

guilt and self-ruin which now everlastingly and irretrievably cleaves to them as the necessary consequence of having despised and thrown away that which brings glory to God in the highest, and which, if it had been rightly treated, would have brought to them heaven and all its eternal weight of glory.

But what a contrast is there on the other side of the picture, in the condition and prospects of those who, by a cordial surrender to the gospel call, belong to Christ as his willing subjects and true disciples.

First, what a *blessed safety* in their condition.

The world may change like the winds as often and much as it pleases. Convulsions may happen in the natural world,—revolutions in the political or commercial worlds. It might seem that that which the Scriptures speak of had come, “the foundations of the earth dissolving, its pillars giving way.” What then? The hearts of those who have not Christ to rest on may fail them for fear. But what has the Christian to fear? Seeing that Christ and the Christian, in mind, heart, purpose, interest, are *one*; and seeing that Christ and the divine mind and purposes in creation are *also one*; Christ, the Sovereign Ruler of all creation and providence, will so touch every secret spring, and move every wheel as to make all most surely work together for the good of his loving loyal subjects.

What a delightful confirmation does this subject give to the truth of Job’s beautiful description of the believer’s condition in being at peace with creation, in being at peace with creation’s King, (Job. v. 23).

But to speak of the believer’s *perfect safety*, in the fact that he is the subject of Him, “*by whom and for whom all things were created*,” is the least that can be said. All the amazing privileges and blessings, consequent on the plan of salvation, are unfailingly the believer’s.

By this plan of godlike, *unearthly* wisdom, there is such a complete *oneness of interest by reason of union between Christ and his people*, that Christ’s exaltation becomes theirs, that he has gone up to be enthroned as *their representative*; that they may share in that glory and reward which, at so inestimable a cost, he *died* to purchase, and *lives* to bestow.

The believer can say that he and creation’s Lord are, in respect to interest, benefit, relation, *one*,—

“One when he died, one when he rose,  
One when he triumphed o’er his foes;  
One, when in heaven he took his seat,  
And angels sang all hell’s defeat.”