

"Therefore," he says, "being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear," and, "therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ."

In these topics we find much that was suitable to the occasion on which they were uttered—the elements of truths, which will at once be identified with the wonders of redemption, especially that one great principle which must be the paramount topic of the gospel ministry in all ages, viz., Christ crucified. Yes, Christ must be the Alpha and the Omega—the first and the last of our ministrations.

As to the manner in which the address was made, there is to be noticed great plainness and simplicity, great earnestness, and application so pointed, that one could not fail to perceive who were the objects of it. There are, we know, other modes of address, which some might consider more calculated to impress the mind, and to call out its sympathies. But here is a method which God has especially blessed to the salvation of souls; and it may wisely be adopted as a model by all who would bring home the truth to the consciences of men.

But now *as to the success* which attended this sermon. "The same day," says the sacred historian, "there were added unto them about three thousand souls." "They were pricked to their hearts, and said to the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" As by a lightning flash, their guilt was laid bare before them. Appalled and horror-struck, they cried out, "What shall we do?" How shall we escape the doom we have deserved for crucifying the Son of God? Now there was here exhibited not only a conviction of their sin, but there was an embracing of Christ also, and a public dedication to him as the Saviour. "They gladly received the word;" this implied repentance towards God; it was followed by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and with the faith there was personal dedication. "They that gladly received the word were baptized;" they were thus brought into visible union with the community of the faithful—with the Church of Christ.

Nor was this a mere temporary excitement, for we read, "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer." Oh, what a blessed trans-

formation! In the morning of that day they were guilty, now they are pardoned. In the morning of that day they were surrounded with dangers the most imminent, now they are safe. In the morning of that day they were among the lost, now they are recovered. "The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."

Such were the events which marked in ancient times the Pentecostal feast. "There were added to the church daily such as should be saved." God was gracious then: he is waiting to be gracious now. All things are ready for our salvation. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, are all ready. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. Let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." This is the invitation of the gospel. The word of grace through which the Spirit applies the purpose of the Father, and the sacrifice of the Son—that word has been made known now. Repentance and the remission of sins are still declared through Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Ghost is still promised. O that there arose from many a heart the Pentecostal cry—"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

FLOWERS BLOOMING IN HEAVEN.

There is a Reaper, whose name is Death,
And with his sickle keen
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath,
And the flowers that grow between.

"Shall I have naught that is fair?" saith he,
"Have nought but the bearded grain?
Though the breath of these flowers is sweet
I will give them all back again." [to me]

He gazed at the flowers with tearful eyes,
He kissed their drooping leaves,
It was for the Lord of Paradise
He bound them in his sheaves.

"My Lord hath need of the flowerets gay,"
The reaper said, and smiled;
"Dear tokens of the earth are they,
Where He was once a child.

"They shall all bloom in fields of light,
Transplanted by my care:
And saints, upon their garments white,
These sacred blossoms wear."

And the mother gave, in tears and pain,
The flowers she most did love:
She knew she should find them all again,
In the fields of light above.

Oh, not in cruelty, not in wrath,
The Reaper came that day;
Twas an angel visited the green earth,
And took the flowers away.