

T H E

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"The Lord God is a Sun and Shield."

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The following sentence, in substance, is found inscribed upon the face of every creed, and confession of faith, in Protestant Christendom; to wit: "The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the word of God, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice." We shall therefore summon into court, all the creeds and confessions of faith, as witnesses, and out of their own mouths we shall condemn them as *fallible*—for they confess their own guilt—they say "the word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments is the only infallible rule of faith and practice." If these witnesses tell the truth, they are fallible and may be wrong, and consequently they cannot be depended on! We shall then take the ground, that creeds and confessions of faith are unnecessary, and stand directly in the way of christian union, and the conversion of the world to Jesus Christ.

That they are unnecessary, may be proved, 1st, from the concessions of all parties. The old school Presbyterians will admit that the new school party, who have gone off from them, may be christians, though they deny some of the prominent features of the "good old confession of faith." The old and the new school Presbyterians will both agree that the Cumberland Presbyterian church may contain some very good christians, though she has rejected the "Westminster Book," and set up for herself. The Methodists of all schools will admit that the Baptists may be good christians, though they reject the Methodist Discipline as heretical. The Baptists admit as much for the Methodists, who reject the *five points*, and have adopted the antagonist *five points* of Arminianism. In short, all the lovers and

supporters of human creeds admit that salvation may be enjoyed by the honest hearted of all parties; and we are happy to know, that from the stern Calvinist down to the most enthusiastic advocate of human creeds in the land—all cheerfully admit, that if an individual honestly rejects every human creed in Protestant Christendom, as contrary to the spirit and mind of Christ and the very best interests of our race, we say, all admit that if such an individual believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart, trust in him for salvation, and to the very best of his knowledge and ability obey the commands of God through life, his whole conduct being regulated by the Bible alone, without any human creed superadded; he will overcome the world, and receive "an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ." This admission cuts the throat of every human creed and confession of faith in christendom, and proves them to be unnecessary appendages. For if a man can be a christian without being a Methodist, or acknowledging the discipline, it follows with the clearness of demonstration, that the Methodist discipline, which contains Methodism, is non-essential. And so of all the rest! But who will say that a man can be a christian who rejects the Bible? No one. And who will say, that one who believes all its heavenly truths, and obeys its divine mandates, is not a christian? No one. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John ii. 3.

Human creeds are unnecessary, 2d, because they contain nothing valuable which is not found in the Bible; for their *lovers* say, they "have been taken from the Bible, and they are just like it." Then they are unnecessary, for we have the Bible, which all acknowledge to be the fountain from which all those little streams (creeds)