

selves in a gracious state. But this is no evidence that they enjoy the favour of God. Any other tragic story of cruelty and wrong inflicted, of sufferings patiently and heroically endured, will produce a like, if not a greater, effect on the mind. God set forth Christ as a propitiation for sin. To make atonement for sin was the work which Jesus came to do and to finish. He came to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. He suffered the just in the room of the unjust that he might bring us to God. In his sufferings and death for sinners, he has given such an exhibition of God's hatred to sin, and of his purity, as that justice is satisfied and God well-pleased. This atonement is the ground of justification. There is no barrier in the way of your salvation since Jesus has died for you, and by dying for you atoned for your sins. This atonement has been made for you. In the making of it you may see God's love and Christ's grace to your soul. But behold the atonement itself as having been made for you. Believing in Jesus, who atoned for you, you will see the curse remove, and pass from death unto life. Let your soul say, looking to the Lamb of God,

" My faith now lays its hand
On that dear head of thine,
While deeply penitent I stand
And here confess my sin.

Believing I rejoice
To see the curse remove;
I'll praise the Lamb with cheerful voice,
And sing his dying love."

We may shew, still further, how admirably the death of Christ, as our atoning Saviour, is fitted, when we believe therein, to secure our justification and acceptance with God. Paul had evidently great confidence, grounded on the death of Christ for him. It was what he saw in the death of Christ for him, as well as in resurrection, ascension, exaltation and intercession, that constrained him, in holy triumph, to exclaim. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth?" His triumph is founded on the fact that *God* justifies on the footing of the death of Christ. And if God be so well-pleased and satisfied with Christ's death, as that he can justify sinners on the ground of it, sinners may well be satisfied with it. Thus there is plenteous redemption in Christ. However great was the dishonour done to the law of God by our sins, it has been far more highly honoured