

**CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY:
OR, MATERIALS FOR
THOUGHT**

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Christian philosophy: or, Materials for thought by Jabez Burns

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JABEZ BURNS

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BY THE

AUTHOR OF "SKETCHES AND SKELETONS OF SERMONS,"

THE "CHRISTIAN'S DAILY PORTION," "PULPIT CYCLOPEDIA,"

"SERMONS FOR FAMILIES AND VILLAGES," "YOUTHFUL CHRISTIAN,"

ETC. ETC. ETC.

Jabez Burns.

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk or discourse, but to weigh and consider."—LORD BACON.

LONDON:

HOULSTON AND STONEMAN,

65. PATERNOSTER ROW.

1845.

PREFACE.

It has been the Author's aim, in the present work, to present a variety of articles on interesting and important subjects, expressed in a condensed sententious style, so as to furnish useful and instructive materials for thought, on intellectual, moral, and spiritual themes.

In carrying out this object, he has chosen such topics as were rather practical than speculative; for utility, and not display, has been the principle, under which he has endeavoured to act, in preparing them for the press.

Having a strong attachment to works of a proverbial kind, and thinking many others might have a similar predilection, he concluded that such a book would tend both to interest and instruct a numerous class of readers.

Doubtless many persons may differ with him on some of the sentiments expressed, and may probably dispute the conclusions to which the writer often arrives. He can only say that he has laboured to

—speak out the honest convictions of his mind. But in doing so, would fain hope, that he has ever displayed a spirit of moderation and candour, towards those who may entertain opinions different to his own.

It has been his sincere aim to exhibit truth, and truth only, and he has laboured to do this in as brief and forcible a manner as possible.

He has been anxious that his book should be rather a book of ideas, than one of wordy arguments and illustrations; and he sincerely desires that it may be the humble instrument, under the divine blessing, of extending a knowledge of many important truths which are too liable to be forgotten.

He has endeavoured to arrange the subjects in such order, that the reader will be led to perceive, the obvious connexion which many of them have with each other, so as to form a compendium of practical Christian Philosophy, for the consideration of inquiring and reflective minds.

London, 1845.



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CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY.



TRUTH.

TRUTH is to fact what the impress is to the seal, the exact transcript.

Truth is of universal application; it is the uniting principle which holds together the moral elements of the universe.

Truth is one of the bright characteristics of Deity, and one of the main pillars by which his throne is supported. His works are all exhibitions of truth; his providence its continuous exercise; and his word the revelation of it to mankind.

The gospel is both a system of grace and truth; inflexibly true in its exactions on the surety, and gracious in the bestowment of its blessings to the redeemed.

Acceptance of the truth bursts the bond-man's fetters, and liberates the moral captive; and a retention of the truth is the condition of the charter on which all our spiritual blessings are suspended.

The penitent is prostrate in the porch of the temple of truth; the believer walks in the light that encircles the holy place; and the beatified only can bear the full blaze of the holiest of all.

Truth hearkens with candour, reflects with deliberation, and utters with precision. In matters of conceived trifling import, truth is as the private path which leads to the king's royal highway.

Truth, however minute the particles, is too precious to be lost; and he only will be truly enriched with it who imitates the goldsmith, who causeth even the smallest grains of the precious metal to be carefully preserved.

Truth often prefers the cottage to the mansion, and is frequently seen in company with plain attire. The poor sometimes make her welcome to their mud-formed cabin, while she is excluded from the palaces of kings.

Truth can live in all regions, flourish in all soils, and become naturalized in all climes.

It was the spirit of truth which animated the first martyr Abel, which shone in the pathway of the holy Enoch, and which adorned the Hebrew captive in the land of Egypt. It spake through Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, triumphed in the illustrious events of the Red sea, and was the chorus to the song of Miriam.

Adherence to truth, the seven times heated furnace could not consume, nor the hungry lions destroy.

John the Baptist heralded its prince, and called upon men to give it a reverential reception. Thus uttered by a man of plain exterior, and stern manner, and rigid self-denial, yet it softened hundreds of Jewish hearts, and the waters of the Jordan testified to its virtue and influence.