

**THE LIFE OF GOD IN
THE LIFE
OF HIS WORLD**

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The Life of God in the Life of His World by James Morris Whiton

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JAMES MORRIS WHITON

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By
James Morris Whitton, Ph.D.



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Prefatory

THE line of thought followed in this essay was proposed by its author thirty years ago in sermons preached and published in this country and in Great Britain. Five years later it was more fully presented in his small volume of supposed conversations between two friends—*Gloria Patri, Our Talks about the Trinity*. In the two following decades books by evangelical scholars, presently to be named, practically shelved the doctrine of the Trinity in its traditional form. The time seemed ripe and opportune to restate it as proposed in the publications above mentioned. In 1911 an essay appeared in *The Homiletic Review*, entitled "The Divine Trinity as

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Biological Reality." Its title in this new edition emphasizes the central truth that runs through the argument as its spinal cord.

The underlying purpose of this essay and its predecessors is the same—to draw down from the clouds of theory into the life of conduct the divine fire long latent in a fundamental truth of Christianity. In its traditional form it has been as barren of moral power as a mathematical formula. The Divine Trinity, in the dogmatic statement of it by Greek theologians of the fifth century, is a formula of theological agreement. It has practically superseded its primitive setting forth in Paul's apostolic benediction as a formula of spiritual communion, still used as such in all Christian churches. It is now made a shibboleth of the right to recognition as

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Christians. Godly men who dissent from it are excluded from Christian fellowship by men professedly godly in their blindness to the word of Christ; "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

"Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus." With these words of Paul at heart, what Christian man can think the present situation tolerable? To show the way out of it is the purpose of the following pages, a revised and amplified edition of the essay in *The Homiletic Review*. Within the last three years that has been adopted in the theological seminaries at Auburn, New York (Presbyterian), and Berkeley, California (Congregational), as the basis of their teaching concerning the Trinity. That in course of time the shadow will

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go backward on the dial seems highly improbable.

In view of the gradual growth to such a result of the original proposal in 1888-89, this essay is addressed to Christian ministers and laymen with increased confidence, that under guidance of the Holy Spirit rich harvests of Christian thought and life are to be reaped from a field long fallow and unfruitful. It cannot be that the all-comprehending truth of Christianity will be left so beclouded by metaphysics that such men as Daniel Webster will pass it by with the remark, "Men cannot be expected to understand the arithmetic of heaven."

J. M. W.

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**In him we live, and move, and
have our being. Acts xviii, 28.**