

they had this place : and then the Spirit of God comes and sanctifies them or sets them apart. We find, next, what they are set apart to practically, as a present thing ; and that is, the obedience of Jesus Christ, and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. These are just the two essential points of the life and path of Jesus, one running into the other ; and, in this case, if I may so speak, the one completing the other. For us the great thought is the obedience of Jesus Christ and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. " Jesus Christ " applies to the obedience as well as to the sprinkling of the blood ; and both are in contrast with the law, whether as regards what the law required, or as regards the sacrifices of the law ; the obedience and sacrifice of Jesus Christ are in contrast with both.

As regards our obedience, it is essential for the true character of our path as Christians that we should lay hold of what this obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ was. Legal obedience in us is a different thing. We have got a will of our own ; this was not true of Christ. He had a will in one sense, as a man, but he said, " Not my will, but thine, be done." But we have got a will of our own ; it may be checked and broken down. But if the law is applied to us, it is as stopping this will, but it finds it here, and such is our notion of obedience constantly. Take a child ! there is a will of its own ; but when the parents' will comes in, and the child yields instantly without a struggle, and