

MAN HAS NO RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD.

EACH must leave this world, and stand before the light of the glory of God, and we need a righteousness that can bear that light. How will man appear then? He may boast now of his morality and his uprightness; his friends may declare his character blameless; but he has forgotten to measure his righteousness *before God*. He has been comparing himself with others. Will this righteousness do for God? If his sins were published abroad, and all his thoughts, words, and actions made known, he would be put to shame before his very admirers; how much more before God? But he loves darkness because his shame does not appear, and makes every endeavor to justify himself, and vainly imagines that God will accept his character as readily as man does. But the hypocrite's hope shall perish. God has already declared that every mouth shall be stopped and all the world become guilty before God, for by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Man knows that he is unfit for the presence of a holy God, whatever esteem he may be in amongst men,—else why does he fear death? The sting of death is sin—he knows that he is a hypocrite. God leaves a man in his hopelessness and condemnation as long as he clings to his own righteousness. He must confess his true state, and put his case into