

neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

By nature we are all poor as regards heavenly treasures; yet we may become rich. There is One "who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we, through His poverty, might be rich."

Lay up for yourselves, therefore, treasures in heaven; and do it *now*, for now is the accepted time to secure salvation.



FIRST BELIEVE.

WHOSOEVER therefore thou art who desirest to be forgiven and reconciled to the favour of God, do not say in thy heart, "I must first do this; I must first conquer every sin, break off every evil word and work, and do all good to all men; or I must first go to church, receive the Lord's supper, hear more sermons, and say more prayers." Alas! my brother, thou art clean gone out of the way. Thou art still ignorant of the righteousness of God, and art seeking "to establish thine own righteousness" as the ground of thy reconciliation. Knowest thou not that thou canst do nothing

but sin till thou art reconciled to God? Wherefore, then, dost thou say, I must do this and that first, and then I shall believe. Nay, but—

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the propitiation for thy sins. Let this good foundation first be laid, and thou shalt do all things well.

Neither say in thy heart, "I cannot be accepted yet, because I am not good enough." Who is good enough, who ever was—to merit acceptance at God's hands? Was ever any child of Adam good enough for this?—or will any be, till the consummation of all things? And as for thee, thou art not good at all—there dwelleth in thee no good thing; and thou never wilt be, till thou believe in Jesus. Rather thou wilt find thyself worse and worse.

But is there any need of being worse in order to be accepted? Art thou not bad enough already? Indeed thou art, and that God knoweth, and thou thyself canst not deny it. Then delay not. All things are now ready. "Arise, and wash away thy sins." The fountain is open; now is the time to wash thee in the blood of the Lamb. Now He shall "purge" thee as "with hyssop," and thou shalt "be clean;" He shall "wash thee," and thou shalt be "whiter than snow."

Do not say, "But I am not contrite enough; I am not sensible enough of my sins." I know it; I would to God thou wert more sensible of them, more contrite, a thousandfold than thou art. But do not stay for this. It may be God will make thee so, not before thou believest but by believing. It may be thou wilt not weep much till thou lovest much because thou hast had much forgiven. In the meantime

look unto Jesus—behold how He loveth thee. What could He have done more for thee which He hath not done?

"O Lamb of God, was ever pain,
Was ever love like Thine?"

Look steadily upon Him till He looks on thee, and breaks thy hard heart; then shall thy "head" be "waters," and thine "eyes fountains of tears."

Nor yet do thou say, "I must do something more before I come to Christ." How long wilt thou forget that whatsoever thou doest, or whatsoever thou hast before thy sins are forgiven thee, it avails nothing with God towards the procuring of thy forgiveness; yea, and that it must all be cast behind thy back, trampled under foot, made no account of, or thou wilt never find favour in God's sight; because until then thou canst not ask it as a mere sinner, guilty, lost, undone, having nothing to plead, nothing to offer to God, but only the merits of His only beloved Son, "who loved thee, and gave Himself for thee!"

Whosoever thou art, O man, who hast the sentence of death in thyself, who feelest thyself a condemned sinner, and hast the wrath of God abiding on thee, unto thee saith the Lord, not "Do this perfectly, obey all My commands, and live;"—but "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." "The word of faith is nigh unto thee;" now at this instant, in the present moment and in thy present state, sinner, as thou art, just as thou art, believe the gospel, and "I will be merciful unto thy unrighteousness, and thy iniquities will I remember no more."

Rev. John Wesley.

HEAVENLY LIGHT.

THE light of the world which seemed to go out on Calvary has been rekindled in the heavens.

He who descended into the lower parts of the earth has now ascended above earth's horizon, as "the Sun of Righteousness, with healing in His wings." Have you observed the force of that beautiful metaphor which the prophet Malachi employs in the last Old Testament promise? What wings? They are the wings of the Holy Dove, that other Comforter whom He promised to send from the high heaven, to which He was about to go, to ward His disciples round with the light and the warmth of His own perpetual presence.

See how beautifully expressive is the sacred emblem. Christ Himself is the Sun now exalted in the heavens. The Holy Spirit is the Light which streams perpetually from Him. The sun in the sky has its local presence in one particular place in the heavens, but is by no means confined to that spot, but with those wonderful wings of his fills every point of space wherever his rays are not cut off by intervening obstacles; and so, too, the Sun of Righteousness has His local habitation in the highest heavens, and yet is not confined to it, but by His Holy Spirit is present everywhere, except where He is shut out by barriers of wickedness erected against Him, or excluded by soul-windows fast closed within by those who love the darkness rather than the light.