

say, "I cannot go to God *just now*, for I am a poor, vile, guilty sinner, with no good thing about me at all—a poor beggar, who has nothing to give for salvation; but I shall wait till I have something to recommend me, till I can gather up something good, and then I shall go?" Dear reader, would *this* be a *free* salvation? You want to *pay* for salvation; but God offers you salvation *without money and without price*. "Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye, to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk *without money and without price*." (Isa. lv. 1). "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life *freely*" (Rev. xxii. 17).

But supposing it had been required that you should bring some good thing with you when you come seeking pardon, how vain would be your hope! How long would you have to wait? He who for a moment thinks such a thing, has evidently never been brought to feel the total and utter depravity of his nature, that in him, that is, in his flesh, dwelleth no good thing (Rom. vii. 18). When a sinner is once truly awakened by the Spirit of God to see the awful ruin of his condition, he then feels that, so far from it being a comfort to him, to tell him that he must wait till he find some good thing in him to recommend him, before he could hope for pardon from an angry God, would be the very thing that is the likeliest to drive him to despair.

The Lord shews us a more excellent way. Glorious truth! spoken of Jesus by those who were stumbled by its very glory,—“This man receiveth *sinners*” (Luke xv. 2). For calling us to come to Christ, so far as the ground of our coming is concerned, the Lord has no respect to the sinner's state at all, as to whether it be better, whether it be worse. The only question is, Art thou *willing*?—the invitation is, “*Whosoever will*.”—*Free Church Children's Record*.

LED BY A LITTLE CHILD.

A blind man lets himself be led by a child. So must we be brought to feel and to acknowledge to ourselves, that we are blind: and then the time may come when a Little Child shall lead us.—*Hare*.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT.

In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see difference between things; and it is Christ that gives us light.—*Hare*.