

"JESUS ONLY."

Substance of the first Sermon preached to his congregation in Melrose, Scotland,

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SOME of you are in anxiety. Thoughts of sin trouble you; thought of death alarms you. You do not feel that God is reconciled, nor do you well know what to do that you may be forgiven.

Dear souls, it is Jesus only who can meet your case; and you have nothing more to do than to go to Him. He wants you, now, in your wretched, worthless state; and you want Him, now, the same that He was of old to the lame and the leper, the infinitely-loving, the all-powerful, the immutable Redeemer. Oh close with Him, and live!

Let me put it to you, Did not Jesus only work out salvation? Who stood with Him? Who shared the suffering and the shame? Was the penalty not fully exacted at His hands? Did any one lighten the load to Jesus? You know that He trode the wine press alone. The sentence, unmitigated, was on Him. He drained the cup. He looked, and there was no man; His own arm brought salvation. In the Garden there was none to help Him; alone He agonized. On the Tree He found no relief. He had no partner in the Tomb, or in His Resurrection. It was "Jesus only," who, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Oh! it is not the battle on a thousand hills, the penances of mortals, or the virtues of angels, but it is THE BLOOD OF JESUS—the obedience unto death of Jesus only—whereby the kingdom of heaven is opened to all believers!

Wherefore, you can be saved by Christ alone. Patchwork, away! and every attempt to partition the work. You are not to do somewhat, and He to supplement. Not so. What can you do that is not sinful? that does not need pardon? Jesus does all. He has done all for us; has borne the burden, has endured the curse, has paid the debt, has satisfied justice, has accomplished the atonement. Offering Himself a sacrifice for sin, He said, "It is finished." And, as none halved with Him the hardship, He will let none have half the honor. In His work is no defect. We are to trust it wholly. Bearing our sins in His own body, He expiated them. He answered, by His blood, once, for ever, for our guilt. Can a creature add, in any way, to that? How is it possible, that prayers, tears, labors of ours, can weigh one iota towards justification? or that we can offer any thing to better the Deed of Calvary? No; faith in Jesus is our only course; we are simply to believe in Him; to submit to His righteousness; to receive Him; to accept His gift freely; to hide in the clefts of the Rock, in His pierced side; and consent to be

blessed, for His sake! Escape from hell, access to the Father, is not through our feelings, or creed, or practices, or purposes; but solely by Jesus. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." Anxious inquirer, wilt thou be made whole? art thou willing to be saved? Behold thy Saviour! He waits for thee at this moment! Say not, this qualification is lacking, or the other. He asks it not. He requires no recommendation. You are a sinner: take you the sinner's place, and assuredly you will find Him in the Saviour's place, rejoicing to fulfil to you the Saviour's part! Deal directly with Him; depend on Him entirely and exclusively. As you are, come to Him as He is! Take Him as your complete righteousness. Repose on Him with all your heart. Come to Jesus, and you get rest for your soul!

II.

Justified, we must continue to confide in "Jesus only." The meritorious cause of acceptance, the ground of confidence, never alters. It is the same for a saint full of fruits of holy living as for a sinner at his conversion. It is unchanged by circumstances, condition, or character. It cannot be improved, and it is incapable of being impaired. The propitiation of our Divine Substitute is ever the Perfect Plea. The title of Paul the aged, his warrant for boldness at the throne, was precisely identical with that of Saul, when it was said of him, "Behold, he prayeth." At every stage this is true, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." But there is constant danger of moving from this, or of mixing with it mortal. We are all prone to self-righteousness, and that takes the eye off Jesus. Now, what is the promise? "Thou wilt keep him in peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." But if, leaving the Lord, we regard our own performances, repentance, or exertions—seeking a new source of satisfaction, something personal, to encourage us—ah! we wrong HIM, and we wound our own souls.

Know that "Jesus only" is *always* to be the cornerstone of your hopes! the Sprinkled Blood all your salvation! While we breathe, we are to build alone on His doing, His dying, His deserving. Jesus is to His people *the* Alpha and the Omega. The sight of Him *awakened* your peace; on still seeing Him you depend for a *continuation* of peace. Your hope at first sprung up in looking to Him; if you would maintain it, so abide. You began with Him; turn not away. Let no frames, or fancied evidences, divert your gaze from Him! Go on with Him! end with Him! To the last,

"None but Jesus, none but Jesus,
Can do helpless sinners good"

III.

Further, to believers. Be it "Jesus only"