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978-1-107-69708-9 - Apollinarianism: An Essay on the Christology of
the Early Church

Charles E. Raven

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AN ESSAY ON THE CHRISTOLOGY
OF THE EARLY CHURCH

BY

CHARLES E. RAVEN, D.D.

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TO
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PREFACE

“**A**POLLINARIANISM is the prevalent heresy of to-day: why don't you make a study of it?” That advice given to me by one of the most revered of my teachers fifteen years ago fixed my desire to investigate the teaching of the great Greek heresiarch; and a year later I submitted a thesis upon him for a Cambridge Fellowship. Professor Gwatkin whose learning, enthusiasm and generosity were an inspiration and remain an ever-honoured memory to generations of students, encouraged me to continue the subject; and it has occupied much of my time since those days. The war prevented the completion of the work, and the long interruption has compelled me to revise the whole material and re-examine the conclusions that I had formed.

Those conclusions will certainly be regarded by orthodox critics as dictated by “modernist” prejudice. In view of this it is well to state plainly that when the task was begun I was myself an Apollinarian in the sense that I accepted belief in the impersonal humanity of our Lord. It was only as the investigation continued that the evidence forced me to the conviction that Apollinarianism both in its ancient and its modern form was untenable and the acceptance of Professor Bethune-Baker's verdict that “Paul of Samosata had behind him a genuine historical tradition to which in our reconstruction of doctrine we must return.”

My obligations are three-fold: first to my teachers and colleagues at Cambridge and in particular to Mr

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

PREFACE

J. H. A. Hart, to Professor Gwatkin and to Professor Bethune-Baker, the last of whom has been always ready to give me the assistance of his wide knowledge of patristics and his keen and candid criticism: secondly to the writers who have studied the same field and especially to Dr Hans Lietzmann of Bonn without whose invaluable edition of the works of Apollinarius this essay could hardly have been undertaken: and finally to the friends who have made the production of it possible, to the Syndics and to the staff of the University Press, to Mr and Mrs Sherwood, beneath whose roof much of it was written and whose help in other directions has been invaluable, to Mr Uvedale Lambert who has read it all in proof, to my sister who has compiled the index, and to her for whose sake the study was first begun and in whose comradeship it has now been finished.

C. E. R.

July 1923.

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[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTOLOGY.	i
II. THE FIRST CONTROVERSY	41
III. THE ARIANS AND THEIR OPPONENTS	86
IV. APOLLINARIUS OF LAODICEA: HIS LIFE AND WORKS	126
V. APOLLINARIUS OF LAODICEA: HIS CHRISTOLOGY	177
VI. THE ORTHODOX CRITICS OF APOL- LINARIUS	233
VII. THE ANSWER TO APOLLINARIUS .	273
INDEX	309