

of his side by the Roman soldier, the exactest coincidence with the prophetic declaration, *they shall look on him whom they pierced*; we cannot but remark the extraordinary fulfillment of his own declaration, *no man taketh away my life from me, but I lay it down of myself*, in the extraordinary manner of his *giving up the Ghost*, insomuch that *Pilate marvelled that he were dead already*.

And not only did he suffer and die according to the Scriptures, but he also strictly fulfilled the Scripture which saith, *he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death*; for he was crucified betwixt two thieves and thus *numbered with the transgressors*, and was BURIED in the new and magnificent sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathæa, with all the preparations and honors which the *rich alone receive in their death*.

Such is the foundation of that Article of our Creed which asserts of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, that HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE; WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED; and although it is a doctrine which is unto the Jews a *stumbling-block*, and unto the Greeks *foolishness*, it becomes us to consider the grounds on which we hold and revere it as *the power of God and wisdom of God*. Unto the "Greeks" who *spent their time in nothing else but to tell or hear some new thing*—some new doctrine of ethics—some new system of philosophy: unto them the *preaching of Christ crucified*, carrying with it no parade of science, no enticing words of man's wisdom, was an object of the utmost ridicule, and provoked to the proposer of it some uncourteous language like this, *what will this babbler say?* Unto the "Jews"—unto them who, through the introduction of heathen superstitions and the adoption of pagan philosophy, *made the word of God of none effect by their traditions*: unto them who, instead of a man of sorrows, looked for a Prince and a Deliverer, who, attended with all the pomp and power of an earthly potentate, was to lead them to conquest and glory: unto them the doctrine of *Christ crucified* was a *stumbling block*—the disappointment of extravagant hopes—the annihilation of selfish expectations. But unto the Christian, it is the *power of God*, for there *the arm of the Lord hath been clearly revealed*; and the *wisdom of God*, for thus only could his *Mercy*, in pardoning a sinful world, and his *Justice*, in punishing sin, have been reconciled.

That our condition is, by nature, extremely sinful and wretched, it is unnecessary to bring arguments to prove; and that sin is hateful to Almighty God and is deserving of his punishment is a doctrine consistent with our simplest notions of the natural fitness of things, as well as confirmed by express Revelations of His will. That our state was naturally thus forlorn and desperate even the heathen confessed; and that sin must be punished and the just wrath of an offended Deity be appeased, their sacrifices