

COME SHORT.

A YOUNG MAN said, my religion is honesty—honesty with myself, with my neighbor, and with God. Although he admitted putting himself first and God last, yet he affirmed his honesty toward God. This word was quoted: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." (Luke x, 27). He owned, "According to that I have come short." But instead of *honestly* confessing the truth before God, and enquiring "how should man be just with God." (Job ix, 2), he took the usual shift of doing "the best I can," thus listening to Satan's cheat rather than to God.

Would it not have been "his uprightness" to "say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not?" Then grace would have answered, "Deliver him from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom." (Job xxxiii, 23, 27). Scripture not only convicts of having come short, but if there is true confession, grace meets the sinner at that very point, and it is ruinous not to repent, for "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke xiii, 3). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. iii, 23), and the moment this place is really taken, the penitent learns, not that he must do the best he can; that would never satisfy the justice of God; but, that "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might

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