

THE GOOD NEWS.

A SEMI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL:

DEVOTED to the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the OLD AND YOUNG

THE HOLY SPIRIT,

His Place and Action in the Covenant of Redemption.

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"After that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance," &c.—Eph. i. 13, 14.

All God's works in the material and spiritual world, and all His operations of a moral nature, and the mode in which they are manifested and carried on, are parts of the wise and benevolent plan of Him who "hath made all things for Himself," and of whose vast designs successive events are but the evolution and development.

The cross of Christ, the hope, the life, and the glory of those "predestinated unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ;" the cross, the fountain of innumerable blessings, the mainstay of a ruined world, was raised up according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God; and His redeemed were "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world." And in like manner, the mission, and office, and work of the Holy Spirit in the dispensation of grace, form an integral and all important element in the covenant of redemption, and therefore were designed, and comprehended in the eternal purpose of mercy to sinful man.

This whole section of Scripture (Eph. I.) represents salvation as flowing from the gracious purpose of God. And, as the divine agent in imparting this salvation, "the Holy Spirit of promise" is described

in His proper sphere, and doing His appropriate work.

When we think of the work of Christ, as contemplated in God's choice of a seed to serve Him, we learn that, while the purpose of mercy begins in the everlasting love and ends in the everlasting glory, Christ as Mediator occupies all the ground between. But it does not follow that there is no place for the Spirit in the scheme of redemption. Though "*Christ for us*" is the sole hope and refuge of believers; it is not *Christ without*, but *Christ anointed with the Spirit*, who is made unto us of God "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." Christ as the great teacher, made known God's truth, as the Great High Priest, demonstrated God's willingness to save, by the sacrifice of Himself, as King, subjects to His sway, and employs all beings and agencies in His service. For this declarative, demonstrative and governmental work, He is qualified by His true Divinity and true humanity. But He has also an administrative work to perform. And that He may be qualified for that; in order that He may awaken sinners to a sense of their guilt and need, that He may draw