

regarded us with infinite compassion. His heart was moved with pity for *us*, and He did not wish that we should suffer the just consequences of our sin against Him. But how could these consequences be averted? How could He accept us or receive us into His favour, whilst we were in our sins? and what could we do, you or me, to deliver ourselves from sin, or to turn aside the righteous anger of God? Nothing, certainly. Everything we do is defiled by sin, and could only increase the evil. You have understood this since you have seriously begun to seek the Lord. When you read His word, your thoughts wander, and it is the same when you try to pray, and you told one yesterday how difficult you find it to put your mind upon what God says in His word.

It is evident that we can do nothing worthy to be presented to God, and even if we were able to do good for the future, that could never compensate for past sins. If we only regard ourselves, we are hopelessly lost, but God loved us and desired to see us reconciled to Himself, become the objects of His favour, and made happy under His kindness and care. And although He could not leave our sins unpunished, and we were unable to do anything to deliver ourselves from the burden of them, *He has sent His only-begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* That having been accomplished, God is free now, if I may express myself thus, to satisfy the love of His heart in receiving us to His bosom. What God sought was to have a righteous and holy motive for pardoning us, for saving us, and for receiving us to heaven in spite of

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