

against God." Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection? The wisdom of God hath something in it too sublime in planning and working, to be arraigned at the bar of human reason. It is enough for us to believe what is written and be deeply humbled with our ignorance of that which is beyond our reach, for truly if Revelation did not go far beyond our reach and his works beyond our shallow conception, the Gospel would not be a great mystery, and his works unworthy a being of infinite perfection. To complain of that we do not understand, is highly impious, the permission of many outrages is perfectly consistent with the purity, goodness and wisdom of God, yet too high for us to comprehend. The crucifying of our Lord was according to the determinate council and foreknowledge of God, yet in the deed as it respected the actors, there was every thing of impiety, treachery, ingratitude and cruelty, yet God is glorified and salvation secured to an innumerable multitude of the fallen race. The love of God is the Fountain from whence the healing streams of Salvation flow, to guilty sinners through a Saviour's veins. In this mysterious plan, of salvation by the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God, shine conspicuously all the divine perfections, the goodness, holiness, wisdom and love of God.

The design of the sacred three seem manifestly to glorify all his perfections in all his works and ways, to ever rule the fall of angels and men to his own glory, that in the person of a Redeemer, mercy and truth should meet together, righteousness and peace embrace and kiss each other. By our Jesus the law was magnified and made honorable; Satan defeated, God's works and ways honored, and his chosen people honorably acquitted, sanctified and made meet for glory. The love, wisdom, power and goodness of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is revealed in the Gospel in choosing, atoning for, and sanctifying his people. This finished salvation adopts, justifies and sanctifies the Lord's people, but the latter is the work of the spirit, changing, washing, renewing and creating them in Christ to good works, by which the soul is cast in the Gospel mould, and stamped with the image of God's dear son, their spirits are framed to love and serve the Lord their God from the noblest principles. They delight in the perfections, laws and ordinances of God, as far as they know them, and say, what we know not Lord teach us, and when taught, they make haste to keep his commands. It produces love to the Saints, not for the name they bear or are known by, but the Cross of Christ and Image they bear, those who resemble the lowly Lamb of God most, stand highest in their esteem.

We are led to judge of our own religion and that of others, not from the length and fluency of our prayers and other religious improvements, but our deadness to the world, to our own righteousness, and all expectation of help from the sayings or doings of any creature—by our entire trust in the great sacrifice—our hearty embracing the Cross of Christ, and its consequent doctrines of free Grace, which set the Crown on the great Jehovah's head, and lay every creature at his sovereign feet, the Glory of God and the Salvation of sinners lie near our hearts. *Amen.*

CORRESPONDING