

all in which they boasted, and by reason of which they imagined themselves better than others, was of no value, and possessed of no merit in the sight of God. But, this was one part of the message which the servants of Christ must declare to a perishing world. Until convinced of the vanity of their idols, they would not forsake them, nor bow the knee to the name of Jesus. And until satisfied that their former ways and sentiments and works led to misery and woe, they would not turn from them, to pursue the paths of holiness and Heaven. Marvellous indeed was the success which attended the faithful preaching of the message, which thus presented to men, the true and fearful aspect of their character and condition, and presented, at the same time, to their desponding hearts, the free and perfect salvation secured by the shedding of Jesus' blood. While they went forth to the world, avowedly to denounce its works, to overthrow all its former modes of worship, to raze its temples to the ground, and to call men away from all their sinful customs, dear to them, as a right hand or a right eye, and while on this account, the powers of the world, with its rulers and its priests, were enraged, and employed all possible means to silence and crush them, yet in the face of all this opposition, behold the glorious results which followed. Thousands and tens of thousands flocked around the standard of the cross, to seek shelter there for their trembling souls. The Temples were deserted. The altars, in which for ages was poured the blood of victims, were forsaken and left to crumble into decay. Wherever the message of Christ was heard, among Jews or Gentiles, civilized or savage, multitudes were moved and in alarm cried for mercy. They saw the delusion under which they were sleeping away into eternal misery. Sin, guilt, and the wrath of God filled their souls with terrible dread, and trembling, they cried, "what shall we do to be saved?" With joy unspeakable, they heard of the salvation which the God of Heaven had wrought out for them. Here was rest, peace, and refuge. Here they found what satisfied every want, removed every fear, and supplied comfort under every trial. This was the result of preaching the Gospel, and proclaiming

to the world the worthlessness of its wisdom and works, and that, by faith in Christ alone, could its miseries be removed and its cravings for rest and happiness be satisfied. Preaching Christ implies more than simply telling of His sufferings and death, and the salvation which flows therefrom. Every other object of confidence must be denounced by the heralds of the cross. The vanity of every idol must be exposed, and the consequence of living in pursuit of the world and sin faithfully declared. There is no compromise permitted, and the same truth must be proclaimed to all, without regard to the character, the rank, or the circumstances of men. In the presence of the kings, and rulers, and great ones of the earth, the apostles of Christ must speak with the same uncompromising fidelity. In order to convey to their hearers the meaning of their message, when telling of their beloved Master's life, and sufferings and death, it was necessary to bring home to the conscience of every man, that he was guilty in the sight of God, a sinner, and as such, under the fearful doom of God's displeasure, which doom could not be averted by any efforts possible for himself to accomplish, or for any created being to accomplish for him. The mission of the Son of God was to the guilty and to them alone. In order, then, that men might participate in the benefits of that mission, their guilt must be seen and felt. Had the messengers of Christ so guarded their language, as not to offend the feelings, nor wound the conscience of those they addressed—had they spoken so as to permit their hearers to remain satisfied with themselves, then, indeed, their account of their Master's sufferings, and death, and resurrection, might excite considerable emotion, and might afford matter for much discussion, but there would not be much reason for expecting any further results. It was when pricked in their hearts, the multitude, who listened to Peter, on the day of Pentecost, cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" It was when the jailor saw himself a lost sinner, that trembling he threw himself at the feet of the apostle with the solemn question. "What shall I do to be saved?" The message of the Gospel is glad tidings of great joy, and it was to declare this,