

formerly, and by nature, children of wrath, and heirs of perdition, it transforms into children of God, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel is the Envoy of heaven, and the design of its embassy is to promote "the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ," effectuating the present, the full, and the future salvation of all who embrace it. But in producing these immortal results, how general, and yet how special, how incomprehensible, and yet how rational, is the order of its operation. Adequate to the exigencies of all, it condescends to meet individual cases; travelling through the earth in the greatness of its strength, it has hourly to contend with the fiercest and most formidable antagonists, and though continually engaged, laboring for the destruction of sin, the abolition of death, the overthrow of Satan, and the felicity of mankind, it overlooks not the privations of the poor, or the sighings of the penitent, or the groanings of a wounded spirit, but kindly stoops to administer succour and consolation to all.

Among the advantages which men procure from the preaching of the gospel, are the following: It brightens the gloomy abodes of disease and poverty; smooths the bed of pain and sorrow; eases the troubled conscience, and calms the disquieted mind; instructs the ignorant, makes wise the simple, and enables the feeble to wax valiant in fight. It creates hope in the bosom of the penitent, causes the mourner to rejoice, and sheds a ray of heaven upon the soul of the expiring saint, to light him through the dreariness of the grave. In fine, the gospel, taking individuals, communities, tribes, and nations, by the hand, leads them up from savageism to humanity; from irreligion to piety; from idolatry to the sublime worship of the true God; from spiritual death to spiritual life; from the arms of the wicked one into the bosom of Abraham; and from the threshold of hell to the thrones of heaven.