

**SPIRITUAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF ST.  
PAUL. FOURTH EDITION**

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Spiritual Development of St. Paul. Fourth Edition by George Matheson

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**GEORGE MATHESON**

**SPIRITUAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF ST.  
PAUL. FOURTH EDITION**



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF ST PAUL



BY THE  
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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS little book has occupied me at intervals nearly two years in writing, and a good many years in thinking. The problem I set before myself was this: assuming that the thirteen epistles of St Paul are genuine, and waiving for the present all questions of Biblical criticism, is it possible to regard these as marking the stages of a progressive development? Is it possible out of these alone, and without the aid of any foreign materials, to construct a fairly correct picture of the successive phases of Paul's Christian experience? The design of the book is therefore a limited one; it is strictly confined within these thirteen epistles. Even within these boundaries its title involves an additional limit. On the one hand it is a development of St Paul, not of Saul of Tarsus; on the other hand, it is his spiritual development, as distinguished alike

from the course of his outer life and the growth of his intellectual system. I leave on the one side his missions, his shipwrecks, his dangers; I leave on the other his theology, whether as interpreted by the school of Tübingen or the school of Calvin, the discussion of Jewish or Gentile tendencies, of grace and law, of Episcopacy and Presbyterianism, of predestination and free-will. The only doctrines alluded to are those which bear upon the main thesis—the growth of his humanitarian consciousness, the widening of his sympathy from Jerusalem to Rome. The work, as will be seen from its dimensions, is merely the introduction to a vast subject. It indicates lines of development which might be followed out to any extent, but it has left it for others to do so. The authorities are the epistles themselves, and there is no citation from any German or English work. I have studied above all things to keep the mind not only unbiassed by, but as much as possible forgetful of, previous speculations, and have striven to gather the materials only from what claims to be the original source.

GEORGE MATHESON.

19 ST BERNARD'S CRESCENT,  
EDINBURGH, 1890.



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# SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF ST PAUL.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

I INTEND to make an attempt to write the inner biography of Paul the Apostle. I shall try to trace the course of his spiritual history from the day of his conversion to Christianity until the day when he declared himself "ready to be offered." It is a task not of great length, but of great magnitude. It does not need a multitude of pages like the record of his outward biography. It requires no maps nor charts, no study of contemporary men and manners, no consultation of references foreign to his own actual writings. To write a man's inward biography demands before all things the undergoing of a kindred experience and the living of a common life. But if in this respect the task is comparatively