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*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalms 137, 45.*

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### FAITH WORKING BY LOVE.

A NEW SERMON BY REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

"Faith which worketh by love."—Galatians 5:6.

ALL ways of justification by human works and outward forms are set aside by the apostle. In one sentence he closes up every road which is cast up by man, and opens up the way of the Lord, even the way of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Some hope to be saved by ritualism; their hopes are smitten hip and thigh by this word, "Neither circumcision availeth anything;" on the other hand, many are relying upon their freedom from all ceremonial, and place their reliance upon a sort of anti-ritualism—they are smitten by the words "nor circumcision."

As Jews relied upon circumcision, so do many depend upon baptism and sacrament; to these the apostle gives no quarter. Others glory in uncircumcision; they have practised no rites nor ceremonies, their mode of worship is plain, even to unsightliness, free almost from disorder, and of this they are apt to make a righteousness. It is quite as easy to make a self-righteousness out of the pluniness of the Quaker as out of the gaudiness of the Romanist; and the one

confidence will be as fatal as the other.

The outward, whether decorated or unadorned, whether fixed or free, touches not the saving point; the only thing which can save us is faith in Jesus Christ, whom God has set forth as a propitiation for sin. Faith brings us in contact with the healing fountain, and so our natural disease is removed: it appropriates on our behalf the result of the Redeemer's service and sacrifice, and so we become accepted in Him; but anything short must fail; it is the rending of the garment, while the heart is unbroken the washing of the outside of the cup and platter, while the inner part is very filthiness.

The apostle, however, does more than merely condemn other foundations than those of faith; he distinguishes here between faith itself and its many imitations. It is not every sort of faith that will save the soul. True, faith, undoubtedly, will save a man, though it be as a grain of mustard seed; but then it must be true faith—the genuine silver, and not a mere plated article. "Money answereth all thing," says the wise man, but then it must be current coin of the realm; for counterfeit money will answer for nothings except to condemn the man who has it in his possession. Real faith will save us, but forgeries of it will increase our peril. Assurance is of God, but presumption is of the devil.