

Jesus, whosoever believeth on Him, shall receive remission of sins. "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions."

III. "For mine own sake." God blots out our sins, for His own sake. This opens up another, and a precious view of God's grace in the forgiveness of sin.

When a soul is first convinced of sin, the first thought and cry of the heart is, What shall I *do*. Great and difficult things would gladly be done—rare and precious offerings would gladly be made to procure remission of sin. Does not this express the spirit of every one who is burdened with a sense of sin? You are anxious to do something, to do anything for forgiveness and peace. You may know that God alone can forgive, can blot out your sins. But you imagine some price is required of you, some vow, some service, before you can hope for such a gift from the hand of God. You look about for some plea, or reason to urge upon God, and you wish to find it in yourself, you look for it there, and you are cast down when you cannot see anything in yourself which seems a strong reason wherefore God should forgive you. But listen reader, God requires nothing of such a sort from thee. He does require a strong plea, a sound reason, before he can forgive thee all thy sins; but God does not look for it in thee, but in himself. "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions." He saith, "*for mine own sake*." Look, there is your plea: you find it in God. He pardons for *his own sake*.

God forgives sin for the sake of His truth, which cannot fail. Hath He not said, "Come now, and let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow—though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."—"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the

unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God for He will abundantly pardon." The honor of God's truth is pledged for the fulfilment of these promises to every one who pleads them with God. He is Jehovah—"The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth keeping mercy for thousands, and forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin." And thus, the very honor and glory of His great name is engaged for the pardon of every one who comes in simple faith, trusting on Him. You find it difficult to believe, nevertheless—that you can be "justified freely"—that is, "for nothing," simply by the favor of God—"through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." And yet that *is* the way in which any sinner can be pardoned and saved, the only way—

"Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling,"

is the language of every one who has found the way to pardon and peace. For, "God hath set forth Christ, a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, at this time, God's righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth on Jesus." And the assurance has been given, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—With all these words of God sent to us, there is no need to cover up, or to conceal your sins; that would just shew that you could not trust the word of God. And no need, either, to cast about for some price to bring in your hand to God; perhaps your repentance, or your sorrow for sin, or some service you may perform, or intend to perform, to make God favorable