

tance existing between the Heathen and Scriptural views of God, and between the nature and spirit of the *whole* system of Pagan idolatry and Christianity: or in a word, to the mind which has adequate views of a degraded heathen and an intelligent earnest christian—this work will appear to be an Herculean task, from which it will naturally recoil with shuddering, crying out with one of old “O my Lord, send I pray thee by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.” But before we shrink from this glorious enterprise, let us pause a little and inquire, whether or not, this is the work of *human* instrumentality. For an answer to this all-important inquiry, I would appeal “to the law and to the testimony.” As we open this volume, to decide this question—full of interest to man, as involving him in responsibilities innumerable and inexpressibly weighty—the first great command which arrests the attention is our Saviour’s farewell address to *His followers*, “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to *every* creature.” Never was a command couched in more unequivocal and significant terms—terms whose meaning is unmistakable—terms which *most clearly* reveal to man, that he is not to lay off his armour and cease from his aggressive conflict with sin and satan, until the glad tidings of salvation has been proclaimed to every human being on earth. Such is the reasoning of the Apostle Paul in the tenth chap. to the Romans, from the 13th to the 16th verses. Such also is the sentiment of that sweet, lovely, heaven-born song, which the angelic choiristers sang “in Bethlehem’s plains”—on that ever memorable night of our Saviour’s incarnation and humiliation. Such is the great voice of our Saviour’s life, of the life of the great Apostle to the Gentiles, of the lives of all the apostles, of the lives of the primitive Christians, and of the whole History of the Church. Such also is the *full* import and *true* spirit of the “Golden rule,” “Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you.”

True it is, God could have supernaturally made this salvation known to the whole human family; but since we are thus satisfactorily and unmistakably taught,—that God “according to the good pleasure of His will,” has been pleased to appoint that the *Christianisation* of the world, be the great sphere of *human* instrumentality, and that by which it is to be effected; hence, tho’ man was a thousand times more unequal-

! for this difficult work than he really is, and tho’ the work