

**THEOLOGY IN VERSE; OR, POEMS ON
THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF
CHRISTIANITY,
DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL. WITH
NOTES. TO WHICH ARE ADDED, RUSTIC
LAYS: SACRED AND MORAL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649533121

Theology in Verse; Or, Poems on the Fundamental Truths of Christianity, Doctrinal and Practical. With Notes. To Which Are Added, Rustic Lays: Sacred and Moral by J. P. Shorthouse

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

J. P. SHORHOUSE

**THEOLOGY IN VERSE; OR, POEMS ON
THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF
CHRISTIANITY,
DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL. WITH
NOTES. TO WHICH ARE ADDED, RUSTIC
LAYS: SACRED AND MORAL**

THEOLOGY IN VERSE;

OR,

POEMS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF CHRISTIANITY,

DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL.

With Notes.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

RUSTIC LAYS:

SACRED AND MORAL.

BY J. P. SHORHOUSE.

LONDON:

AYLOTT AND CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.

1858.

147.f.15.

TO THE READER.

THE same month in which the contents of this volume were completed, I was called to anxious watchfulness over the drooping form of one more dear by far than mortal life to me. She who, setting out with me in early life, had pressed onward by my side along its thorny path, seeking only, in loving self-devotion, to fulfil her duties here; hoping only for repose, when her frail frame should sink into the tomb.

She felt now that her work was done—believed her summons to depart was come. Resting on God's gracious gift in Jesus, that gift—eternal life—displayed itself in heavenly peace begun with her below. Then,

Softly as the rays of light in summer's eve fade out,
Her spirit left its tenement of clay.

She is gone into the presence and fruition of that glory which my mind, while writing some of the pieces following, sought:—

Soaring on wings of faith, the mists of sense to pierce,
And reach unto the brightest view
The vision of mortality could bear.
But finite soon is lost in infinite.
From giddy heights, we topple back to earth.

That "eternal weight" can ne'er be borne
 By mortals clogged with clay.
 Here, we see but darkly through a glass:
 There, in its blissful presence, face to face!

The way unto that blessedness, is Jesus.
 Those called to walk therein, are sinners—sinners only.
 From them, no boasting words—wills, powers to do:
 But deep-felt, broken-hearted cries—
 Lost—helpless—and undone!
 For such, the Lamb of God His life
 A sacrifice laid down.
 For such, the great High Priest to God
 His blood has once for all brought in.
 Faith, only faith, in this great sacrifice can save:
 No works, no duties, but his precious blood
 Must wipe out every stain and blot of sin.
 Faith, only faith, can find this narrow way,
 Which leads ungodly man to joys on high.
 Through life, faith's hand alone receives the grace
 To walk in tribulation's path—
 Keep steadfast to its end.

That end, for us too, soon will come;
 When, leaving in the grave these bodies vile
 We too shall go to an unfading-crown!

J. P. S.

Brace Meale, near Shrewsbury,

June, 1857.

PREFACE.

THE following pieces were written at intervals of time, without either preconceived design, or arrangement with each other; some amidst the bustle of an active business life, and others in the quietude of country scenes.

The mind sometimes finds it an agreeable employment to take up some idea that may occur, and, in its own way, work it out. Such are the contents of the small volume here presented to you.

Of course, it may be doubted whether it was worth sending to the press; but after judgment passed upon me, I must yet come in with an appeal for the subjects, as being (for the most part) worthy of all attention, however weakly handled here. For the cottager, or those who have little time or opportunity for reading; for those ignorant souls who welcome with eager eyes the least ray of light that opens up to them the knowledge of God reconciled to sinners through His Son, the one atoning sacrifice for sin, the righteousness in which man can alone stand in the presence of infinite purity; for them to whose blinded minds the Bible appears only another "Whole Duty of Man," and who, seeking to fulfil its

precepts, hope to get to heaven thereby : to some, perhaps, among these classes, it may not be found altogether useless ; but serve as a hand-post, pointing to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Again. There are some of the lighter cast of minds, who will take up and read a volume of verses, when they will turn away from formal essays, sermons, lectures, and such like productions ; and if, by this means, their mind's eye may catch a ray of the light of truth, or a glimpse of its glory, the labour will not have been in vain.

For the learned—for critics—there will be nothing here but faults. Alas ! how can it be otherwise, when the writer himself seems only made up of faults, and is now too old to mend ?

J. P. SHORTHOUSE.

Longden, near Shrewsbury,

February, 1857.

CONTENTS.

THEOLOGY IN VERSE.

	PAGE
GOD	1
THE FALL	12
THE RECOVERY	20
SIN	28
ELECTION	32
THE GOSPEL	36
JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH	41
FLESH AND SPIRIT	46
PERSISTENCE	49
THE BETHROTHAL	52
THE BRIDE	53
FREE WILL	55
MODERN EVANGELISTS	57
THE EVIL HEART	69
REGENERATION	72
REPENTANCE	74
THE RETURNING SINNER	77
CROSSFISSION TO THE WORLD	79
HUMILITY	83

	PAGE
LOVE	85
SEEKERS AFTER HAPPINESS DIRECTED TO ITS SOURCE ..	89
THE DAILY PRAYER	92
FAITH'S VICTORY OVER THE WORLD	94
THE PROSPECT OF DEATH	97
NOTES	99

RUSTIC LAYS.

THE WANDERER'S HOME	135
PATIENCE	137
ON THE NAME	139
"TOLLE LEGE"	141
JERUSALEM	143
PSALM CXXI.	144
CREATION	146
WILD FLOWERS OF THE SPRING	147
TO THE MOON	150
LIFE'S JOURNEY, PART I.	152
————— PART II.	154
————— PART III.	156
————— PART IV.	157