

**THE IMITATION OF CHRIST;
IN THREE BOOKS. WITH AN
INTRODUCTORY ESSAY**

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The Imitation of Christ; In Three Books. With an Introductory Essay by Thomas à Kempis & Thomas Chalmers

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THOMAS À KEMPIS & THOMAS CHALMERS

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THE
IMITATION OF CHRIST.

Imitatio Christi

1835.

THE

IMITATION OF CHRIST;

IN THREE BOOKS:

BY THOMAS A KEMPIS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN,

By JOHN PAYNE.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY,

BY THOMAS CHALMERS,

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INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

We have sometimes heard the strenuous argumentation of the author of the following Treatise in behalf of holiness excepted against, on the ground that it did not recognise sufficiently the doctrine of justification by faith. There is, in many instances, an over-sensitive alarm on this topic, which makes the writer fearful of recommending virtue, and the private disciple as fearful of embarking on the career of it—a sort of jealousy lest the honours and importance of Christ's righteousness should be invaded, by any importance being given to the personal righteousness of the believer: as if the one could not be maintained as the alone valid plea on which the sinner could lay claim to an inheritance in heaven, and at the same time the other be urged as his indispensable preparation for its exercises and its joys.

It is the partiality with which the mind fastens upon one article of truth, and will scarcely admit the others to so much as a hearing—it is the intentness of its almost exclusive regards on some separate portion of the divine testimony, and its shrinking avoidance of all the distinct and additional portions—it is, in particular, its fondness for the orthodoxy of what relates to a sinner's acceptance, carried to such a degree of favouritism, as to withdraw its attention altogether from what relates to a sinner's sanctification—it is this, which, on the pretence of magnifying a most essential doctrine, has, in fact, diffused a mist over the whole field of revelation; and which, like a mist in nature, not only shrouds the general landscape from all observation, but also bedims, while it adds to the apparent size of the few objects that continue visible. It is the same light which reveals the whole, that will render these last more brightly discernible than before;