

them. They are past condemnation, and they can never any more come into condemnation. Christ has undertaken for them, and he is able to save them, and will save them. He gave himself for them, and they live through him. He is the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gave his life for his sheep. "I am the good shepherd," he says, and "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." The extent of the security is infinite and unqualified. God has engaged for us. Almighty strength is in his grasp, with which he has laid hold of us. In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting righteousness and strength; in him shall all the seed of Israel be justified and shall glory. This is what eases us of our burdens, and makes us rejoice in glory before his presence.

Bunyan has it, in his dream, that Christian running from hell, that gaped with wide mouth for him, met in his path-way with a hill, where he was closely hemmed in on either side with a wall, and that wall was called salvation. Up this way he ran against increasing difficulties, still labouring under that burden that had so long wearied him, until he came up to the foot of a CROSS that stood there, and there his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and tumbled out of sight into the sepulchre. This filled his soul with such wonder, surprise, and delight, that the tears ran down his cheeks while he cried to himself: "He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by his death." At this moment three shining ones came to him, and saluted him with "peace be to thee;" the first said to him, "Thy sins be forgiven thee;" the second stripped him of his rags, and clothed him with change of raiment; the third "set a mark on his forehead," and gave him a roll, with a seal upon it, which he bade him look on as he ran, and that he should give it in at the celestial gate. Here Christian is represented to have been so overjoyed that he gave three leaps, and went on singing in praise of Christ:—

"Blessed Cross! blessed Sepulchre, blessed rather be  
The man that there was put to shame for me."

Such is the experience of justified souls. And being justified, they are sanctified also in the name of the Lord Jesus.