

**CHRISTIANITY OLD AND
NEW: LECTURES GIVEN AT
BERKELEY, CAL. ON THE
E. T. EARL FOUNDATION**

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Benjamin W. Bacon

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BENJAMIN W. BACON

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LECTURES GIVEN AT BERKELEY, CAL.
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E. T. EARL FOUNDATION

By

BENJAMIN W. BACON

*Professor of New Testament Criticism and
Interpretation in Yale University*



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PREFACE

To the auditors who two years ago kindly expressed their appreciation of the lectures to which they had listened by requesting their immediate publication, a word of apology is due in view of delay in the appearance of the present volume.

Change of substance there has been none, and the very slight change of wording and occasional expansion for greater clearness which have been effected might have been carried through in a comparatively brief time, had not other, and more imperative, duties intervened. It is hoped that the addition now of the essay entitled Old and New in the Characterization of Jesus may compensate for the delay, and in a sense bring the discussion down to date.

The issue which in 1911 had already begun to be drawn is today far more acute. More clearly than ever the world of today is called upon to choose between the gospel of Jesus, and the gospel

PREFACE

about Jesus, between a so-called 'liberal' Christianity, in which social ethics predominates, and a Christianity which promises a new and mystical relation of the individual with God, whether the means it offers for the attainment of this end be regarded as symbol or fact.

History affords the only adequate basis of judgment and we have sought to make clear the lines at least along which a historical judgment should proceed.

But the critic of the New Testament has a further task. If 'the historical Jesus' is to play any part in the 'religion of the future' criticism must vindicate the distinctive traits of his moral and religious character as the Church has received it. To what extent this is possible, and by what solvent the conflicting schools of critical opinion may be made to serve the end of a sober judgment, it is the object of the concluding essay to determine. Neither the Hellenistic title, 'Lord,' nor the Jewish title, 'Son of man,' nor both combined, exhibit all that primitive faith found in the person of Jesus. While the title, 'Ser-