

**WHAT CHRISTIANITY  
MEANS TO  
ME; A SPIRITUAL  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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What Christianity Means to Me; A Spiritual Autobiography by Lyman Abbott

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**LYMAN ABBOTT**

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**TORONTO**

**WHAT CHRISTIANITY  
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**BY**

**LYMAN ABBOTT**

Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**New York**

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1922

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## PROLOGUE

THE Christianity of the Twentieth Century is not the same as the Christianity of Jesus Christ; and it ought not to be. For Christianity is a life, and after nineteen centuries of growth it can no more be the same that it was in the First Century than an oak is the same as an acorn, or America in 1920 is the same as America in 1787. Jesus told his disciples that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a seed planted, which from the least of seeds would grow to be a great tree. This is what has happened. The Roman Catholic Mass is quite different from the Last Supper as taken by Jesus and his friends in that upper chamber; the Westminster Confession of Faith is quite different from the Sermon on the Mount; the highly organized churches of the present day are quite different from the Church in the house as described in the Book of Acts. During these nineteen centuries philosophers have been trying to interpret Christian life and experience and so have developed a Christian