

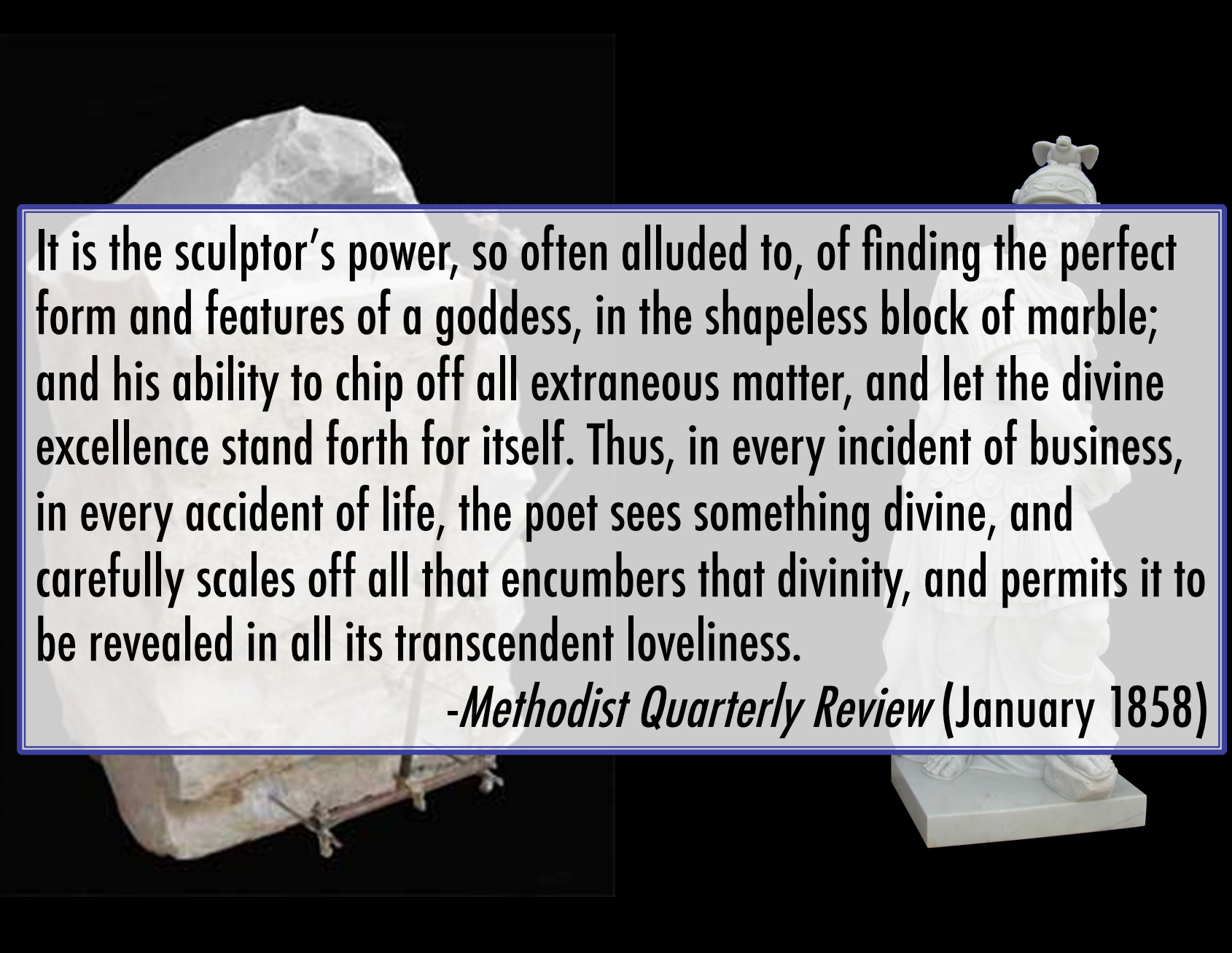


THE FULLNESS OF DEITY

Colossians 2:8ff

COLOSSIANS 2:8-11

- The wisdom of the world is nothing but “elementary principles”, yet we are often in awe of it before we put it under the microscope of the Gospel.
- “In Him” is a great phrase. Christ is totally God even though He appeared in a humble state, which means that being “full Deity” is more about substance (character) than form (displays of power).
- Also, notice the clever use of “completeness” and “removal” in vv. 10-11.



It is the sculptor's power, so often alluded to, of finding the perfect form and features of a goddess, in the shapeless block of marble; and his ability to chip off all extraneous matter, and let the divine excellence stand forth for itself. Thus, in every incident of business, in every accident of life, the poet sees something divine, and carefully scales off all that encumbers that divinity, and permits it to be revealed in all its transcendent loveliness.

-Methodist Quarterly Review (January 1858)

COLOSSIANS 2:12-15

- Verse 12 – Baptism is God's work, not ours. There is no contradiction or tension between these verses and Ephesians 2.
- Look at the way multiple parts are working within the larger mechanism of salvation. Baptism initiates the life-giving process and faith raises us up – all of this is by God's exertion, not ours ("the working of God", "He made us alive", "having forgiven").
- "The certificate" is canceled out.

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

- “The substance belongs to Christ”, similar to Hebrews 8:5 and 9:23ff. Whether it is worldly philosophy or Judaism, nobody but God judges the Christian (1 Corinthians 4:3ff).
- It is “defrauding” to distract a Christian from pursuing truth by asking silly questions and imposing harsh standards.
- Just because something has the appearance of wisdom, does not make it so!