

on the throne of His majesty and holiness. Man is brought into His presence as "the dead." (Rev. xx). How miserable and hopeless will his condition appear then! God's righteousness fills that scene; the sinner stands before Him in all the guilt of his sins. How unfit is he for God's presence. He is speechless and helpless, as he hears the judgment of God, and is cast forth into the lake of fire, prepared for the devil and his angels, to share their condemnation forever and ever. How welcome is the gospel of God's grace to us, as lost sinners; but for it, hurrying on to our eternal destruction. "We believe on Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification. Therefore, being justified on the principle of faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also WE HAVE ACCESS by faith into this grace, wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rom. iv. 24, 25. v. 1, 21.

God's presence is that which we fear, and we are only happy in the forgetfulness of it; which we can easily have now, through occupation with the things of the world, but only UNTIL DEATH. But God Himself has come forth as the *sinner's* Saviour, and has paid the whole cost of his redemption, and declared Himself eternally satisfied with the precious price that has been paid, even the blood of Jesus.

Who took Jesus—who had given His life a ransom for many—from amongst the dead? It was the living God. And why had Jesus shed His blood?