

lifetime, but towards the close of his earthly career were his sufferings the greatest. "God spared not his Son." "He laid upon Him the chastisements of us all." "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." He was encompassed about with grief and overwhelmed with sorrow. He was pressed down with consternation and dejected in mind. His own words were "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death." He sweat as it were great drops of blood. And who is not overawed with a deep sense of his suffering? In his extreme distress He prayed to his father, "O my father if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will but as Thou wilt." But no, it pleased the Lord to bruise Him and put Him to an open shame; He must die or else justice must. He was hurried to the scene of crucifixion through the city in which, a few days before, the little children had strewn branches in the way and cried, "Hosanna to God in the Highest, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." The cruel people at Golgotha, not content with the agony that He already endured, ridiculed Him and bade Him come down from the cross. When Christ uttered those memorable words on the cross, "It is finished," then was the justice of God satisfied; then was he appeased; then was the guilt of sin removed and man reconciled to God; and then did He secure the right of the Holy Spirit to operate savingly upon the hearts of men and remove the pollution of sin.

Reader, have you been reconciled to God actively by faith in Christ? Are you "who were afar off made nigh by the blood of Christ?" Are you "that were sometime alienated, and enemies by wicked works, reconciled in the body of his flesh through death?" If so, at what a great sacrifice you have been restored to the divine favor!

Again, remember, that although reconciled to God you are not yet saved. You are only friends of God, but you have the hope that you shall be saved. If it required so much suffering to secure our friendship, have we not reason to believe that Christ will completely and forever save us? He need not make another sacrifice, He died to redeem, He lives to save; "we shall be saved by his life." He lives at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. His life is a pledge for the life of all his people. His words are "Because I live ye shall live also." He has all power in heaven and earth, and this power He exercises for the salvation of his people. He lives to make intercession for us. He is head over all things for the salvation of his Church. But from what are we delivered? From indwelling corruption. The death of Christ removed the guilt of sin but the pollution remained. The removal of this is the work of Christ through his spirit. It is removed while in this world. It is the work of sanctification. We all feel that we are corrupted and depraved, and that we cannot do the things we would. Paul could say, "The good that he would, he did not, and the evil he would not that he did, but it is no more I that do it but sin that dwelleth within me." When some sudden dart is launched forth by Satan's hand, when some temptation stirs up our passions how great does indwelling corruption appear! Friends, your hearts need not be kept clean but made clean. It is not health preserved you need but health restored. You need a new nature, new heart, new life. This is the prayer that suits our lips: "Create in