

bring judgment upon him after the feast of the Passover (translated 'Easter' in our Bibles).

This waiting-time was one of utmost importance to Peter. The assembly of saints (here translated as 'the Church') made *instant, and earnest prayer to God for him*. Two very important points will be seen here—

FIRST.—The prayer was *earnest*, without *ceasing*: it was real, heartfelt prayer; very different to the mere repetition of words from a book, or from the lips of another, which such numbers of worldly-minded souls are content with, and who are not alive in Christ at all, but dead in trespasses and sins, and who by thus giving a sort of religious 'sop' to their consciences, vainly consider that they are doing that which is pleasing to God. Let such read *Proverbs* xxi. 27, and xxviii. 9, and mark what God thinks of such prayers, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (*Galatians* vi. 7): and if he sows the *wind*, he will reap the *whirlwind of his destruction* (*Hosea* viii. 7). What multitudes there are who every Lord's-day satisfy their consciences by going *formally* through various forms of service, under the idea that they are thus worshipping God, not knowing that *real worship* is praise offered to God for being brought out of darkness, bondage, and death, into light, liberty, and life everlasting, through Christ; and not also knowing that it is only those who are *true believers* in Christ and have access to God by the blood, as Abel had (*Genesis* iv. 4), that are accepted by God as worshippers at all; if we have not a living faith, the faith that worketh by love (*Galatians* v. 6), we have no access or title to go into God's presence as His worshipping children (see *Romans* v. 1, 2, and *Ephesians* ii. 18). Such are only doing what Cain did, going to offer an offering to God without the blood of reconciliation, thus really without the real acknowledgment that

they
so the
found
Dea
God's
(Exod
by the
Jude 1
See
loved
odour
was re
ready
shown
ed wit
This in
and it
should
(Phil
more
been g
sort ar
consid
from t
(Deute
amples
ing fro
See tha
in 2 K
verse 3
can be
to-day,
Inter
exercis
be, P
on thos
ample
Him, a
verse 8.