

We wish the unbeliever to see the evil which he is really perpetrating.

1. If there be such a sin as unbelief, there must be a truth which men are under obligation to believe; by the faith of which they are restored to God and to goodness. If there be no such truth, there can be no such sin as unbelief. Had no Saviour been sent to save men, there could not have been the sin of unbelief with regard to a Saviour. If there be a person for whom Jesus did not die, and for whose salvation, consequently, no provision has been made, whatever sins he may be chargeable with, he is not, and cannot be, chargeable with the sin of rejecting a Saviour. Seeing that it is possible for you to be an unbeliever, dear reader, or to sink down to ruin through your unbelief, it must be the case that Jesus has died for you, and that, through the merits of his blood, there is a way opened up back to the bosom of God for you.

2. If there be such a sin as unbelief men must be able to believe the truth about Jesus. Ability to believe is God's gift; and we possess it, as we possess the power to walk, to speak, to think. Unbelief is the not exercising our God-given, God-sustained ability to believe the gospel of God. No one could feel guilty, if commanded to move a mountain from its seat and punished for not doing it. So if men be totally without ability to believe, there can be no unbelief. Ability to do a thing is the measure of our responsibility for doing it. That we have ability to believe is matter of consciousness. We believe men every day. And if we can believe men surely we can believe God. "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.

3. What is the truth which the unbeliever refuses to believe? It is, that Jesus has made full atonement for all his sins—that God, the holy God, loves him so that he gave Jesus to die for him, so that on the ground of his propitiatory decease, by faith therein, he might be saved. The belief of this truth is the God-appointed way of salvation. Concerning this truth the Holy Spirit testifies. The completed and accepted atonement of Jesus is the ground on which God pardons. By the belief of it, the soul is purified. In believing it the sinner submits to God. When a person believes this truth, and thus submits to God's plan of saving sinners, he comes under influences which restrain him from sin, and constrain him to walk in the paths of righteousness.

4. Now unbelief is the non-belief of this soul-saving, soul-