

the counsels of God in the eternity past to the accomplishment of these counsels in the eternity to come!

These testimonies contain God's precepts—God's laws How holy are these! How right! How just! How good!—How glorifying to God! How advantageous to man! The laws of God are "wonderful," if we consider how consonant they are with reason—how lovely they are in every moral estimation—how delightful to every unfallen or regenerated being—of what exquisite happiness they are the source, and of what valuable, and blessed, consequences the cause. They give light: they impart understanding: they afford quickening: they hold out direction and guidance in every circumstance. They are the transcript of God's nature: they are the reflection of his own character. It is by them that angels are preserved in purity and bliss. They are the holiness of the heavenly world—the crystal of its streets—the radiance of its glory—the perfection of its happiness. Are they not all summed up in the love of God—and does not that compose the joy of the heavenly state? the perfection of the heavenly character? Seraphs and Saints are absorbed in that one feeling—the love of God. Ah! if we loved God, we would keep his commandments—his commandments would not be grievous: they would be the joy and rejoicing of our hearts—the happiness of our moral being—the perfection of our moral nature. We would love God's law: it would be our meditation all the day: we would see in it a beauty and a wisdom whose profound depths we could never fathom—whose heights we could never scale—whose loveliness we could never enough appreciate. Our sentiment would be: "Thy testimonies are wonderful: How sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

The testimonies of God are wonderful when we consider their end or object.—It was the observation of a great man that the Bible "had God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error for its matter." Salvation, then, is the end or object of God's testimonies. Their great object is to acquaint us with God, that we may be at peace with him. It is to shew us the way of salvation—to reveal Christ to us—to teach us our own state of guilt and misery, and to discover the way of redemption through the blood of Christ, "in whom," we are told "we have redempti-

on through his blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of the Divine grace." This is the most wonderful aspect in which God's testimonies can be considered. They testify of Christ, and so in them we have eternal life. They set forth fully and clearly Christ's work. They bring out its great lines or features. They exhibit a Saviour suffering and dying—the just for the unjust, to bring us unto God. The great object of God's word is that we might be saved. Salvation is its theme. But salvation consists not merely in deliverance from wrath—but in spiritual recovery—the redemption of the soul from sin—the restoration of the soul to holiness. Hence a great part of God's word consists not on setting forth Christ, but of such views and statements as are fitted to advance the soul to holiness—and to establish it in faith and comfort. Thus we read in the 19th Psalm: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple: The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart." The testimonies of the Lord are wonderfully adapted to their end. They will infallibly guide to the way of life. They contain all that is fitted to instruct, and to comfort, and to build up the soul, in holiness. Every believer can testify how wonderful God's word is—can say: "Thy testimonies are wonderful." How do they reprove sin—how do they confirm faith—how do they animate the drooping and desponding heart—revive the faint and weary soul, and impart peace and comfort to the afflicted spirit! "Through thy precepts I get understanding. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. My soul fainteth for thy salvation, but I hope in thy word. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me; yet thy commandments are my delight." So wonderful are God's testimonies. They contain matter suited to the exigencies, or the state, of every soul. Whether we look to its revelations of God's mercy—its discoveries of God's faithfulness—its manifestations of God's goodness—its encouraging promises—its wholesome rebukes—the wisdom of its precepts, or the blessed and glorious hopes which it unfolds to the believer, we are constrained to say: "Thy testimonies are wonderful." Is it to be wondered, then, that the child of God should add: "Therefore, my soul keepeth them"