

**THE TRUTH AND CONSISTENCY OF DIVINE
REVELATION: WITH SOME REMARKS ON
THE CONTRARY EXTREMES OF INFIDELITY
AND ENTHUSIASM, IN EIGHT DISCOURSES
DELIVERED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD, IN THE YEAR 1811**

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The Truth and Consistency of Divine Revelation: With Some Remarks on the Contrary Extremes of Infidelity and Enthusiasm, in Eight Discourses Delivered Before the University of Oxford, in the Year 1811 by John Bidlake

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JOHN BIDLAKE

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*The Truth and Consistency of Divine Revelation ;
with some Remarks on the contrary extremes
of Infidelity and Enthusiasm,*

IN

EIGHT DISCOURSES,

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

AT ST. MARY'S,

IN THE YEAR MDCCCXI.

AT

THE LECTURE

FOUNDED BY

THE LATE REV. JOHN BAMPTON,

CANON OF SALISBURY.

BY

JOHN BIDLAKE, D. D.

OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

CHAPLAIN TO THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCE
OF WALES AND DUKE OF CLARENCE.

OXFORD,

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1811.

TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WILLIAM WYNDHAM,
BARON GRENVILLE,
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,
THE FOLLOWING DISCOURSES
ARE DEDICATED
WITH THE MOST PROFOUND RESPECT
BY
HIS LORDSHIP'S
OBLIGED AND VERY OBEDIENT
HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN BIDLAKE.

P R E F A C E.

IN the following Discourses the Author has endeavoured, as in former volumes of Sermons which he has had occasion to publish, to render them as generally useful as possible. He has not laboured to be abstruse, nor does he profess to claim the praise of originality; being better satisfied to produce arguments, however obvious, which may be serviceable to the cause of true religion.

When we consider how much has been written by the early apologists for Christianity; when we reflect on the numerous controversies which have called forth the abilities and stimulated the exertions of the most profound inquirers into subjects of divinity; we cannot hope for much novelty at the present time. Yet perhaps a few observations may be found in this volume, which may place the subjects under discussion in a light somewhat different

from that in which they have been generally viewed.

On those particulars which create a difference of opinion among Christians, the Author has endeavoured to express himself, so as to give as little offence as possible. He trusts that his sentiments are unprejudiced, and wishes to respect all who may differ from him on conscientious motives. The censures which may be found in these Discourses are not designed for any particular denomination of Christians; they apply only to the presumptuous and self-sufficient, to whatever communion they may belong. While he laments the existence of schism, he is the friend of universal toleration; and while he condemns the arrogance of the illiterate, he cannot but respect talents and knowledge, wherever they may be found. But while the Church is aspersed by illiberality, however painful controversy may be, its true friends must stand forward in its defence; and while a spirit exists which is intolerant and uncharitable, and which would prove subversive of sound learning and dignified religion, caution cannot be too warmly or too frequently recommended.

For any defects which may appear in the execution of the following work, the Author has to plead, that he has been afflicted with severe illness; and soon after the commencement of these Lectures he was incapacitated from the use of books, and consequently from the correction of his own pages; and for the delivery of some he was indebted to the kind assistance of friends.