

Son of God hath not life." (1 John v. 12.) all these texts come to one and the same point,—no salvation but by Jesus Christ.

Reader, make sure that you understand this before you pass on. Perhaps you think this is all old news. Perhaps you feel "these are ancient things: who knoweth not such truths as these? Of course we believe there is no salvation but by Christ." But mark well what I say; make sure that you understand this doctrine, or else by and by you will stumble and be offended at what I have yet to say.

Remember that you are to venture the whole salvation of your soul on Christ, and on Christ only. You are to cast loose completely and entirely from all other hopes and trusts. You are not to rest partly on Christ,—partly on doing all you can,—partly on keeping your Church,—partly on receiving the sacrament. In the matter of your justification Christ is to be *all*. This is the doctrine of the text.

Remember that heaven is before you, and Christ the only door into it;—hell beneath you, and Christ alone able to deliver you from it;—the devil behind you, and Christ the only refuge from his wrath and accusations;—the law against you, and Christ alone able to redeem you;—sin weighing you down, and Christ alone able to put it away. This is the doctrine of the text.

Now do you see it? I hope you do. But I fear many think so, who may find before laying down this paper they do not.

II. *Let me show you, in the second place, some reasons why the doctrine of the text must be true.*

I might cut short this part of the subject by one simple argument, "God says so." "One plain text," said an old divine, "is as good as a thousand reasons."

But I will not do this. I wish to meet the objections that are ready to rise in many hearts against this doctrine, by pointing out the strong foundations on which it stands.

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