

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

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Fundamental Questions by Henry Churchill King

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HENRY CHURCHILL KING

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ETC.

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PREFACE

THIS volume aims to deal, in not too technical fashion, with some of the most fundamental questions, theoretical and practical, which are involved in the Christian view of God and the world. It is naturally intended, thus, both to answer difficulties and to suggest lines of thought which may help to confirm and to clarify Christian faith.

Its chapters take up in order the perennial problem for all ideal views,—the question of suffering and sin; the difficulties for any religious view which gather around prayer,—the central relation of revelation and response between God and men; the question of how we may best think of Christ,—the central fact of the Christian religion; and then, in the light of these conclusions, four large problems for Christian thought and life: the questions of life's fundamental decision, of life's fundamental paradox of liberty and law, of Christian unity, and of Christianity as a world religion.

Each of the last four questions, as well as the first three, are truly fundamental and vital. The question of life's fundamental decision has to do with those basic will-attitudes which chiefly give to life its reality and meaning and value. The kinship of religion with all earnest living can be here discerned. The question of life's fundamental paradox of liberty and law is necessarily involved in man's use of his will, and its solution is requisite both for the satisfaction of man's reason, and for his ethical and religious freedom. Every life has this paradox constantly to face. The question of Christian unity refuses to be ignored, and probably no other generation has seen so much definite effort for the unification of Christianity. It concerns us all to estimate values and measures aright at this point. Moreover, the question of Christianity as a world religion, the Christian church must frankly face, both for the justification of its world-wide missionary endeavors, and to meet the demands made upon it by the complex modern world in this time of world-shaking war. There is a very real sense in which Christianity as a world religion is on trial.

Parts of this volume have been printed before, but nothing is included that is not believed to have vital connection with the theme. Thanks are due to *The Biblical World*, *The Pilgrim Teacher*,



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HENRY CHURCHILL KING.