

**THE TRUE CHRISTIAN'S FAITH AND
EXPERIENCE BRIEFLY DECLARED
CONCERNING GOD, CHRIST, THE SPIRIT,
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, THE GOSPEL,
AND THE DOCTRINES THEREOF**

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The True Christian's Faith and Experience Briefly Declared Concerning God, Christ, the Spirit, the Holy Scriptures, the Gospel, and the Doctrines Thereof by William Shewen

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WILLIAM SHEWEN

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BRIEFLY DECLARED

CONCERNING GOD, CHRIST, THE SPIRIT, THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES, THE GOSPEL, AND
THE DOCTRINES THEREOF.

ALSO THE
TITULAR CHRISTIAN'S FAITH AND PROFESSION
TRIED, EXAMINED, AND JUDGED.

WRITTEN FOR

The Conformatjon and Consolation of the one, and
for the Information, in order to the
Restoration and Salvation, of the other.

ALSO,

A few Words to such who are newly turned in
their Minds to the Light within, and are Believers in it.

By WILLIAM SHEWEN.

“He is not a Jew that is one outwardly, Rom. ii. 28.—He that hath the Bride, is the Bridegroom, John iii. 29.—He that hath the Son, hath Life; he that hath not the Son, hath not Life, 1 John v. 12.—Darkness is past, the true light now shineth, 1 John ii. 8. The people that walked in Darkness have seen a great Light; they that dwell in the shadow of Death, upon them hath the Light shined, Isa. ix. 2.—Every one that doth evil, hateth the Light,” &c.—John iii. 20, 21.

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TO THE
R E A D E R.

FRIEND,

THOU mayst know, that in this part of the world, called Christendom, the name of Christian is very famous, and that there are few therein but desire to be called by that name; and a high and great profession of Christianity abounds amongst the divers sects therein, all coveting the name of Christian; but the Christian life, the nature of Christianity, the fruits and effects of the Holy Spirit, are much wanting; and the contrary much abounds, whereby an evil favour is sent forth to the nations round about, called Heathens and Infidels. There is scarcely any sort of wickedness to be found upon the face of *the whole earth*, which is not done and com-

mitted in this part of the world, called **Christendom**; whereby the Jews and Heathen, instead of being converted, are strengthened and confirmed in their infidelity, ignorance, blindness, and idolatry: for, where this nominal or titular Christian hath prevailed, as among the Americans, he hath sent forth such a stink and ill favour, by his abominable inhuman practices, that the name of Christ is blasphemed, and the Christian religion hated, by many that have heard the fame and report thereof.

Had the life of Christ, and the nature of Christianity, been known and lived in by all that profess the name, Christendom had been as a fruitful field, as a pleasant garden inclosed, as a vineyard walled about full of trees of righteousness, and plants of God's own right-hand planting; and the tree of life would have flourished among them in the midst thereof; and the leaves of the same would have healed the nations round about; it would have been as a city set upon an hill, which *cannot be hid*; and as a lamp that burneth,

being fed with sweet oil; as a glorious light that shineth; and many would have fled unto it, as unto a city of refuge, and have walked in the light thereof, have seen and beheld their good works, and have glorified their Father which is in heaven; they would have lain down as a flock of harmless lambs together, solacing themselves in the green pastures of life and salvation, in the low valley, and a-top of that holy mountain, where no destroyer is, nor none can make afraid; where the lion eats straw like the ox, and where the sucking child plays on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child puts his hand on the cockatrice's den without hurt.^a The earth would have been full of the knowledge of the Lord; as the waters cover the sea: and this song would have been in Christendom, as in the land of Judah, We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks:^b the gates thereof would have been open to them, as a righteous nation, that keepeth the truth, that they might have entered in, and dwelt

^a Isa. xi. 7, 8, 9.

^b Ibid. xxvi. 1, 2.