

parts ; their terrors return. Any of you in this state ? Look again to Christ who spoke peace to you at first. Trust in His atoning death. Confide in His boundless love and mercy. Contemplate His matchless beauty and excellency. And gradually, imperceptibly, almost unconsciously you will rise above the world with its sins and sorrows.

In conclusion—does the love of Christ, as discovered in His awful and mysterious death on the cross, exert any power over you ? Many are quite uninfluenced by it. Many substantially say, “The preaching of the cross tames the savage nature, subdues the most turbulent passions, transforms and beautifies the blackest characters. We admit all that, and we glory in being the professors of a religion which has done more than any other, than all others put together, for the true happiness and civilization of the human race.” (For it is a matter of fact that the three hundred and sixty-five millions of Christians are not the savage and uncivilized nations of the earth, but the nations which possess the power, the commerce, and the literature of the world). So far well—but what has the cross done for you personally ? Has it discovered to you your guilt and led you to cry for mercy ? Inclined by nature to run into all kinds of excess, do you find it restraining you ? In your leisure moments do you turn to the old story of redeeming love as to an ever new, ever congenial theme ? Can you sit with pleasure at the feet of Jesus, as did Mary, contemplating the glory of the God-man, seeking to obtain clearer views of his unspeakable love ?

Be true to yourselves. Leave not the investigation till you know how matters stand between God and your souls.