

able to fall. Perhaps you may suppose yourself in too bad a state for coming to Christ at present and therefore something must be done in order to make you acceptable because you wish to come in as *decent* a manner as you can. Now whatever appearance of modesty this may seem to have, I must tell you it is the modesty of unbelief. It is the modesty of a legal temper or spirit, the proper name of which is pride. It is nothing else than old Adam working in the heart and his operations of this kind have been the ruin of thousands already and will be the ruin of many more if mercy prevent not. If this is your case you are not yet fairly divorced from the law as a covenant of works and therefore it is no wonder though you be sad. You are hovering too near Mt. Sinai and the blackness and darkness and tempest has got into your heart in such a manner that you are afraid you will lose your soul forever. If you ever desire to see God as a God of peace, and to have the light of His reconciled countenance shining upon you, you must remove your dwelling-place from Mt. Sinai and come to Mt. Zion and to Christ who is the mediator of the New Covenant and to the blood of sprinkling.

Oh but you say my sins are so great. Well so much the better. This man receiveth sinners and His blood cleanseth us from all sin. The best qualification you can have to come to Him is to be a great sinner. If you were not a sinner you would have no business with Him nor He with you, for he came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Also say you, I can't repent. If I could repent then I might come well. If you do not come before you repent you will never come, for he alone has the grace of repentance to give. For this end God has exalted him at his right hand to be a Prince and Saviour to give repentance. Come therefore to Him with your rocky hard heart, take hold of his promise in which he declares a *new heart* also will I give unto you; Ezek. 36:25, and you will be sure to meet with a most gracious reception. Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.

Throw away all your self confidence, self righteousness, self conceit, and if you do not know whether ever you believed right in Christ before, *come now* and make sure of it. Come to Him just as if you had never heard of him till this moment, for *now* is the day of salvation. Jesus is saying to you as to the man at the pool—woman wilt thou be made whole?

I daresay you have often doubted his willingness to save you and that very doubt is a cause for your trouble—O woman wherefore do you doubt? To you is the word of this salvation sent. Consider the promises of God directed to you particularly as if there was not another sinner in the world but yourself. There he will make darkness light before you and crooked things straight.

Consider what your exercise was, at, or for a considerable time before, you fell into the present dejection. I am much deceived if it was not one or the other of the following things.

Perhaps you were quarreling with Christ about some of his dispensations or you were diligent and regular in the practice of religion and had some secret dependence upon that, or you were careless, remiss, unwatchful or rested in the *form* of godliness. In whatever way you erred, set your heart toward the highway turn again to the Lord that healeth thee. Be no more faithless but believing.

In the meantime,

Yours in the gospel of Christ.

A. Dick.

JUDGING THE LORD.

It was an amusing distortion of a good hymn, but there was not a little sound philosophy in it, when the old negro preacher sang,

"Judge not the Lord by feeble saints."

And yet this is precisely what the great majority of unconverted men are doing all the time. They will not go to the Bible and give heed to what God himself says. They have no ear for His voice of mercy that offers them salvation for the taking. They do not pay attention to the solemn warnings that the Scriptures utter. They judge the Lord by "feeble saints." They attempt to feed their starving souls on the imperfections of Christians—poor food enough they find it! Because God's people are not all that they ought to be, therefore these cavillers will keep aloof from the religion which they profess. Because God's believing followers are not perfect—they do not claim to be—therefore, say these unbelievers, there is no power in religion. Christians cannot claim exemption from criticism. They do not expect it. They know that the eyes of the world are upon them. But they say to the unbelievers—"If you would know the truth, go to the Word: go to Him who is the Truth: judge not the Lord by feeble saints."—*Illustrated Christian Weekly*.