

we would call your special attention for a few moments. *God's chief end in the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ was the promotion of his own glory.*

If the ultimate end which Jehovah had in view in creating the most insignificant insect that dances in the sunbeam was the display of his own perfections; surely the mightiest, the most wonderful and glorious of all his mighty works must have the divine glory as its end?

We have no desire to speculate upon the origin of sin, the fall of angels, or the fall of man, and the fearful consequences of that fall. That evil is, every one knows. That evil is bad every one knows. That evil is not in the Divine plan, or purpose, or decree, we firmly believe. That God never did evil that good may come; and that he never desired any of his intelligent creation to sin we firmly believe. "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." "He hates every false and wicked way." These, and such statements as these, lead us to seek the origin of evil where alone it can be found, *in the mind of the will-endowed creature, and not in the decree of the Creator.* Sin was not a necessary evil on the one hand; neither was the scheme of redemption on the other hand a necessary good. God in devising and in revealing the plan of salvation acted freely. Some men tell us that sin was necessary, because the revelation of God's character in the gospel was necessary; and the latter could not take place without the former. We are bold to say that neither were necessary. But God in the plenitude of his *sovereign* love and mercy, devised that plan of redemption which would have remained for ever unneeded and unknown in the history of the holy, happy universe, but for sin. The forbidden and unnecessary sin of the creature is the occasion; the *sovereign unnecessary*, or free love of God, is the cause, the originating cause, and the procuring cause of the whole plan of salvation. The scheme of redemption in its origin,—in its commencement,—in its progress under the patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations is wonderful and worthy of its Divine author. In order to unfold that plan angel after angel was sent with messages to earth. Revelation after revelation was given to patriarchs, to prophets, to priests, and to kings. Signs and symbols, and ceremonies and sacrifices were instituted. And when the period for the incarnation had fully arrived the glory of the Lord was revealed. When the angels uttered in the ears of the shepherds who were watching