

**PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY:
OR, THE
SIGNS AND DUTIES OF
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649677535

Practical Christianity: Or, the Signs and Duties of the Christian Life by Paton J. Gloag

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PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY;

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SIGNS AND DUTIES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY THE

REV. PATON J. GLOAG,

MINISTER OF BLANTYRE,

AUTHOR OF "THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION," "JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH,"
"THE RESURRECTION," "THE PRINCEVAL WORLD," ETC.

GLASGOW: THOMAS MURRAY AND SON.

EDINBURGH: WILLIAM RITCHIE.

LONDON: JAMES NISBET AND CO.

1868.

TO
THE PARISHIONERS OF BLANTYRE

This Volume

IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY
THEIR MINISTER.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little Volume is not designed to be a systematic and connected treatise on the practical nature of the Christian religion; but it is a selection of papers, without any close connection with each other, on practical subjects. Its design is to bring prominently forward the important fact that Christianity is not only a system of doctrinal truths to be believed, but also of evangelical duties to be practised; indeed, that the truths are only revealed in order that they might influence our heart and conduct, and that without this influence, belief in them is without real advantage.

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THE
Signs and Duties of the Christian Life.

CHAPTER I.

The Acts Fif.

"It is the heart which makes the theologian," was the motto of Neander, one of the greatest of modern divines. His theological system has been represented as assuming that "Christianity is not so much a doctrine as a life—a new life-principle, a new spiritual creation which, like leaven, runs through and sanctifies all natural connexions, and preserves and glorifies every individuality." Although such statements must be taken under considerable limitations, yet there is much truth in them. The doctrines of Christianity, however important and essential, are not mere theories, but great practical realities, which can only have a saving efficacy by being received into the soul. A mere speculative belief in them, if unaccompanied by a spiritual influence