

mained "Without Christ, having no hope, and without God in the world."

The passage presents to the mind the following important truths, to which we invite special attention :

- I. The ways of the sinner are erroneous.
- II. The duty of the Christian, as an agent for Christ, to turn the sinner from the error of his ways.
- III. The great encouragement the Christian has, to induce him to labour for the conversion of the sinner from the error of his ways.

- I. The ways of the sinner are erroneous.

*The sinner is any one, and every one that does not love God supremely, and his neighbour as himself.* To sin, is to miss the mark. The mark which God has set up for us to aim at is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbour as thyself." This mark was set up from the beginning of the world ; but all men have missed it widely. "All we like sheep have gone astray, and have turned every one to his own way." Many think they are not sinners because they are not drunkards, liars, swearers, thieves, covetous, or guilty of some other scandalous and gross crimes ; but we need not be guilty of any abominable crimes to be sinners. The most amiable, most moral, most benevolent on earth, who do not love God with all the heart, are as much sinners as the most repulsive, the most immoral, and the most selfish. Sin consists in forsaking God, "the fountain of living waters, and in hewing us out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Whether, therefore, a man be an infidel, a profligate, a moralist, a formalist, or a backslider, makes no difference to his being a sinner. The man that loves not God supremely, and his neighbour as himself, is a sinner, no matter what particular course of transgression he chooses to follow. "He that offendeth in one point, is guilty of all ;" "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law, to do them ;" "The carnal mind is at enmity against God : it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. To be carnally minded is death." Every unconverted human being has a heart at enmity with God, and is alienated from the life of God. The man only deceives himself who says he is not a sinner, if he