

*plague, Hos. xiii. 14.* This promise has been fulfilled. Death has lost its sting, and the king of terrors has become the messenger of peace. The grave then received a long perfume. On the third day he arose for our justification. He ascended up on high, and took possession of his mediatorial throne, where he is now superintending the concerns of his blood-bought family, and where he must reign till he has gathered in his chosen and made his enemies his footstool. He has entered in within the vail as our forerunner, priest, and advocate to intercede for us and plead our cause; and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He sheds him down abundantly upon his people.

This brings us to contemplate briefly the office and work of God the Holy Ghost, the third person in the adorable Trinity. He is equally concerned in the glorious economy of Redemption. God the Father chose: God the Son engaged to redeem: God the Holy Ghost undertook to apply this redemption to every elect sinner, at the time appointed in the everlasting covenant. Sent by the Father and the Son, the divine Spirit commences his glorious work in the vessels of mercy, *By convincing them of sin and misery, enlightening their minds in the knowledge of Christ and renewing their wills, he doth persuade and enable them to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to them in the Gospel.* This mighty work is called a new creation. They are created anew in Christ Jesus to good works. From this period they begin to live a new life, a life of faith, a life of holy obedience, *walking in the ordinances and commandments of the Lord blameless.* The Holy Spirit delivers them from the love, the power, the dominion of sin, and introduces them into the glorious liberty of the children of God, and into that blessed and happy state of eternal communion with a Triune JEHOVAH, to which they were destined before the foundation of the world. He sets them apart as his temples. He dwells in them, and becomes their guide and their comforter. He takes of the things of Jesus and unfolds them to their souls. He discovers to them the beauties, the glories, the perfections, the excellencies of Immanuel, and enables them *by beholding as in a glass the glory of God, to grow up into the same image from glory to glory,* showing that they have been with Jesus by their *whole* life and conduct. And when their souls, thus prepared, leave their houses of clay, they are raised by the Holy Trinity to the heavens, to be *for ever with the Lord.* There, perfectly free from sin, they rest undisturbed, in the bosom of eternal love. But here we must leave them, for *eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what God hath laid up for them that love him.* To this state of ineffable bliss, the Holy Ghost conducts every soul whom the Father chose, and the Son Redeemed. Not one is wanting of all the blood bought through; and when the last redeemed vessel of mercy is brought home, then comes the end; the trumpet sounds; the dead arise; this mortal puts on immortality, and is re-united to its glorified partner. There while eternal ages roll along, the ransomed Church of God will still be increasing in happiness and bliss! Then will the Son deliver up his mediatorial kingdom to the Father, and God will be all in all. *Even so come Lord Jesus, come quickly!*