

FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

THE GROUND OF FORGIVENESS.

WE know well that God is righteous, and that if He forgives sins, He must do it consistently with His own nature and character—He must be *righteous* in doing it. The woman that was a sinner, knew that Jesus forgave her sins, that God forgave in Jesus, but she could not have explained why, or on what ground. But God has been pleased to reveal not only the *fact* of forgiveness, but the *ground* of it as well. And this, the Scripture teaches us, is the *death and resurrection of Jesus*. When Jesus commissioned His disciples to go and preach repentance and remission of sins among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, He connected it distinctly with His suffering on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead the third day. He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke xxiv., 46, 47). Again, when man has been proved to be without righteousness, God’s righteousness in passing over the sins of His people of old, and in remitting the sins of those who now believe in Jesus, is declared in the blood-shedding of Jesus, as it is said, “Whom God hath set