

towards us, has given to us this narrative to awaken our consciences, and lead us to a knowledge of ourselves. It is, as it were, a messenger from the Holy One, to alarm us with the voice of truth. If we receive it, as David received the message sent to him, with humble self-condemnation, and hearty repentance, the Lord will put away our sins also, as he put away his; but if we resist his timely and repeated warnings, he will not always strive with our impenitence; he will withdraw his holy Spirit from us, and leave us to bear, as we may, the just penalty of our folly. But, my brethren, he has not yet given us over to punishment; he is still our heavenly father—he still waits to be gracious—still offers us full and ample pardon. Let us accept the proffered mercy while it is the time of mercy; let us go to that blessed Saviour, the descendant of David—the propitiation for our sins—the advocate with the Father, and he will assuredly receive us. If strict justice is compelled to say to each of us “Thou art the man” who hast offended against God, *He* is prepared to say to each, I am the son of man that will stand between thee and thy offended God. Let us then take him for our only Saviour, and acknowledging our offences before *him*, a far greater prophet than Nathan, let us seek, by our own fervent repentance, and his prevailing intercession, that reconciliation with God, which he alone is able to procure for us.