

there is so much that is plain and obvious. There are many things about God which are, and must be, dark and incomprehensible, but the things which it most concerns us to know are revealed so as to instruct and purify, and comfort and save the children of men. While there are not a few things concealed which curiosity is eager to know, every thing is made known which man as a guilty creature needs; while many questions are for wise reasons left unanswered, a satisfactory solution is furnished to the awfully important problem, "How shall man be just with God?" How graphic are the descriptions given in Scripture of man's lost and ruined state, of his danger as a condemned, hell-deserving sinner, of his need of mercy; how many and explicit the statements as to the freeness and abundance of divine compassion! "God waiteth to be gracious," "He wills that all men should be saved," "He is ready to forgive," "He delighteth in mercy." And how full and frequent and affectionate are offers of eternal salvation, "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price," "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." "Jesus is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by him," "He that believeth shall be saved," "The Spirit and the Bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

Again, and in a word, let us carefully study the Scriptures, comparing one part with another, and seek by earnest prayer the teaching of that Spirit who shall "Guide us into all truth." Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture, and one text resolves another, even as diamonds can be cut only by diamonds. "Let the most illiterate Christian," says Bishop Horsley, "study Scripture in this way, comparing text with text, and the whole compass of abstruse philosophy and recondite history shall furnish no argument, with which the perverse will of man, shall be able to shake this plain Christian's faith." But remember Luther's famous motto, "To pray well is to study well." If a soldier were to receive a letter from his commanding officer containing orders and instructions, and if there were some statements in it which he did not fully understand, he would probably ask the advice of some of his comrades, but if he was not satisfied that the explanation given him was correct, and if he learned that the commanding officer was himself near and readily accessible to him, would he not repair to him and get from him the information he required? Let us go and do likewise; let us cry to the author of the Bible who hears in heaven, his dwelling place; let our prayer to the Father of Lights be, "Oh send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead us and guide us;" then shall we know if we thus follow on to know the Lord; the light of the moon shall become as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be as seven days;