A HANDBOOK

OF

COMPARATIVE RELIGION

BY

REV. S. H. KELLOGG, D.D., LL.D.

MISSIONARY TO INDIA,

AUTHOR OF


PHILADELPHIA

THE WESTMINSTER PRESS

1899
Copyright, 1899, by The Trustees of
The Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-
School Work.
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td></td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter I</td>
<td>The Classification of Religions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter II</td>
<td>Fundamental Agreements</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter III</td>
<td>The Doctrine of the World Religions Concerning God</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter IV</td>
<td>The Doctrine Concerning Sin</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter V</td>
<td>The Doctrine Regarding Salvation</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VI</td>
<td>The Doctrine Concerning the Future</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VII</td>
<td>Practical Morals</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter VIII</td>
<td>The Relation of the World Religions to Christianity</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE.

It might perhaps seem as if such a brief and incomplete discussion of the question of Comparative Religion, as is given in the following pages, would be superfluous. Many of the ablest scholars and specialists in the world have published of late years elaborate discussions of the subject, which have laid all students under lasting obligations. It is to be regretted, however, that to a very great extent, the general result of the presentation of the subject, so far as it has hitherto been made popularly accessible, has been to create a widely spread impression that the difference between the various religions of the world has formerly been greatly exaggerated; and that, in particular, the teaching hitherto current in the Church as to the exclusive position held by Christianity as the one only divinely revealed system of saving truth, is as erroneous as uncharitable.

It seems to be imagined by many, that just as we ought to have charity toward our fellow-
Christians in various sections of the Church of Christ, who hold on many points religious beliefs different from those which we have been educated to receive, inasmuch as in all that is essential to true religion and acceptance with God, we are truly at one; even so ought we to regard those who are not even Christians in name, but followers of one or other of the great world-religions. It is strangely fancied that howsoever these may differ from us in many things, yet in all things which are essential to man's eternal well-being, they also are practically at one with Christians; so that, if they but carefully live up to the precepts and observances prescribed in their several religions, it is thought that it is only charitable to suppose that their prospects for the life to come may be, on the whole, as good as our own.

The practical bearing of opinions of this kind is only too obvious. When the Lord Jesus Christ was about to ascend into heaven, He gave unto His disciples orders, in the clearest possible terms, to preach His gospel in all the world, to every creature; and that with the object of making men who were disciples of Buddha or Confucius, or worshipers of Jupiter or other of the gods of Greece
and Rome, disciples to Himself, and worshipers of the one God and Father, whom He declared that He had come into the world to reveal unto men. If, however, the view of the other religions of the world which we have just indicated, be correct, then it certainly seems much of an impertinence that men should undertake a proselytizing work of this kind; and it is only natural that people who cherish such a view of the non-Christian religions, should withhold from Christian missions both their service, their means, and their sympathy. As a matter of fact, I have observed, during many years' residence in India, and an acquaintance more than usually extensive with missions and missionaries in every part of the world, that men and women who entertain so favorable views of the various ethnic religions, as all alike more or less perfect revelations of the mind and will of God, are very rarely found in the missionary ranks. But this is only what we should naturally expect.

If then the facts set forth in the following pages with regard to the most important of these religions in the world of to-day, shall prove helpful in enlightening any as to their actual teachings, or correct in any case the very radical and serious misconceptions on
this subject, which, we fear, are already beginning to show their effect in dulling the missionary zeal of many professed Christians, one great object of the writer will be attained.

It may not be amiss to remark that this book has been perforce written under great disadvantage, on account of the impossibility of access to many valuable sources of illustration such as abound in libraries in Great Britain and America; for in such a small and out-of-the-way station as has been of late the author’s home in India, such helps are practically not obtainable. I will only venture to hope that for this lack some slight compensation may be found in the writer’s many years of residence and familiarity with the life and language of the people, in such a great non-Christian land as India.

S. H. Kellogg.

Landour, Mussoorie, North India,
July, 1898.