

to be judged at the great day. And in vain do we hope to believe in or worship Christ aright, unless the principles, on which our faith and practice are founded, are agreeable to the form of sound words, delivered to us in the scriptures of truth.

Besides, many deceivers are gone abroad in the world; mere heathen morality, and not the purity and perfection of Jesus Christ, is preached in most of our churches. If Christ be mentioned, it is only by the bye. And how should people think rightly of Jesus Christ, of whom they have scarcely heard? Bear with me a little then, whilst, in order to inform your consciences, I ask you a few questions concerning Jesus Christ, for there is no other name given under heaven whereby we can be saved, but his.

And first.—What think you about the person of Christ? Whose son is he? This is the question our Lord puts to the Pharisees, in the word following the text; and never was it more necessary to repeat this question than in these last days, for numbers that are called after the name of Christ, and I fear many that pretend to preach him, are so far advanced in the blasphemous chair, as openly to deny that he is really, truly, and properly God. But no one that ever was partaker of his spirit, will thus speak lightly of him. No, if our Lord's true disciples are asked, as Peter and his brethren were, But whom say ye that I am? They will reply, without hesitation, Thou art Christ the Son of the ever-living God. For the confession of our Lord's divinity is the rock upon which he builds his church. Was it possible to take this away, the gates of hell would quickly prevail against it. My brethren, if Jesus Christ be not very God of very God, I would never preach the gospel of Christ again! For it would not be Gospel, that is to say, glad tidings of salvation; it would be only a system of mere morality; and if so, Seneca, Cicero, or any of the heathen philosophers, would be as good a Saviour as Jesus of Nazareth. It is the divinity of our Lord that gives the efficacy to his death, and makes him such an high priest as became us, viz. one who by the infinite merits of his sufferings could