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peating formal petitions which we do not understand? How many read prayers who neither understand what they read, nor look for the blessings asked! This is a mere task. "Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." James 1. 7.

1. The moment a guilty sinner discovers the cross of Christ his mind is relieved and he enjoys a perfect calm. He now feels one of those immediate effects of the gospel which has been experienced in all ages, viz. Peace with God. The troubled conscience is now set at rest. "Being justified by faith he has peace with God, through the Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5. 1.

I am aware I oppose many of the religious professors of the day upon this point. They say that a man may be a child of God for a long time and not have peace. For this they cite, Isai. 50. 10. & Matth. 5. 4. &c. The first of these passages refers to the Godly Jews being in darkness about the fulfilment of Jehovah's promises, hence they are exhorted to "trust in the Lord, and stay themselves upon their God." That is, to walk as the people of God, trusting to his faithfulness for the fulfilment of all he had promised. With regard to Matth. 5. 4. and all those passages which teach the same doctrine, I remark; that the mourning of the people of God is consistent with the greatest peace and joy. They mourn, not because there is no salvation for them, but because they have so trampled upon God's authority, and done such despite to his Holy Spirit, by rejecting his pure testimony, through which they now obtain salvation. They mourn over their own corrupt natures—over their want of gratitude to God—and over their short coming of that entire devotedness to God in which their inner man delighteth. They mourn over the depraved state of their friends and neighbours, and of the world in general—and over the little success of the gospel in the world. But all this mourning proceeds from their having peace with God. The man that has not peace with God cannot wish the forwarding of his glory.

It is contrary to human nature to love, to serve, and to mourn over want of conformity to an enemy; one that will not grant us peace with him. Such an one is reckoned "a hard master, reaping where he hath not sown, and gathering where he hath not strewed." We cannot act to such a one as our friend.

It is not consistent with the nature of the gospel that a believer thereof should be without peace. The gospel is glad tidings to the guilty, *as such*, and its salvation is exactly suitable to the state of every sinner on earth—Therefore, when its contents are understood, and received as truth, peace must ensue. Is it "possible that any sinner can believe it to be a faithful saying, and worthy of "all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," and not have peace restored to his mind?

The gospel proclaims peace on earth, and good will towards men. Can this