

revealed it. But as there was nothing for us to do, God hath given no revelation. Revelation never steps beyond that which is needful for us to know. It gratifies no curiosity. It spins no theories. It states only positive facts in which we are directly concerned. The result of the whole teaching of Scripture is this: That all men are born with a physical taint of sin, (the word physical here includes the twofold nature of man,) which immediately that we become capable of conscious moral life, breaks forth in actual transgression, and brings us into a state of conscious spiritual death, out of which we can be delivered only as, with penitent confession of our sin, we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; when the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and death."

But we are also born under a dispensation of mercy, in which the Gospel promise meets *the first pang of conscience* arising from the first awakening of inborn sin, and brings with it a word and spirit of grace, the power of a new and eternal life. And when the Gospel thus finds us in the days of our childhood, it finds us in a state of *preparedness* to feel its power, and receive its grace; a state to which we can *return* in after days, only by the mighty power of the Divine Spirit.

And the Gospel thus finds us in the days of our childhood, because we are all born under a covenant of grace and mercy, and are the objects of the Father's intense saving love and compassion, and of solicitude