

law of the Mosaic system, which the Pharisees had converted into "an idolatry of forms." If he meant the former, the answer is, that he has misapprehended and misapplied the saying of the Apostle, that "the strength of sin is the law." He thereby certainly meant the *moral* law of that system. If it is this law that the writer meant, then he may be answered, that no doctrines or conduct of the Pharisees, or any others, either could, or did, alter, in the least, the essential nature and character of that moral code. It ever continued the same, always equally binding, and from the first, in its extensive obligatory power and authority, and absolute and spiritual requirements, it constituted the strength of sin, when brought to bear on the conscience. Many passages of Scriptures show that the extensive and strict requirements of this law, when spiritually applied to the conscience, cause the sinner to see and feel his guilt for his numerous violations of that law, and also his utter inability, of himself, to fulfil it; and thus when duly enlightened he is compelled to flee for pardon and peace to the Gospel remedy of faith in the atonement of Christ. The assertion of the writer in the above extracts that "the Pharisaic teaching contained elements of a more spiritual religion than the original Mosaic system," is profanely untrue, as already remarked. Where is that spiritual teaching of the Pharisees to be found? Certainly not in the Scriptures, nor indeed in any other quarter. The only and infallible information we have concerning *them* and their *teaching*, is from our Lord himself, who declared of them, that they "bound heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, and laid them on men's shoulders," but they themselves "would not touch them with one of their fingers;" that they "set aside the law of God and made it void" by their own "traditions;" that they "compassed sea and land to make one proselyte, and made him two-fold more the child of hell" than themselves; that they "shut up the kingdom of Heaven