

The Shield of thy help.
Deut. xxxiii. 29.

"I BELIEVE WE MUST DO
SOMETHING;"

OR, THE COACHBUILDER'S CONVERSION.

SOULS were being saved at the gospel meetings held in——. Entering the workshop of a coachbuilder in the place, the preacher asked if he had attended any of the services. "No," was the curt reply, "and I don't mean to." "Why not?" "Because you are teaching false doctrine." "What false doctrine are we teaching?" "You are telling the people that they can be saved by simple faith in Christ; and I believe *we must do something.*" "What, then, can you do?"

Thinking for a little while, he replied, "Well really I don't know."

The preacher noticed two wheels lying on the floor, one painted, varnished, and ready for use; and the other in a half-finished condition. Seizing a spokeshave which lay near to him, he placed it close to the finished wheel, as if he were about to scrape the paint and varnish off, when the coachbuilder firmly grasped his hand and asked him what he was about to do.

"I am going to finish this wheel."

"Why, man," said he, "it's finished."

Raising his hand again, as if he had not heard or understood what he was told, the preacher seemed about to repeat the experiment, when the coachbuilder impatiently, if not angrily, exclaimed, "Did I not tell you that wheel was finished? If you wish to use the spokeshave try it on the other one."

The servant of Christ, looking into his face, spoke thus: "You objected to my doing anything to the wheel for the simple reason that it was ready for use, completed, finished. I could not improve it, and I could not add to it: now, let me ask, What were the last words of the Lord Jesus Christ?"

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, IT IS FINISHED." (John xix. 30)

"When the Lord Jesus uttered those words, was everything that was necessary for your soul's deliverance completed? Or was something left undone? Have you to add to Christ's finished work?"

The conversation was blessed to the coachbuilder. He was led to see that God was perfectly satisfied with what Christ had done; and that no works, prayers, or happy feelings of his were necessary to obtain salvation; and by resting on the "finished work" he had the assurance of the living God that his sins would be all blotted out.

Reader, do you imagine that you have something meritorious to do in order to be saved? Have you been thinking that Christ has done His part of the work and you have to do yours? If so, be undeceived. Your "part" is to cease working to obtain forgiveness; to cease praying for salvation; to cease looking into your heart, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for you. *God is perfectly satisfied with the finished work of Christ*—He is not satisfied with your works or prayers, your church attendance or religious observances—but He is satisfied with what Christ did for you on Calvary's cross.

"This is the work of God, that ye BELIEVE ON HIM whom He hath sent." (John vi. 29) The great work by which sin has been put away is finished, and God asks you to believe on Him who did it all and paid it all. It may seem to you to be "too easy" a way, but it is God's way, and His only way of saving lost sinners. Though an "easy way" it is not "too easy," since it is obtained through believing in another who suffered the penalty of our sins, and died in our stead. No longer hesitate. Time is passing, and eternity is nearing.

"Weary, working, plodding one,
Wherefore toil you so?
OCEAN'S WORK DONE: ALL WAS DONE
Long, long ago.
It is finished, yes, indeed,
Finished every jot;
Sinner, this is all you need;
Tell me is it not?"

A. M.

A God slow to anger, and of great kindness.
Neh. ix. 17.