

ELECTION.

CORINTHIANS (II), v, 14 and many other passages of scripture, teach, in the most distinct manner, that Christ died for all. The aspect of the death of Christ, as also of the righteousness of God, is unto all; but when we come to the practical application, it is "upon all them that believe." All who hear—are responsible to believe, for the message is sent unto *all* the world, and to *every* creature. "*Who-soever* will, let him take the water of life freely." But what stumbles and perplexes so many people is, that they are occupied with the dogmas of theology, instead of the love of God, the atonement of Christ, and the record of the Holy Ghost. The moment any doctrine of scripture is taken, whether it be election, predestination, final perseverance, or any other, and detach it from the Person of Christ, and the living and eternal reality of what God is, it is turned into a stumbling block. It may be set down as an absolute truth that our gracious God would never have people to be puzzled about their souls' salvation. Theology often puzzles, but God never does, and difficulties arise from looking at theology instead of at scripture, and in scripture we find both God's sovereignty and man's responsibility; to reconcile them is not our business; they *are* reconciled, inasmuch as they are taught in the word of God. If man is not responsible to believe the Gospel, then on what ground will men be punished with everlasting destruction for not doing