

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

NOTES OF AN ADDRESS BY REGINALD
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Dear Friend—Are you *unsaved*? To you I would address the angel's words—*Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.* One says, I have broken God's law in being a drunkard: Fear not! Another—I have been a liar: Fear not! The same word is to every sinner now as was addressed to the trembling shepherds near the town Bethlehem when Jesus was born into our world—Fear not! Whatever your sins may be—"evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousnesses, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousnesses, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness,"—Fear not! "Why not fear when I am such a sinner, and God is 'of purer eyes than to behold evil' and cannot 'look on iniquity'?" The reason is this: Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners; "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." "For unto us is born a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." Bring before me the most abandoned profligate, whose sins are like "crimson" and "scarlet," and I can say to him, "Fear not," "only believe" in this Saviour, and you, even you, shall be saved upon the spot where you stand.

Some may say, "Stop! you are going too far. We know that man's character better than you do. He is one of the worst of sinners—a lost, abandoned wretch." I do not care how bad he has been; I now come right up to him with God's blessed truth and say even to him, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." God's gospel is to ALL, and if the blackest sinner receive the "good tidings" and believe on the incarnate Saviour, he shall be saved. The "good tidings," blessed be God, are "to all people"—to the liar, the drunkard, the thief, fornicator, the murderer, the blasphemer, the persecutor—yes, even to that sinner of sinners who has gone careless and unconverted to the holy table of the Lord.

Oh, let me entreat you, men and women, who make a profession of being Christians and are not, to receive the "good tidings"

and be saved. I offer you "salvation with eternal glory" in Christ. I entreat you to be reconciled to God. Am I asking you to do as many have done—be strict Sabbath-keepers, moral, benevolent, charitable, and holy, and thereby endeavour to ingratiate yourselves with God and get His "mercy to pardon?" No! I warn all against such self-righteous and self-deceiving ways, and tell them that if they continue to hang by this rope it will by and by break, and they'll descend right down to the pit of hell! Why, I bring you the "good tidings of great joy" that having come here "dead in trespasses and sins," you may return "quickened together with Christ"—guilty, you may return justified—polluted, you may return holy! How? By endeavouring to be good and please God? No! Only by listening to the "good tidings" about Jesus, who says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me; and him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

Jesus is the way to the Father. He does not say prayers are the way—repentance is the way—eating the sacramental bread and drinking the wine is the way. No! "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We tell you about the blessed Jesus a present Saviour, and ask you simply to come to Him that you may be saved. To go in any other direction than that of the cross of our Lord Jesus is like the woman with the issue of blood going year after year from doctor to doctor and getting no cure, but rather growing worse. One faith's touch of Jesus brought virtue out of Him, and she was healed at once. Now this Christ Jesus—this Living One who was dead—this One who is full of love to sinners—full of healing balm for wounded, dying souls is before you, and the "good tidings of great joy" we bring you are that He is willing and able to save to the uttermost of guilt, pollution, and wrath, "for His blood cleanseth us from all sin."

Jesus can meet the case of the most sinful and hell-deserving one—and Jesus only. Your best religious performances are useless unless you get Him as your Saviour, life, and righteousness. The Scripture does not say your dishonesty is as filthy rags, nor your uncleanness, nor your profanity,