

elect in the Calvinistic sense. But observe 3rd, That this passage simply predicts that the Messiah's people, believers, after the day of Pentecost, would be volunteers, free-will offerings remarkable for devotedness to God, which was actually fulfilled. It is therefore no proof of the Calvinistic notion of irresistible grace. Moreover the Bible speaks of the converting influence of the Spirit being resisted, vexed, grieved, quenched, and ascribes the ruin of the impenitent to their resistance of the Spirit.

Has God then no purpose in connection with the atonement of Jesus? Yes he has a purpose, and his purpose is stated by Jesus, when he says, 'God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved,' John III. 17. The propitiation is for men, and God's plan is that men may be saved on the ground of it; but as men are moral agents God has established a condition to which they must submit in order to enjoy actual salvation. Hence in another passage Jesus says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life." John III. 16. Hence says Paul, "He hath made him, to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. v. 21. God is said to purpose or plan a thing, when he acts towards, or with a view to, its accomplishment. God formed Christ from the womb, *to bring Jacob again to him*. This was his purpose, and his forming Christ from the womb, was his acting with a view to its fulfilment. Yet there was a possibility that Jacob might not be brought again to him; for says Christ, "Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength," Isa XLIX. 5. In order that Israel might be gathered it was necessary for them to fulfil the conditions of God's plan or purpose. Failing this, Israel was cast off. Though they were the descendants of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and beloved for the sake of these fathers, they were rejected by God, because they rejected Christ. This teaches that the actual result