

Jew, in his national pride, boasted, "We are Abraham's seed and were never in bondage to any man." The great Emancipator of human souls replied, "If the Son shall make you free then shall ye be free indeed." "Whosoever committeth sin is the slave of sin." From this enslavement there is no emancipation but through Jesus Christ. What a degrading enslavement it is! Sin the master of thought and affection, of impulse and action! The soul in bondage to this corrupting and debasing power! Paul saw his brother Israelites thus in bondage, and his soul was continually burdened with desire and prayer to God for their emancipation. Paul once in their condition had heard the proclamation of emancipation, and had accepted the conditions. In the joy of freedom, he was made to realize, as he had never done before, the degradation of the bondage in which he had formerly lived, and in which so many of his countrymen still lived. His love for them made him long most intensely for their salvation from this enslaving power.

Kinsmen according to the flesh, I make no apology in now appealing to your consciences as to whether your souls have been set free from the bondage of sin? Are you walking in the conscious liberty of the gospel of Christ? Jesus Christ, the spotless Son of God, died yonder on Calvary more than eighteen centuries ago to make atonement for your sins. That same Jesus Christ now lives yonder at the right hand of God, exalted above all principalities and powers and every name that is named, invested with all authority in heaven and on earth. Is not He a Saviour sufficient to redeem from both the *guilt* and the *power* of sin? "If *the Son* shall make you free, then shall you be free indeed." I believe that I speak to a goodly number this evening who know in their experiences what this freedom is. What now is your desire for your brethren, your kinsmen according to the flesh? Can you make Paul's words for his brother Israelites, your words for your brother Scotchmen? Is your heart's desire and your prayer to God for them that they may be saved?

You will have noticed that my allusion to salvation, as to a salvation *from sin*. The idea prevails in too many minds that the salvation offered through Christ in the gospel is a salvation from hell. It covers this indeed; but this is only a meagre and selfish thought of it. The fundamental and all-embracing thought of this salvation is that it is a salvation from sin. The very naming of the incarnate Christ indicates this; "His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save this people from *their sins*." "He bare our *sins* in his own body on the tree." "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from *all sin*." "Sin shall not have dominion over you."