

SAVED BY GRACE.

“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that BELIEVETH.” (Rom. x., 2, 3, 4).

I HAVE been one of the most self righteous men that ever lived. For years I have groaned under my folly, expecting to find peace by regulating my life according to the word of God. I could not but believe the Bible true, which told so plainly the secret evils of my heart. So I sought carefully for all the commandments of the new Testament, but I found no commandments as I understood the word. Oh! yes, I read, “He that hateth his brother is a murderer,” or, “For every idle word which men speak they shall be brought into judgment,” and others of the same character, but they terrified me. I sought quickly to forget them. I read also, “Seek not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink,” but it did not seem to be for me; my daily labour brought in abundantly. I read also, “Sell what ye have, and give to the poor,” and then I wished, “Oh! that I were only rich, that I might sacrifice all.”

Then I found baptism and the Lord’s Supper; and in my anxiety to do everything, I took them for commandments. But, after doing all, and living an irreproachable church-life, I got no settled peace. The “rejoice evermore” of the Bible was a mockery to me.