

"He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." The wrath of God abideth on you so long as you continue in unbelief. O incline your ear and listen to God speaking to you in the Gospel: "for faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

Let us now notice the ground of the believer's non-condemnation and justification. "It is Christ that died."

Christ is the object of the faith of the justified soul. He is the ground of justification. God is also said to be the object of the faith that justifies. We read (Rom. v. 5) of believing on him that justifieth the ungodly: we believe in God as he who justifies the ungodly, by believing in Christ; because he is revealed, in Christ, in sending Christ, in giving him up to die for sinners, as the God of all grace and love and mercy. God justifies, because against him our sins have been committed; it is fitting and proper that we should have to do with him in obtaining the forgiveness of our sins. Christ wrought out the righteousness on the ground of which, when we believe in him, we are justified. God gave him to work it out for us. God has accepted of it. Hence the grace of God is seen in Christ. It is thus by believing in Christ that we believe in God as the justifier of the ungodly. We should go to God by Christ.

Christ is the object on which faith must fix its eye, in order that the soul may be justified—Christ, and not our own experiences, or virtues or works. Looking to the Saviour's invitation, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," many persons endeavour to get comfort by ascertaining if they are weary and heavy laden. They regard their feeling weary and heavy laden as evidence of grace in them, and build their hopes on, and take comfort from, their feelings. Now no one should be comforted or cherish hopes merely because he feels weary and heavy laden. Though weary and heavy laden, you are invited to come to Jesus to find rest in him. Your hopes must be built on Christ himself. Built on aught else, they will make you ashamed, as they are resting on the shifting sand.

Christ is the object of faith in justification, and not merely the promises. Many persons in trouble and distress of soul, look to the promises rather than to Christ. You need to look to Christ first, because you can extract no honey of comfort from the promises, while rejecting Christ: seeing they are all yea and amen in him. There are unconditional promises, such as the promise