thus ascertained, he has sought to make known in the exposition. He has made it a constant aim to force nothing into the text, although he is conscious of having evolved from the text but a small portion of its wealth and worth. On the whole, he ventures to ex-

press the hope that the reader who follows him, will be led into the secrets of the great life which throbs in every portion of this book, the richest of all the writings of the beloved disciple. In this confidence these studies are now laid at the Master's feet with the earnest prayer that they may be used to unfold his glories and to feed the souls of the saints.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for valuable help derived from the writings of Canon Westcott, Doctor Candlish, Doctor Culross, J. N. Darby, W. Lincoln, and, in a less degree, from F. D. Maurice. Special mention should be made of Doctors Stifer and Morehead, from whom the author has derived valuable suggestions.

R. C.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April, 1899.

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