

death and hell. The Apostle was commissioned, and every minister of Christ has the same commission, to go forth proclaiming to all, whom his voice can reach, that the eternal Son of God died to save them from death. That a way of escape has been provided by Him, that every hindrance has been removed, that a full and perfect atonement is made, that God is reconciled to a guilty world, and is now inviting sinners to come back and be again members of His family.—And that salvation, deliverance, joy and peace, nay more, all the riches of God's own kingdom, are brought to their very door, and that all will be theirs on the simple condition of accepting. No work, no penance for the past, is spoken of in the glad tidings of the Gospel. The Son of God Himself assumed all the burden, accomplished the whole work. He trod the wine-press alone, *and of the people there was none with Him.* He finished transgression and made an end of sin, and brought in an everlasting righteousness and destroyed death, and all in His love for sinners and for their sakes.

Having finished this glorious undertaking, he commanded His servants to go and tell every creature what He suffered in their behalf, and what blessings He had provided for them. Surely, it must have been with greater joy than ever the thirsty beheld the refreshing stream, for the condemned criminal saw his prison-doors thrown open, this message of love was listened to by every individual of our fallen race. Here was presented to their view, all that their wants and fears and miseries required, and the whole accessible and free, even to the weakest and most degraded. They were oppressed with evils, too many to number. Misery was on every countenance, and guilt and forebodings haunted every heart. Every conceivable means were resorted to, in order to obtain rest and peace, but the labor was in vain. Sacrifices, penances and self-denial of every kind, were employed, but the burden of guilt and fear continued to increase. In such circumstances, the messenger that appeared with the announcement from Heaven, that the Most High had set His love on sinful man, and made full provision for his reception back again to His family, and to more

than the happiness of his lost paradise, will surely be hailed with joy too great for words to express. Thus would it be, were men sensible of the real cause and source of their disquietude and misery. But, alas! while the world was unhappy and restless, and labouring in the search for peace and refuge, they knew not the origin of the ills and wretchedness under which they complained. It was far from their thoughts, that their estrangement from God, their sinful indulgences, and their pursuit of the world, formed the source of their misery. They had many things to complain of, but they did not feel nor complain, that sin had polluted their souls, and that Satan had his throne established in the heart. The deliverance which the Gospel proclaims, was one of which men felt not their need. Their eyes were blinded by the power which held them captive, and spiritual death reigned over all. When told the cause of their woes, and the source of all their fears and misery, and that the Son of God had come to deliver them from sin and from all the sinful indulgences and customs into which sin had led them, they listened with impatience. The carnal mind rose in all its strength, to resist the council given, and reject the gracious offer pressed on their acceptance. Instead of embracing the messengers of Christ, as heralds of the most joyous tidings, the world frowned upon them. They were disturbing its rest, denouncing its long cherished customs, and threatening the wrath of God against all who would not forsake their sins. This was the state of the world when the Apostles went forth to declare the message given them by their Master. Instead of rejoicing to hear the glad tidings, the world was enraged. Reproach and persecution and death made up the return which they received for the blessings, with which they would gladden every sorrowing heart. Men did not wish to hear that the gods, which their fathers worshipped, were a vanity, and a lie, nor was it pleasing to hear, that all their sinful practices, and the indulgences to which their lusts were devoted, must be abandoned. Their Scribes and Pharisees, and their learned and self-righteous Teachers, felt it a grievous offence to be told, that, like the rest, they too were children of wrath, and that