

to write for a week. It is plain, simple, and unambiguous. It is the emphatic assertion of the Spirit, and proves most conclusively that, whatever our ideas of God's providence in connection with man's action may be, God does not necessitate any man in any way to do wrong. Hence man's responsibility remains unaffected by any of God's actions. To make this point as plain as possible, let us notice what is said in Eccl. vii. 29: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." From this passage we learn that God is clear from having anything to do with man's being by nature a child of wrath. We also learn that man has been his own destroyer: "*They* have sought out many inventions." Here departure from the right is charged home upon man. Man is a sinner by his own act, not by any act of God. Paul says: "The carnal mind is enmity against God." He does not speak of this or that individual mind, but of *mind* in general, and characterizes it as *carnal*. *Carnal* is here used in opposition to *spiritual*—what we possess by the first birth against what we possess through the second or new birth. Men, then, come into the world possessors of minds which are enmity against God. Man having brought himself into a state of sin and misery, and possessing a mind willing to remain in that state, it cannot be shown that God is under any obligation to prevent this evil from bringing forth its legitimate fruits. According to the natural laws of mind, blessings bestowed should beget in the heart of the receiver gratitude to the giver. Now suppose these blessings, freely bestowed, produce the contrary effect through the depravity of our nature for which we ourselves are responsible, is God to blame? Wherein lies his *obligation* to bring influences to bear to reduce this hatred in man to love? He is under no such obligation. All acts of sin spring from one source, enmity against God. Christ has enumerated the principles which lead to all acts of sin, and has pointed out whence all arise. "For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetous-