

fruits can appear. How is it to be done? "Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood." He points to the mercy seat. Not a single thing but the blood of Jesus is offered there. God is looking at that blood. And when in Israel the sin had been all brought out and confessed by the high priest, what was not their gladness as, from the presence of their God, he came forth the witness that all sins and iniquities had been put away? Israel did not see the blood sprinkled within—they believed it! They had been in humiliation and sorrow till then, but all was changed now. Why? Because the blood of atonement was upon the mercy-seat. And yet that was but a goat's blood. Whereas now, the Son of God has died, and His blood is before the living God—that great and only sufficient sacrifice for sin. God now proclaims throughout the wide world, the eternal efficacy of that blood for poor sinners. If there is no goodness in me toward God, there is goodness in God for me. Have I known this from God? Then I have repented. God stands to the value of that blood. Have I taken His word for it? This is faith, and there is the first place where the battle must be won. "Christ has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." Am I to look at my own heart and say now I know that my sins *are gone* and that I am a Christian, because I feel myself to be a little better than I was a year ago? The Lord preserve you from such a delusion.