

**A VALID RELIGION FOR
THE TIMES: A STUDY
OF THE CENTRAL TRUTHS
OF SPIRITUAL RELIGION**

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PARLEY P. WOMER & WASHINGTON GLADDEN

**A VALID RELIGION FOR
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OF THE CENTRAL TRUTHS
OF SPIRITUAL RELIGION**

A Valid Religion for the Times

*A Study of the Central Truths of
Spiritual Religion.*

BY

PARLEY P. WOMER,

Author of "The Relation of Healing to Law."

WITH A FOREWORD BY

WASHINGTON GLADDEN.



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*In memory of a conversation that has had
many happy issues both for ourselves
and for others, this book is respect-
fully dedicated to*

DR. C. EUGENE RIGGS, MRS. RIGGS,

and

MR. HENRY E. SMITH.

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PREFACE.

THE searching criticism to which all Christian teaching has been subjected in recent years was sorely needed in the interest of a purer and more rational faith. Now that its work in the main is accomplished, and its intensity has begun to abate we are confronted with the task of dealing properly with the message of truth that is left. This must be gathered up and restated in terms of our daily life and need. Many worthy attempts in this direction have been made, but these for the most part are beyond the reach of the busy, practical people who in nearly every community comprise the vast majority of those who follow Christ. Busied with a thousand duties and demands of daily life there are many who have neither the time nor the equipment to follow the processes by which the trained thinker obtains his results, and yet they are profoundly interested in those results. They are asking what of the evangel has withstood the searching tests that have been applied.

It is the standpoint of these that I have had in mind in the preparation of these pages rather

than that of the scholar or the philosopher. It has not occurred to me that the presentation herein made has anything especially new or original about it, because in fact I have laid a great many writers under tribute, but it represents a point of view that has brought immeasurable satisfaction and uplift to myself and I am not without hope that it may help in some small way to meet the general need.

I am very greatly indebted to Dr. Gladden for so kindly taking the time out of his busy life to look over the manuscript, and to contribute a foreword. A still greater debt, however, that I owe him, and one that I would acknowledge with deep gratitude is the inspiration that I have drawn from his published writings, and which more than any other influence has helped to clarify my own ideas and enabled me to grasp in some measure the fundamental truths of spiritual religion.

PARLEY P. WOMER.

PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
St. Paul, Minn.

FOREWORD

I have read, more hastily than I wished to read, the chapters of this little book, and have found myself gladly assenting, all the way, to the truth here set forth. The spirit of the book is that of sweet reasonableness; it is not a polemic; it is simply and calmly affirmative; it assumes that the truth is its own best evidence, and that it only needs to be distinctly spoken.

In every chapter we find evidence that the author has been reading widely and judiciously, that he understands what he has read, and that he has verified, by his own insight and experience the truth he is trying to teach. The realities of the spiritual life are approached in unconventional ways, but we are helped to see that they are realities. How carefully, in the first chapter, are the discriminations drawn between the counter-