

self-ruined, though he be. O man dost thou desire to know thy God? Gaze on the Cross of Jesus Christ.

It ought to be viewed also as an exhibition of the holiness of God. It reveals to us not only how God feels towards us, but also what he thinks of our sins. It is this which constitutes the sufferings and death of Christ, truly a propitiation for sin. Jesus stood in the room of guilty men, and he did what was necessary to display the purity of God, so that God might righteously forgive the sinner. Even holy angels looking into the things of the plan of redemption for men are constrained adoringly to exclaim, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory." We may be sure that no more suffering was inflicted by God on his well-beloved Son than was absolutely necessary to show his hatred for our sins. How great then must be his hatred to sin, when even Jesus needed to endure such dreadful woes to make it evident! Sinner, thou canst not look, and continue looking, to the Cross of thy Saviour, and love thy sins.

In order, however, to have a full-orbed view of the import of the crucifixion of Christ we must consider it, as the way of salvation. Jesus stood in the room of sinners; and his crucifixion declares to all moral beings, that sin is the abominable thing which God hates. He can therefore, because of the cross, forgive sinners and restore them to his favour, without being suspected of conniving at sin, by any unfallen creature. On the footing of the blood of the Cross, God can be just and justify the ungodly, who believe in Jesus. He gave—freely and generously—gave Jesus thus to make atonement for sin. The fact that he gave his Son up to agonies and death for us, is unmistakeable evidence that there is pity enough in his heart to save us. And the fact that his justice—his public justice is satisfied with the crucifixion of Christ, is indubitable proof that his holiness is not opposed to our salvation. By the Cross sinful man can get near the sin-hating God. The sinner who looks to the Cross, does not need to be afraid of Divine justice. Sinner look to the Cross, and behold your God a just