

out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel; they despised all of my reproof: Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."—Prov. i. 24—31. God would save all sinners; but too many, alas! refuse his salvation, disregard his calls, reject his counsels, despise his reproofs. He bears with them long; but at last he sends fear upon them, as desolation and destruction, like a whirlwind; then they call upon God; then they seek him; but their day of grace is past; and now God as decidedly refuses to listen to their prayers, as they before refused to listen to his calls; he as firmly hides his mercy from them now, as they obstinately refused it when he offered it them before their destruction. Is not this both just and reasonable? With the froward God will show himself froward. The way of the sinner, then, we clearly perceive, is erroneous—willfully erroneous, and will prove eternally ruinous, unless he forsake his wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts, and return unto the Lord; God will then have mercy upon him, and abundantly pardon him.

II. The duty of the Christian, as an agent for Christ, to convert the sinner from the error of his ways.

Επιστρέφω signifies to turn, turn to, or toward. In the scriptures it signifies to convert, to turn to God and holiness. This is evident from Luke i. 16, 17, where we read, "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn (convert) to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him, in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn (convert) the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just: to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Grinfield says, this passage means to turn to the Lord, be converted, and embrace the Christian religion. "He which converteth a sinner from the error of his way," evidently means he that turns the sinner from the error of his way, by bringing him to a better state of thinking, feeling, and acting, "saveth a soul from death, and hideth a multitude of sins." The in-