

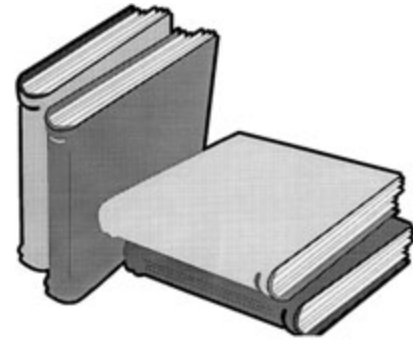
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



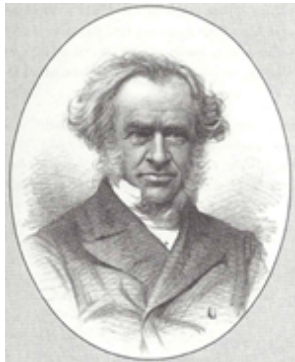
Issue 1016

The Fatherhood of God. Universal?

Candlish argued that the idea of the universal fatherhood of God was unbiblical. Instead, he argued that the fatherhood of God should be understood as a **'filial relationship, and that with believers only, and that by adoption'**.

Candlish went on to argue that what believers receive from Christ **in adoption** is an entirely new relationship unlike any other. His concern here was to assert that **'the Gospel is doing more than making good the loss brought on our race by sin'**. In stating his views, Candlish did not intend to be controversial in his views. In the introduction to the published lectures, he wrote;

These are not, in my opinion, novel doctrines; I would be sorry to think that they were. I may have put some points more sharply, and pushed a certain line of thought more boldly, than some may be quite prepared to approve. I am persuaded that I have really advanced nothing which may not be found ... in the writings of orthodox and evangelical divines, both of earlier and later times.



Sandy Finlayson, *Unity & Diversity:
The Founders of the Free Church of Scotland,*
Christian Focus 2010.

Robert Candlish (1806-1873) was a Free Church of Scotland minister and Principal of the New College, Edinburgh, a Free Church Seminary.