

**BELIEF IN THE  
DIVINITY OF  
JESUS CHRIST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649009268

Belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ by Henri Didon

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Cover @ 2017

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**HENRI DIDON**

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BELIEF IN THE DIVINITY  
OF JESUS CHRIST

BY

THE REV. FATHER DIDON

OF THE ORDER OF SAINT DOMINIC



LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., LTD.

PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD

1894

TO  
THE PUPILS OF THE SCHOOLS  
OF  
ALBERT LE GRAND,  
LA PLACE  
AND  
LACORDAIRE



## PREFACE

MY FRIENDS,—I dedicate these lectures to you. They were not specially composed for you, but I publish them mainly for you, and to you I dedicate them with the ardent desire that you may share my hopes, my convictions, and my faith.

As a priest of Jesus Christ, nothing is nearer my heart than to reveal Him to those committed to my charge, and to aid them to become His loving and intelligent disciples, faithful in spite of trial and persecution, even unto death.

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, is to make a free choice of Him and accept Him as a Master, to submit the reason to Him that He may enlighten it, conscience that He may direct and command it, liberty and will that He may sustain and stimulate them by His spirit, to give up our life to Him that He may model it upon his own, to place our destiny in His hands that He may accomplish it.

The disciple accepts as truth all that Jesus said and taught; he receives all that He has commanded as the law of absolute perfection, and he



endeavours to do all that Jesus did, following His example as the spotless ideal of sanctity. Every human word contrary to His word is in error, every law in contradiction with His law is evil, every life in opposition with His life is corrupt. Open your hearts to the Spirit of Christ that He may become the divine principle of universal activity in you.

Call no man on earth master; you have in the order of eternal life only one Master, Christ. No other name under heaven is given to men to save them, free them from evil, uplift them to good.

Jesus Christ remains for all humanity what He said that He was: the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Whosoever does not know Christ does not know where he himself is going, he is not on the road, he struggles in the darkness or lies inert in the shadow of death; and he who, having known Him, forsakes Him, strays in blindness and loses eternal life.

No human science can show us our supreme destiny; how could it clear the way for us? No philosophy can instruct us about divine truth, and how shall it give light to the soul which hungers for God? No created force can raise us to God, to the Infinite; how can it give us that life of which God is the eternal nourishment?

The disciple of Jesus Christ escapes from the fatality of that weakness against which every

living soul struggles and revolts, or under the weight of which it sinks at last in sadness and despair. He is freed from the service of false masters, for he knows their radical incompetence in the domain of destiny. If God exists they are incapable, with all their science and philosophy, of translating for us His impenetrable will. But, they say, there is no God. They have never proved it, nor even weakened the unshakable testimony by which all healthy and steadfast reason demonstrates God.

The Divine Master, on the contrary, opens to the believer the way in which he must walk and into which our Master first entered ; He reveals to him the infinite truth of which He is the incarnation, and pours into his will the Holy Spirit as a source of life springing from the bosom of God.

All that was in Christ, who was substantially full of divinity, shines in His disciple ; his reason has thenceforth the only guide which does not deceive ; his conscience, the sole counsellor who does not lead astray ; his liberty, the only force which lifts him to the level of all duty and maintains him at the height of all sacrifice. The disciple of Jesus belongs no more to himself ; he makes one with Christ, and in this intimate and ineffable communion his own mind is supplanted by the mind of his Master in him.

Faith, my friends, accomplishes this prodigy ;

it creates in us the new man, the man of God, the eternal man, the man free from all slavery to matter, from all the grossness of animal life, from all the weakness and limits of reason and liberty.

This new man created by Christ is concealed under the veil of our infirmities and our sorrows ; but he grows in secret, in contact with the invisible Spirit ; those in whom he dwells know that he will appear one day full of glory when God frees him and opens His eternal kingdom to him. Hence, in this world and on this earth where he is only a sojourner, comes the indefatigable vitality of the true believer ; he has the knowledge that he carries Christ living in him, he feels himself with Him in the light, the force and the power of God. His hope is never wearied, his noble ambitions never satisfied, his power of sacrifice never exhausted or discouraged. Always assailed, never subdued : always persecuted, never vanquished ; always despised by the false wisdom of this world, yet enforcing the respect of the most malicious ; always treated as a relic of the past, yet never dying ; abiding, on the contrary, and ever growing younger in a hostile, unquiet, variable and fading world.

He will not turn to scepticism ; the sceptic is detached from his basis ; he succumbs under the weight of his own sorrow, his weakness and his nothingness ; he has committed suicide of the