

God's holiness? This is the only true question. Let me ask you—is there nothing your consciences own as needing remission? Murder and theft &c., which are the consequences of the condition man is in, through transgression, are owned by all as evil. The natural man may see the blessing of moral conduct as giving happiness on earth, but can discern nothing beyond. But when we look within the veil, it is altogether another thing. Our not wronging our neighbors may produce temporal happiness; but the revelation of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ awakens the mind to a new enquiry—its fitness for the presence of such holiness; and this question is soon settled; we find it impossible. It is not fitting us for happiness in the world as it is (that is not the question); but making us competent to be associated with Christ in the glory He is in when he appears. Does the world know anything about it? Is this what they look for? Do they not rather say it is presumption to think they can have association and fellowship with God? The world is a witness to itself that it presumes no such thing.

God's testimony is, There are none righteous, none understand, and none seek after God. (Rom. iii 11-12.) But suppose we have received an understanding to know Him that is true, then still the question is, how are we to stand in the presence of the glory? Can one in a sinful condition abide in His presence? Can we say that we are fit to be partakers of the glory? There is nothing in the world fit for this. It is in vain to plead the highest morality, or the