

sermon will be personal, -to *you*, and I shall speak of three things: First, sinners, secondly, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and thirdly, our duty to accept this saying, and be saved, for "it is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

#### I. SINNERS.

1. *All are sinners.* -A sinner is, literally, one who has missed the mark likeness to God. As God created man in His own image only he who is like God is like man. As every one naturally is in spirit, temper and power unlike God, every one has missed the end of his being.

A sinner is a person to whom a definite work was given and who had not done it. God says, "This people have I formed for myself: they shall show forth my praise." But as everyone naturally lives for himself and seeks his own praise, everyone, as to his doing, has missed the mark. Can any word better express everyone's character, than the word sinner - one who has missed the mark, and fallen short of the end for which he was created?

2. *The folly of sinners.* I mean of you if unsaved. You know that you are a sinner, having an immortal soul and yet never seriously thinking.

"The numbered hour is on the wing  
That lays thee with the dead."

"This night thy soul may be required of thee." What shall be its home then, and when the stars have burned out, and forever? What folly!

Ah, sinner! if death should come now your soul would be lost for all eternity, and yet you go on preferring sinful pleasure a little longer, with the risk of eternal misery, to the immediate acceptance of Christ, with an hundred-fold for what you would have to give up. What folly! Defending yourself in that choice, it may be, by boasting of your honesty and calling Christians hypocrites, as if, forsooth, your fractional, commercial honesty, which passes you among men, would pass you in the heavenly circles. If not beside yourself, you never would claim honesty while using every power of the being, which God gave you and which He redeemed, in the service of self and Satan; nor would you display the filthy rags of your own righteousness boastfully. You remind me of an old woman who used to pass along the street near our college with rags upon rags, of every colour and hue, placed upon her as a garment and calling herself a queen. So in the sight