

"ALPHA AND OMEGA"

"I am Alpha and Omega:" Revelation 1:8.

There is a threefold setting forth of Christ in the New Testament. There is the conception of the evangelists embodied in the narrative of the Gospels. There is the reflected picture seen in the effects produced on the people; they feared, wondered, etc. There is Christ's own setting forth of Himself in the titles He assumed. Here we have a part of it. This is the self-presentation of the glorified Christ. He here identifies Himself with God, whose peculiar title is "the first and the last." In many ways Christ is the Alpha and Omega.

I. He is the Alpha and Omega of Creation.

1. It began in His thought. Romans 11:36.
2. It was made by His power. John 1:3.
3. It exists through His bounty. Hebrews 1:3.
4. It has its issue in His praise and glory. Colossians 1:16.

The vast fabric of created things sprang into being at His word. Out of nothing He created all that is. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:3. He made the stars, kindled their brilliant fires, fixed their rank, regulated their motions, and appointed their mission. He formed the earth, robed it in vestments of everchanging beauty, and endowed it with unfailing productiveness. He fashioned man after the model of His own illustrious image, freighted him with faculties of wondrous compass, indicated the possibilities of his career, and the character of his destiny.

II. He is the Alpha and Omega of the Bible.

He appears in Genesis as "The seed of the woman." He is the grand figure in Revelation. He is the subject of all between. It matters not where you open the Bible, you will find Christ. It is Jesus all the way through.

III. He is the Alpha and Omega of History.

The years before Him we mark B. C.; the years after Him A. D. The centuries before were a preparation for His advent. History since has been a record of His triumphs.

IV. He is the Alpha and Omega of Salvation.

He is the author and finisher of our faith. He convinces and converts. He justifies and sanctifies. "There is none other name." All the good news of the glorious gospel of Christ can be summed up in one matchless statement, "Christ died for our sins." The testimony of all who have been saved is gloriously borne by that gifted scientist, dying yonder sometime ago, who was asked, "What is the greatest discovery that you have ever made?" He quickly replied, "That Christ is my Saviour." A dying woman was asked, "What is your hope now?" She pointed to the Bible on the bedside table, and then to her heart, and then upward toward heaven, and said, "Christ in the Bible, Christ in my heart, and Christ in heaven." There is no substitute for Christ and no salvation apart from Him.

V. He is the Alpha and Omega in the Life of the Believer.

He is crucified with Christ. He lives for Christ. He lives to know, to love, to enjoy, to be like, to work for, and to glorify Christ. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega of human aspirations. He meets our strongest yearnings. He is the Alpha and Omega of human character. Christ comprehended in Himself every form of excellence. No virtue was lacking; each grace was present. He meets our every need. He is a sufficient Saviour, an attractive example, a wise counsellor, and an unerring guide.

VI. He is the Alpha and Omega in the Church.

He started the church. He has been with it. He is with it. He shall gather it. He will glorify it.

Take Christ as your Saviour, enthrone Him as your Lord and Master, and serve Him to the end of life's day.