

lost, if contemplated alone ; it is when viewed in his relation to other bodies, when regarded as the centre of a vast system, as the source of life, and light, and joy, to the worlds which revolve around him, that we recognise in his created excellence, the image of his Maker's glory. So is it, brethren, with the cross of Christ ; it must be viewed, not singly and alone, but in relation to other truths, as the grand centre round which the whole christian system revolves, before we can share in the feelings which inspired the Apostle's declaration ; "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me and I to the world." It is evident, from the statements of God's word, that such was the light in which St. Paul viewed the subject, and that in preaching the cross of Christ, or in other words the Gospel, he preached it fully and clearly, in all *its truth and certainty*, in all its *glorious discoveries*, in all its *high demands*, and in all its *transcendent privileges*.

He preached it, brethren, in all *its truth and certainty*. In declaring God's counsel to man, St. Paul and his brother Apostles have dealt with us, as rational beings, not requiring us to yield our assent to their statements, blindly and ignorantly, without any reasonable ground for doing so ; but affording us the most ample proofs of their credibility ; placing before us the plainest evidences of their divine authority, and demanding from us, the acquiescence both of heart and mind, not because they asserted them, but because God had revealed them, and abundantly proved their truth. In preaching to the Jews, their grand aim was to establish the fundamental point, that "*Jesus was the Christ*"* or Messiah, because they were

* Acts ix. 22 ; xvii. 3.

alrea
to hi
it wa
prep
pera
suad
to re
pow
ener
to p
for t
ciall
prod
In a
certa
and
unde
Mess
the v

B
prea
the C
glad
them
the s
liber
rene
glori
henc

* Actu