

is the method of accomplishing this end as far as the preacher is concerned. For he exhibits the ground of reconciliation thus: "For he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. v. 21. He speaks also of "being reconciled to God by the death of his Son."

How does the knowledge of 'Christ and Him crucified' bring the soul into a state of reconciliation with God?—That the soul be reconciled to God it must be brought to know him. Ignorance of God keeps man at a distance from him. Now the cross unfolds the everlasting love of God to man, and gives him true conceptions of his character. But there is more than this in the cross of Jesus. Sin has separated between the soul and God; and God's holiness as a frowning barrier prevents the sinner's approach to God's heart, unless there be some way whereby it may be forgiven, or some revelation of God, as propitious. Man has wandered from God: and his wanderings have not been guiltless. He has turned into his own way; and incurred the righteous displeasure of God by his sins. He is under wrath. Just as without a propitiation for sin, man's return to God's bosom must be everlastingly forbidden, so we cannot explain the mysterious agonies of Jesus in the garden and his woful sufferings on the cross otherwise than by regarding them as propitiatory. Ah! the nails pierced his hands and his feet, but more bitter nails held him to the tree. Our sins nailed him there. And it is in his submitting to suffer the Just for the unjust that he might bring us to God, that the love of God is seen.

Here then we have the ground of reconciliation. We departed from God. This did not change his love toward us into hatred. He loves us still: and that there might be a way back to his favour, he most generously gave his own Son to die for us.

There is no other ground of reconciliation. There is salvation in no other than Jesus. "There is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved." Man cannot expiate his own guilt. His repentance, however sincere, will not do for an expiation. O then must not the minister, to be successful, preach Christ and him crucified?

Fellow-sinner, this reconciliation is the thing you need to make you happy. Come to Christ crucified: it takes place when you rest your eye on the cross.

3.—*Christ and him crucified known and believed in are the grand means of purity.*