

on, because "all have God." The sentence in God's book. They are conscious to, and actually in an awful state. No sin involves, but enough heart. Accordingly, the consciousness of their real way is discovered to the consciousness of their indebted Maker. It is for perishing men the justice of God rendered could be pardoned, then, Christ came into the room. He "bare" He "hath given" to God for a sweet sense of their sin and trust in his forgiveness of sins." with God through

Christ, our guilt him, every child throughout eternity one of us could divine justice, finding in God to into his favour. less—prone to ransom for our that man could compensating

for past sin, would be to lament it, and to make strenuous efforts after obedience in time to come. But though he were to do this (which, however, he never would, unless inclined thereto by the Spirit of God), tears, however sincerely shed, and zeal, however active, would not atone for sin. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, and that alone, can cleanse from guilt. If we therefore, my friends, are in the happy condition of pardoned sinners,—if God has reconciled us unto himself, and no longer imputes our trespasses unto us,—if he looks down from heaven upon us with a propitious countenance, pacified towards us for all our offences, and we can look up to him in return with filial confidence, and can address him in the language of the prophet, "Though thou wast angry with us, thine anger is turned away,"—the praise of all this must be ascribed to Jesus.

O blessed Saviour, Lamb of God! have we been forgiven all our sins for thy sake? Have we, unworthy of the divine favour in ourselves, been accepted in thee, the Beloved? Then unto thee "be glory and dominion for ever and ever!"

But we require to be sanctified as well as justified,—made holy as well as pardoned and accepted. Besides being delivered from the condemnation to which sin exposes, we need to be emancipated from its reigning power. And in this latter sense too, no less than in the former, Christ washes his people from their sins. The object of his interposition on their behalf was not simply to reconcile them to God, by obtaining for them the forgiveness of their past offences, but likewise to restore the lost image of God to their souls. He "loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."