

But if Christ be not the true God, the great body of Christians have, in every age of the church, wholly misunderstood the Scriptures concerning this most important doctrine, and mistaken, infinitely, the real character of their Saviour. Of course, the Scriptures have been so written, as that the natural interpretation of them is a source of total and dreadful error; even of that, which they themselves denounce in terms of the highest reprobation, viz. idolatry. For the interpretation, which has been given them by the great body of Christians, in every age and country in which they have existed, is beyond controversy the natural interpretation. That men who first make a philosophic system of religion, and then endeavor to reconcile the Scriptures to it, should understand them falsely cannot be wondered at; but that they should be falsely understood by the great body of mankind, who for their religion come to them only; and yet the way of holiness be still a highway in which wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err; is a position, which is yet to be explained.