

And if we enquire what that will of God is, we have the answer :
 " This is the will of God even your sanctification."

Let us look at the doctrine of holiness which is taught in the text at the head of this paper, and in many other passages of the word of God. That such a doctrine is revealed in the Scriptures must be evident to every one familiar with the Bible. Take a few of the many passages which might be noted : " Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and cry unto them, Ye shall be holy ; for I the Lord your God am holy." (Lev. xix. 2) ; again, " Sanctify yourselves, therefore, and be ye holy, for I am the Lord your God." (Lev. xx. 7). We gather from the earnest breathings of prayer from the hearts of devoted men,—such prayer as the Holy Ghost has seen fit to record for our instruction,—that a state of purity or sanctification is to be desired. Such is David's prayer when he cries " Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Ps. li. 10) ; and also that of Paul for the Thessalonians : " And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly ; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Thess. v. 23). Such was the prayer of our adorable Master, who unsealed the fountain for sin, and cast up the highway of HOLINESS, and who cries to his God and our God, " Sanctify them through thy truth." (John xvii. 17). But lest it be said this is a state which we are to strive to enter into yet cannot reach, we will still add to the command and the prayers that " Promise of the Father," (Ezek. xxxvi. 25-27)—" Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean ; from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you : a new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you ; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh ; and I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments to do them."

While this is the clear testimony of scripture, we see also how fitting it is to a scheme of redemption wrought out for us by a holy God. If God cannot look upon sin with approbation, He cannot wish to see it in his people. They who oppose the doctrine must believe either that God *cannot* save from sin or that he *will not*. The first they dare not say ; the second—let no one be so presumptuous as to say.