

**HOW DOES THE DEATH OF
CHRIST SAVE
US? OR, THE ETHICAL
ENERGY OF THE CROSS**

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How does the death of Christ save us? or, The ethical energy of the cross by Henry C. Mabie

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HENRY C. MABIE

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**HOW DOES THE
DEATH OF
CHRIST SAVE US?**

"The hands upon that cruel tree,
Extended wide as mercy's span,
Have gathered to the Son of man
The ages past and yet to be.

One, reaching backward to the prime,
Enfolds the children of the morn;
The other, to a race unborn
Extends the crowning gift of time!"

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HOW DOES THE DEATH OF CHRIST SAVE US?

OR
THE ETHICAL ENERGY
OF THE CROSS

By
HENRY C. MABIE, D. D.

*Being ready always to give answer
to every man that asketh you a
reason concerning the hope that is
in you, yet with meekness and fear.
1 Peter 3 : 15.*

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HOW DOES THE DEATH OF CHRIST SAVE US ?

I

A Question of Questions

NOT long since a friend of the writer propounded the above question to a theologian of repute. The answer returned was so hesitant and confused as to surprise and disappoint the querist. The difficulty implied in the question has perplexed many minds.

In the recent book, "The Heart of the Gospel," by Dr. James M. Campbell, the author has this reference to the so-called "Moral Influence View" of the atonement, as set forth by the late Prof. Geo. B. Stevens, D. D., of Yale Theological Seminary: "The main thing lacking in the view is that it does not show how the work of Christ is so related to sin as to be made effective to salvation, nor does it tap the deep fountain

of motive from which the moral influence of the Saviour's influence springs. It predicates an effect without an adequate cause." And yet this "Moral Influence View" of the atonement is supposed by many to reduce to a minimum the difficulties in the rationale of the atonement—a conception with which the present writer finds himself unable to agree.

The question of the method of salvation deserves a better answer than is commonly given to it; and certainly an answer that does not destroy the atonement. Indeed such an answer must be given, if the evangelical faith is to stand, if our rational hold on the grounds of salvation is to be maintained, and if we are to strengthen the faith of others. It cannot be, that that Cross which is declared to be "the wisdom of God," will not commend itself as wise in the method of its working, as well as effective in power, to a spiritually taught insight. The way of salvation must be supremely rational. Customary as it is for many to say that they