

saving design is completely frustrated, that Christ died to no purpose, and that universal damnation would inevitably follow. For the bible and daily experience prove, that while men continue in an unconverted state, they will not have Christ to rule over them. Luke xix, 27. " Their mind is very enmity against God, and cannot be subject to the law of God." Rom. viii, 7. " And he finds us enemies to him at the very moment he reconciles us, makes us friends to him." Rom. v, 10. " And till God regenerates us, we are natural men and receive not the things of the Spirit of God; but view them as foolishness, and consequently are morally unable to know them." 1 Cor. ii, 14. Now whatever a man hates and views to be foolishness that he will invariably choose to avoid. But while a man continues in a natural state he hates God, and views the things of his Spirit to be foolishness. Therefore he will always necessarily and out of choice flee from God, till he is captivated by Almighty converting grace. And even then God does not ask the creature's consent. For they are born not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man. John i, 13. At the same time the elect sinner is not made good by forcing his will, but is by victorious grace, made willing to be good, according to Psal. ix, 3. " Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power." Surely he, who without our consent, made us rational creatures, can, by virtue of his almighty transforming grace, make us holy creatures, without making us mere machines. God does not offer the least violence to the human mind in his effectual operation of regenerating grace. Open a blind man's eyes to see the sun, and there needs no compulsion to make him admire it. So when God causes saving light to shine into the understanding of an elect sinner, which seems to be the initial point of regeneration, or the first effect of converting grace, which causes him to view his sins like huge mountains, exceeding vile and aggravated; that his desperately wicked heart has all his life-time been streaming forth enmity against infinite perfection; that he has been a Heaven daring, a God provoking, a