

FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"With the heart man believeth unto righteousness."
(Rom. x, 10.)

TO say that God is righteous is to express one of the most elementary truths. "All His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He" (Deut. xxxii. 4). Now by our sins we have made God a judge. We cannot appear before Him unless the question of our sins has been settled, for He will by no means clear the guilty (Ex. xxxiv. 7).

It is evident that every sinner has need of righteousness; any one will admit that. In order to be at rest in view of an inevitable judgment, one must be assured that they shall never appear before the divine tribunal; or, if they do, that a righteousness will be provided for them, in such manner, that they will not be classed with the wicked.

Men seek to settle this matter without reference to God; persuading themselves that there is no judgment, or that if there is, their own righteousness will suffice, and that they will be acquitted.

The folly of the first of these thoughts is apparent. Every one knows that it is not the part of the criminal to decide whether or not he will appear before the authorities who have apprehended him. How much more then when it is having to do with God. This evident conclusion presses unbelievers into the still greater folly of denying the