

# **THE BASAL BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649311712

The basal beliefs of Christianity by James H. Snowden

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES H. SNOWDEN**

**THE BASAL BELIEFS  
OF CHRISTIANITY**



THE BASAL BELIEFS OF  
CHRISTIANITY



THE MACMILLAN COMPANY  
NEW YORK · BOSTON · CHICAGO  
ATLANTA · SAN FRANCISCO

MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED  
LONDON · BOMBAY · CALCUTTA  
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.  
TORONTO

# THE BASAL BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY,

By  
JAMES H. SNOWDEN, D.D., LL.D.

←

<sup>c</sup>  
New York  
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1911

*All rights reserved*

5-1189

COPYRIGHT, 1911,  
By THE MACMILLAN COMPANY.

---

Set up and electrotyped. Published January, 1911.

Norwood Press:  
Berwick & Smith Co., Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.



To

PRESIDENT

JOHN A. MARQUIS, D.D., LL.D.

SCHOLAR, THINKER, PREACHER, EDUCATOR

THIS BOOK IS FRATERNALLY

INSCRIBED

## PREFACE

DOCTRINE is the necessary foundation on which duty and deed are built, or the root out of which they spring as flower and fruit. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Every rational deed issues from a thought, thought when it becomes critical and constructive shapes itself into a doctrine, and doctrine builds a system of truth. Thus every one is a psychologist and theologian and philosopher, whether he knows it or not. All Christian preaching and practice must root itself in doctrine and cannot be clearer and stronger than the doctrine out of which it grows. Yet "doctrinal preaching" is not a popular program and is supposed to be somewhat repellent. There is no avoiding it, however; the very denial of doctrine is itself a doctrine, and the rankest sensationalist, denouncing doctrine, is yet himself preaching it, though it may be of a very poor kind.

One danger with our doctrines is that they may fall out of touch with our day, if not in substance and spirit, then in form and expression. They necessarily change with the changing intellectual,

social and spiritual climate of their age, a change that may be slow and unperceived in a short time, but is sure and plain in the long run. When one reads a sermon fifty or a hundred years old he is at once aware of a style and tone different from the preaching of to-day. Such change is evidence of the continuous adaptability of Christian truth to varying human needs; a sign, not of decay and death, but of vigorous and fruitful life. Truth is permanent in its essential nature, but its interpretation and application are progressive. We still wear clothes, but fashions change; we eat food, but the dishes differ. Yet this doctrinal expression may change too slowly and thus lag behind the times. If doctrines are preached to-day as they were in former days they will strike the present generation as strange and unattractive; whereas if they are set forth in the life and language of to-day they may find a welcome reception.

Doctrine should also be presented, not as a dry and rattling skeleton, but clothed in flesh and blood and pulsing warm with life. Bones are useful members of the anatomy, but the higher animals do not wear them on the outside. Doctrine should appeal directly to experience. It should be woven of the same threads as the general web of human life, and its illustrations should be concrete bits of