

CONDEMNATION OR SALVATION.

THERE is no such thing as an open question in the matter of either condemnation or salvation ; God has made an end of all such. If the side of condemnation be taken up, God proclaims man to be a guilty, ruined lost sinner ; no man could deliver his fellow, for all were alike, not only ungodly, but without strength. On the side of condemnation, therefore, there is no open question ; the unbeliever is condemned—condemned already. (John iii. 18)

But we find that, when such was the state of things—such the case of man—the Son of God Himself became a man—came down into this world, where God had been dishonoured by sin ; came with the purpose in His heart of glorifying God with regard to this very question of sin, and saving poor sinners, and that by offering an atonement to God. In His life here below He perfectly glorified God, but in and by death alone could atonement be accomplished, could God be fully glorified as to sin. To death, the death of the cross, the Lord Jesus went in His grace. There He offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice to God, shedding His blood. There He bore the sins of every soul, that, through grace believes on Him. But in so doing He died. But God on the third day raised from the dead the Lord Jesus, thereby signifying His perfect acceptance, and satisfaction, and glory in the work which Christ had accomplished in death.