

You will perhaps remember saying to us you had never done a "dishonorable act" in your life; and this was the ground on which you thought you would stand "a pretty good chance," when the day of reckoning came. Well, it might be true according to the estimate of your own heart (which God says is "deceitful,") or according to the estimate of some of your fellow creatures, that you had never done a dishonorable act; but is it not contrary to the judgment of God, who declares that all have sinned? Is not sin "dishonorable" in His sight? And have not you dishonored God? Have you not dishonored Christ? And has not God declared the utter hopelessness of obtaining salvation by our own works? "Not by works of righteousness which we have done," is His solemn declaration in Titus, iii, 5. On this ground we are hopelessly lost, and the sooner we bow to the fact, the sooner will we find ourselves the objects of God's mercy and favor.

God's way of salvation is through faith in Christ and His atoning work on the cross. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts xvi, 31.) "By grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast." (Eph. ii, 8-9.) We have no meritorious claim on God whatever. But God has revealed Himself as a Saviour-God; and His love has furnished a remedy that cannot fail, and to