

and abundantly proves. The gospel, as a dispensation of grace, while it provides for the pardon of penitent offenders, gives no indemnity to wilful transgressors. It teaches, that "to whom we yield ourselves servants to obey, his servants we are," and his wages we must receive, "whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness. And the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

As there were in the times of the apostles, so there are in the present times, some, who, turning the grace of God into licentiousness, bring on themselves the destruction, which the gospel denounces against the workers of iniquity.

1. In this class we may reckon, first, those who oppose faith in Christ to works of holiness.

The Apostle teaches us, that "we are justified by faith without the deeds of the law." The deeds of the law are deeds of perfect obedience; for such are the deeds which the law requires. We cannot therefore be justified by the deeds of the law, because we are all transgressors, and can produce no such deeds. If then we are justified, it must be by faith through the redemption that is in Christ. But the faith which justifies, is a humble, penitent, heart; purifying faith; it works by love, and is careful to maintain good works. Hence the apostle demands, "Do we then make void the law thro' faith?" Nay," he asserts, "we establish the law." Against those who pervert the grace God by relying on a speculative faith, St. James thus argues, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say, he hath faith, when he hath not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and you say to them, Be ye warmed and filled, but give them not the things needful for the body, what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead being alone.

2. They who from the redemption of Christ argue for an absolute and unconditional salvation, turn the grace of God into licentiousness.

There are some such hereticks. They confess that all men