

revelations. Mercy has ever flowed from sacrifice, and pardon from the shedding of blood. Salvation by sacrificial offering and merit is God's acknowledged and changeless plan. By it he has saved, by it he shall save, by it earth shall be reclaimed and renovated, by it heaven shall be peopled.

In the text you have the only hope of man. Thank God he is not in a hopeless condition! His death is not inevitable, for *Jesus* has died in his stead. His sins are many, but they may be pardoned; the death of Christ has atoned for them. Their demerit may be great, but it cannot exceed the merit of a Saviour's blood.

"Arrayed in mortal flesh
The Cov'nant Angel stands."

Faith in his blood is the means of obtaining its merits. Let me, then, enforce its present exercise.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST A PROOF OF HIS DIVINITY.

The variety and strength of the evidences which we have of the deity of Christ must be most satisfactory to every prayerful inquirer. Passing by, altogether, the evidences to be derived from the writings of the Prophets in the Old Testament, and from the Apostolic Epistles in the New, we have, in the history of Christ's humanity alone, a series of irrefutable arguments; so that, amidst the very circumstances on which the opponents of the truth base their objections, we are furnished with the amplest means for its defence. From the first intimation which is given us in the Gospel narrative of our Lord's incarnation, to the closing scene in his earthly career, we have a chain of evidence, so strong that the combined powers of the adversaries cannot break it; and so complete, that all their ingenuity cannot discover in it a single defect. The announcement of the angel to the virgin mother, before our Saviour's birth, at once reveals the close conjunction into which he would bring our humanity with the divine nature; the mysterious alliance which should take place between them, in his person: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." And when we take up the records of his life, and endeavour to ascertain the amount of information which they supply on this subject; when we follow him through the ever-changing circumstances in which he was placed, and view him in the variety of aspects in which he is presented to us, we see proof follow proof in rapid succession. A host of witnesses rise up, and with united voice proclaim his divinity. And when we connect with these facts the circumstances of his death, and mark the events which then took place; while a veil of supernatural darkness is drawn round external things, yet, in the midst of that appalling gloom, the brightness of his Godhead beams forth through the miracles of that hour, and we are seized by the same overpowering convictions which led