

THE MERCY OF GOD.

THESE is a false idea abroad with many as to the mercy of God. It is said that God never created man to cast him into hell. They acknowledge that there has been failure in many respects, but they are comforted with the thought, that if they do the best they can, and are honest before God and men, God will not be too exacting as to our failures, and at the last will allow us to pass into heaven.

This is both true and false—It is true that God did not create man to punish him, but on the contrary to enjoy with Him the perfect rest which He announced on the seventh day. But man allowed himself to be caught in the devils trap. He disobeyed God, and sold himself body and soul to Satan for the momentary satisfaction of the gratification of his desires. From that time all his relations with the living God were broken—No longer mutual confidence; no longer communion. Man became Satan's captive in such manner, that if God had not interposed in grace, man would have gone where his sins led him. He heard the devil and accepted him as his master, and the just judgment of God consigned him to eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt .xxv. 41, Rev. xx. 10-15).

God intervened in grace, and at the very time of the fall He announced the victory which the seed of the woman—His own Son Jesus our Lord—would achieve over the serpent. The enemy came in like a