

Every man's creed is his own interpretation of the doctrines which he has received. True of churches as well as of individuals.

To determine the piety of an individual, or of a denomination, there must be some standard of faith.

This is the only safeguard of the pulpit today.

It is true that as Baptists, we have no single formulary, everywhere accepted, from the fact of our church independency.

Yet there is no denomination more united in its faith and practice, than is ours.

Aside from all discussion of different creeds, whether they be what is known as the Apostles' Creed, or the Westminster Confession, it may be said, that the first Christians made no speeches, wrote no letters to Jews or Gentiles, in which they did not condense, with all possible accuracy, the doctrines of the facts of Christianity.

Successive generations down to our own time, have in the light of progressive learning, gradually elaborated and systematized the doctrinal teachings of the Apostles.

In his great argument upon the Girard will case, Daniel Webster, before the Supreme Court at Washington, founded that argument upon the fact that Christianity is the law of the land, in these words:

"The earliest and the most urgent intellectual want of human nature, is the knowledge of its origin, its duty, and its destiny.

Whence came I?

What am I? and

What is before me?

This is the cry of the human soul, so soon as it raises its contemplation above visible, material things.

One of the first inquiries is:

Shall I be here always?

Shall I live forever?

Man soon learns that he must die. His Maker has made him capable of learning this.

Then comes the most solemn and urgent demand for light, that ever proceeded from the profound and anxious broodings of the human soul.

If a man die, shall he live again? And that question, nothing but God, and the religion of God, can solve.