

**GOD AND MYSELF;  
AN INQUIRY INTO  
THE TRUE RELIGION**

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God and Myself; an Inquiry into the True Religion by Martin J. Scott

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TRUE RELIGION

BY  
MARTIN J. SCOTT, S.J.



*Sixty-seventh thousand*

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## PREFACE

**T**HIS is a little book for those seeking a right understanding of the true religion. It is written in a simple and, it is hoped, friendly manner. It is an attempt to look at things in the ordinary common-sense way. The religion of God is for all people. It should appeal to the simple as well as to the learned. In these days, even learned people are too busy to read long or learned treatises. This is short. It is not written in a theological way, but as a plain statement, which it is hoped will carry conviction. It takes nothing for granted. It begins with the beginning. Although it deals with the sublimest matters that can affect mankind, there is an endeavor to use the simplest language. I have tried to get away from a bookish way of talking and to deal with the matter as men in the street deal with the problems that confront them.

For close on to twenty years I have been in touch with men and women who were agitated by the things here presented. To every thinking person, these subjects must from time to time rise up and claim attention. The world is now deeply stirred. The best established things are being tested. The past few years have seen many isms collapse. Religion itself has been challenged. This little treatise is a reply. It will also help those already instructed to meet the difficulties of the day better. Moreover, it will be of especial benefit to those who are engaged in giving instruction to seekers after the truth. By reading this book through carefully, an inquirer will be informed on all the main points of the true religion. As a handbook for inquirers, it aims at seeing things from their standpoint. In this way, it is hoped that they in turn will be led to see the true religion as it is. For to see it as it is will surely lead to its acceptance. Misrepresentation and misunderstanding are the two great sources of error. To remove these and in so doing to set forth the splendor of truth is the purpose of these pages.



## INTRODUCTION

THE condition of the world to-day makes men serious-minded. The greater part of mankind is suffering, making enormous sacrifices, some of life and limb, others of relatives, friends, comfort, and even the necessaries of life. People naturally reflect on the purpose of life when they see it spent thus. The pagan motto "eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die," may be very well when we have youth and pleasure and prosperity, but in times of sacrifice it finds no echo in the heart.

Individuals as well as nations have their periods of sacrifice. Indeed, looking at life broadly, is not every life a sacrifice? If one dies in youth, what a sacrifice of hopes and ambitions! If one lives on to old age, it is only to await some disease or accident as an exit from the stage of life. And the years between, what a conflict they record! Truly,

as Scripture tells us, man's life on earth is a warfare. But war has a purpose, a goal. And what is that purpose, that goal?

Down the ages philosophers and sages have essayed to reply, but the only reply that answers the whole call of life is that given by Jesus Christ. Christ changed the face of the earth. The kingdom He founded is now spread over the entire world, and, after a duration of two thousand years, it is the most vigorous in the world to-day. It has passed through worse crises than we behold at present, and after each it has stood erect, stronger than before. Let us go to Christ, therefore, and see what solution He gives to the problem of life.

In his treatise "God and Myself" (An Inquiry into the True Religion), Father Scott presents the religion of Jesus Christ to the ordinary reader in a brief, clear, and most convincing manner. Realizing that misunderstanding is mainly accountable for the sad religious condition of the times, the author has set himself to remove it. This he does by a most lucid statement of the chief points of the Christian religion. In the course of the work

the great problems of life which at times confront every individual are clearly stated and as clearly solved. In a word, this treatise enables the average person to give a reason for the faith that is in him, and puts his religious belief on a foundation which nothing can shake. Indeed as a book to inform Catholics thoroughly, and also to give to non-Catholics a right view of the Church, I commend it most highly.

I trust that this volume will go forth as a missionary, and bring firm faith and true comfort to countless souls. Jesus Christ has said: "I am the Light of the world;" Father Scott's book should point the way for many to that Light, which leads infallibly those who follow it. "He that followeth Me walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Now, more than ever, we need that light.

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