

What the Book Says.

Once, when on a journey to a village in the south of England, for the purpose of preaching the gospel, I had occasion to walk two or three miles from the railway station to my destination; when pursuing my course, I was accosted by a respectable man in a dog-cart, who requested me to ride with him, as he was going to the same place; at first I declined, but on his again asking me to accompany him I consented, thinking the Lord had a word for me to speak to the man; I looked to him for guidance, and the result was the following conversation:—

Q. "Do you go to any church or chapel on the Sunday?"

A. "No, I don't believe in such places, nor in the people that go there; I believe they are all hypocrites."

Q. "Is that any reason why you should be one?"

A. "No."

Q. "It is a very important matter for everybody to know whether he is saved or not."

A. "I don't believe in such stuff."

Q. "Don't you believe that you are a sinner by nature and practice?"

A. "No, I don't; I had enough of that drilled into me at school; it's what the book says."

Q. "Do you believe in the Bible, that it is God's Word?"

A. "No, I don't."

I then explained to him from the 3rd of Romans, that he was a sinner, that all men had sinned and come short of the glory of God; but that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John iii. 16), when he again replied, "Ah! that's what the Book says." I warned him too of the truth, "that after death came the judgment." This is a solemn fact, "*It is what the Book says,*" and by that Book—the Word of God—shall men be judged: "The word that I speak, the same shall judge him in the last day;" and that "he that believeth not would be

damned;" when I could get no other reply than "Ah, that's what the Book says."

Reader, dost thou believe the Word of God? It says thou art a sinner by nature and practice, that Christ died for sinners, that He "hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God," and that whosoever believe in Him hath everlasting life. Dost thou believe on the Son of God? If not, may the Holy Spirit help thee so to do this very day, and then thou wilt know that thou art *SAVED*, because *the Book says so*.

The Truth in Jesus.

A celebrated artist had been engaged on and had almost finished a picture that has since become famous in the world. He had brought it to that stage of perfection when an unpractised or unprofessional eye would have pronounced it complete, when a friend called upon him, and requested permission to see it. The wish was gratified; and the visitor on leaving thanked the painter for his kindness, and expressed, at the same time, the admiration which he felt for the work he had been privileged to witness. Having occasion, however, several months afterwards, to call again at the house, he could not help remarking that the portrait must have been finished when he last saw it, as nothing apparently had been done to it since then. His friend hastened to correct the impression, and assured him he had really done a great deal to it. "I have brought out this feature," he said; "I have deepened that expression; I have sweetened that smile; I have——" "Yes, yes," said the other, interrupting him, "but these are mere trifles." "Ah," was the answer, "but it is by these 'trifles,' as you call them, that we reach perfection; and *that*," he added emphatically, "is no trifle."

Now, my readers, upon a work in many respects analogous to this of the painter's, the preachers of Christ's