

the love of heaven, not only bring manifold blessings and spiritual relationships on earth, but the soul thus receiving the smiles of the everlasting Father has also a title to "the heavenly Jerusalem," and is related to all the ransomed throng above, "to an innumerable company of angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." Who then would not respond to the anthem of the angelic choir when announcing the advent of the King of the Jews, making the portals of heaven ring with this thrilling melody, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will toward men;" and who would not echo throughout the earth that sublime outburst of celestial enthusiasm by the heavenly host at Messiah's coronation in the heavens, (Ps. xxiv) "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in." Who would not desire to be among the friends and attendants of Jesus to "crown him Lord of all," and receive from him honors and immortality?

But, sinner, hearken further; we must survey again the same ground; for the apostles were in the habit of applying these things to their hearers. For while Jesus has visited the earth to seek and to save, and has made himself an offering for sin, and has taken his seat in the heavens to present that offering acceptably in his own person, he is a Saviour to those only who willingly own him in obedience, for he is "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him," and hence to those only who thus obey. Hence, the spirit or temper of all who heard the gospel when the apostles were the preachers, led them, when they gladly received their word, to ask what the Lord appointed them "to do." And they were, by the Lord's preachers, instructed to "save themselves" by doing that which the Lord enjoined. "Works meet for repentance," or suitable to a profession of reformation, were in request by those whom the Saviour 'called to the ministry.' This was the practice then, and doubtless the best now, because of divine appointment and authority. The primitive converts were thus taught, and thus therefore they acted. Shall their example be followed? or is some other example preferable?

Now those who inquired what the Lord required them to do, were invariably disposed to obey him without waiting to investigate the wisdom or propriety of the things he instituted for their obedience. Do we speak to one of like mind and purpose? Then "hear the word of the Lord"—hear, do, and live! The Lord says by the mouth of an apostle, who then repeated what others had witnessed, *Through his name, whosoever believeth in him, shall receive remission of sins.*"