

when God and the conscience are all alike satisfied?

"Blessed is the man whose sin is covered." It is not the manner of the Holy Ghost to use redundant expressions. *We* often use many words where few would suffice. But "the words of *the Lord* are pure words : as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times." And man "liveth by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Now, I believe as the conscience becomes alive to God, and exercised before God, it necessarily draws the distinction between transgression and sin. Outward reformation is seen by others, but the soul itself cannot rest on this. There is a very wide difference between reformation of character and conversion to God. Reformation of character will necessarily follow conversion to God ; but for a soul "to believe and turn to the Lord" is something far more deep than outward reformation of character : it brings us to Him with whom we have to do, before whom all is open and naked. And there it is that we learn the difference between transgression and sin. In human thought sin is an act ; in divine judgment it is a principal. And this discovery is so appalling that transgressions appear thrown into the shade by the discovery of what sin really is—viz., a settled principle of insubjection to God ; a desire to do what God has forbidden, because He has forbidden it, even when there is no positive act of disobedience ; a reluct-