

**THE FACT OF
CHRIST: A SERIES
OF LECTURES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649297054

The fact of Christ: a series of lectures by P. Carnegie Simpson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

P. CARNEGIE SIMPSON

**THE FACT OF
CHRIST: A SERIES
OF LECTURES**

THE FACT OF CHRIST

THE
FACT OF CHRIST

A Series of Lectures

BY

P. CARNEGIE SIMPSON, M.A.

MINISTER OF RENFIELD CHURCH, GLASGOW

THIRD EDITION

LONDON
HODDER AND STOUGHTON
27 PATERNOSTER ROW
MCM I

To my Wife

PREFATORY NOTE

THESE lectures were given in Renfield Church during last winter to a public class which met on Sunday evenings after service; they are now published without further elaboration either of matter or style. A few sentences and two or three notes have been added.

The subject has been treated strictly within certain limits, and many aspects of it have been purposely left untouched. In particular, the inquiry has been carried on as an individual question, and little or no account has been taken of the way in which religion comes to us through the Christian society and tradition, or of the way in which it must express itself in the social life of the world. The whole range of topics that are

suggested by the ideas of 'Church' and 'Kingdom of God,' which are certainly parts of the meaning of Christ, are not included in the scope of this volume. Another occasion may be found for their discussion.

In passing the lectures through the press, I have tried to acknowledge and verify all quotations and references, and ask indulgence if anything in this respect has been omitted.

P. C. S.

GLASGOW,

October 1900.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE publishers having asked for another edition of this book in England and America, an opportunity is afforded of referring to one or two matters to which one's attention has been drawn since the first edition was issued and which are of immediate interest for the subject.

1. The articles recently published by Dr. Schmiedel of Zurich and the late Professor Bruce of Glasgow in the *Encyclopædia Biblica* cannot but suggest to many that the very starting-point of the argument in these lectures is made impossible by modern criticism. Dr. Schmiedel leaves us with an historical fact of Christ that is no more than 'a thing of shreds and patches'; Dr. Bruce gives us little or no

ground for regarding Jesus as being historically more than a lofty teacher and notable healer—the child, in many things, of his times, but with spiritual intuitions truly and happily conceived. I have neither the qualifications nor, at present, the space to enter into a detailed discussion of these views; but one remark I should like to make. It seems to me that you must make up your mind along which of two ways you are going to look for the explanation of the whole affair of Christianity. Are you going to say that the Christian faith made Christ or that Christ made the Christian faith? I mean, are you going to take, on the one hand, the view that historically Jesus was of not more than humanly comprehensible stature, but that his early disciples and apologists raised his figure to a height of heroism, idealism, supernaturalism, Divinity, till they created the picture of the evangelic tradition and the Church's faith; or, on the other hand, the view that there really and historically