

occasionally, or is only a visitor now and then; but is an inhabitant, and a very troublesome one. It is like the spreading leprosy in the house which could not be cleansed until the house was pulled down. It is called *the law of sin*, and *a law in the members*.—Sometimes it is called *the body of sin*, because it consists of parts and members, as a body does. It is an aggregate or an assemblage of sins, and includes all in it. It is called *the old man*, because it is the effect of the poison of the old serpent, and it is nearly as old as the first man. It is as old as every man in whom it is.—It is called *flesh*, because it is propagated by the flesh, which is carnal and corrupt, and is opposed to the Spirit of God.—It is named *lust* or *concupiscence*, which is the mother of all sin, and consists of branches, called *worldly lusts*, *the lust of the flesh*, *the lust of the eye*, and *the pride of life*. And now, Brethren, who among us is able to go to war against so formidable an host? None but those who have been born again, born of the incorruptible seed. O may we all examine ourselves whether we be in the faith; and, if so be that we have tasted that the Lord is gracious, let us put on the whole armour of God, that we may stand against the wiles of the devil. 1st. Let the fear of God rule and govern the heart, which will be an effectual bar against a carnal and secure state of mind. 2d. See that love to the character and government of God be cultivated daily. 3d. Humility in the heart, like ballast in a ship, will keep it from upsetting in a boisterous time. 4th. Trust in God at all times, even in the darkest.—5th. Live a life of faith, even that of the Son of God, which is a strong shield, whereby you may quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 6th. Put on the helmet of salvation. Let Christ be your Head, and his Righteousness the ground of your justification before the God of infinite purity. 7th. Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; and let your feet be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

The Gospel contains many great and sublime truths: but there is one which, beyond all others, discovers its nature, its import, and design; which makes it to differ from every other system of religion professed or known in the world. We mean the doctrine of free justification through the righteousness of Christ. This decidedly turns the balance in favour of the religion of Jesus; because it is a righteousness which God himself has provided, without any co-operation from his creatures; even the righteousness of that most exalted, yet most condescending Saviour, who is God and man in one Christ.—His obedience to the moral law, in professed submission to its authority, and exact conformity to its precepts; his performance of all holy duties, and his exercise of all heavenly graces; all this is a most essential part of his merit. This is