

**THE TRUE AND THE
FALSE: A TOPICAL
STUDY OF THE CHRIST**

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The True and the False: A Topical Study of the Christ by Thomas Corwin Chapman

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THOMAS CORWIN CHAPMAN

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IN THE FIRST PLACE.

A True Vision of the True Christ, is fundamental to True Repentance and True Faith, and hence to Salvation. The conviction of the writer, amounting to a certainty that there is abroad in the land a false Christ, a false repentance and a false faith, has led to the publication of this book. Its chief object is to induce the reader to go to Christ as the Supreme Teacher, and learn of Him.

If you can get at it better, you might use in the place of "vision," the word "conception," "perception," "knowledge," or "understanding" of Christ who is "God manifest in the flesh." The thought may be communicated in various ways: By direct revelation, by a Study of Christ as hereinafter attempted, by the preaching of Christ so as to convey a true vision of his Personality, by contact with those who have been with Christ and "learned of Him," who thus become "living epistles, known and read of all men," and whose lives are a constant rebuke to sin; and I will not say that it cannot come to us without apparent means, for it is always brought to us by the Holy Spirit, and what "ways and means" He may employ I dare not say.

In illustration here is the case of Job: In his last chapter he said, "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye SEETH Thee. Where-

fore I ABHOR MYSELF, AND REPENT IN DUST AND ASHES." Thus what hearing could not do nor long and intense suffering accomplish, a TRUE VISION of the Lord performed with great thoroughness. It made the righteous Job abhor himself and repent in dust and ashes.

And there is Jacob: A reading of Genesis from the twenty-fifth to and including the thirty-second chapter, discloses the sad fact that he was a consummate crook up to the time when "there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." After this struggle was over, we find the following entry: "And Jacob called the name of the place Penial, for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." Now read on and you will be delighted to learn that Jacob the supplanter and crook has passed forever, and from that time on he was straight. In other words he had an "experience," was "converted" and his name changed to suit the new man thus brought forth.

What prophet was equal to Isaiah, who wrote the Gospel seven hundred years before the coming of Christ? In his sixth chapter we find how he received the anointing for this work. He saw a vision of the Lord "sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple." After describing what followed, he says: "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Continuing he

says: "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar, and he laid it upon my mouth and said 'Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin purged.' Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'here am I, send me.'" What a complete vision is here! The seeing of the Lord, the consequent consciousness of sin, the purging thereof, and the acceptance of his mission. Could any thing be more complete?

Others might be mentioned, but brevity is the word, and if the reader wants he can hunt them up himself. We turn now to the fact that Christ was the Exponent of Deity. The Scriptures are full of this doctrine, and I quote one only out of many passages to show it: "No one knoweth the Son save the Father, neither doth any know the Father save the Son, AND HE TO WHOMSOEVER THE SON REVEALETH HIM."

It is the bring thus a true vision of the Father as manifested in the true Christ home to the consciousness, that inspires repentance and faith. When Peter fell down before Christ and frantically exclaimed, "Depart from me O Lord, for I am a sinful man," he was moved by the same vision as were Job, Isaiah, et al. Paul thought that verily he was doing God service by persecuting the Church till he met the vision

of Christ on the way to Damascus. But these men had special missions and hence were prepared for them by these direct revelations of the divine character. It is not so with us all, but we must each have his "vision" of the divine character in order to realize the "exceeding sinfulness of sin," and by repentance and submission to the divine will, know that this Father of ours, whom we are thus made to "KNOW" will hear us. Thus is true faith born in the heart.

When Christ went up to Jerusalem, He did not declare Himself, but He simply "SHOWED" Himself to the rulers. As they did not recognize Him as the Christ, He called them "blind leaders of the blind." As they were blinded by selfishness, He called them hypocrites, serpents and vipers. He said to them "how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" They failed to respond to the divine nature as shown in Christ, and must die in their sins.

And SO MUST WE ALL IF WE TURN OUR BACKS ON HIM WHO ALONE HATH THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

A FALSE CHRIST.

As there is only one true God and many false gods, so is there only one true Christ and many false christs. This will by some be considered a rash statement, but what if it should turn out to be true? And if we have a false christ, how much better off