

their salvation, it is impossible for us to measure his desire for their peace and happiness, fallen and self-ruined though they are. Angels see this expression of his desire for the happiness of men, in the gift of his Son and rejoice. It gladdens them to think that the great God whom they adore, has manifested his love to men in desiring their peace and happiness. They knew that God desires the continuance of the unfallen in the happiness that is inseparably connected with purity; but they see in Jesus his desire for the restoration to happiness and peace of creatures who have sinned against him. O sinner, see in Jesus, God's desire for your peace, and a desire to attain to peace with him will spring up in your bosom.

(2.) Angels sing "Peace on earth," because the propitiation of Christ not only expresses God's desire for the peace and happiness of men who have sinned, but is the infinitely meritorious ground on which they may enjoy peace. In justice God might have consigned men to ruin without remedy. His justice could have been manifested in the punishment of the rebel race of men. But in unutterable love to men, it pleased him to send his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Jesus came forth from heaven, assumed our humanity, took our liabilities upon him, and, by sufferings and death in our room, did what was necessary to satisfy justice, so that salvation, and consequently peace and happiness might be extended to us. Hence it is said that Jesus is our peace, and that the apostles preached peace by Jesus Christ. Now angels saw, in the work to be finished by the incarnate Son of God, the ground of peace for sinners. Well might they sing, "and on earth peace." O sinner, have you seen anything in this song of angels fitted to gladden you? You may have been seeking for peace, but you cannot obtain it in any other way than through Christ. God is the source of it. Christ is the channel in which it comes. Hence you need to believe in Jesus in order to attain to it. You cannot get peace by efforts of your own. Attempt anything rather than this. You cannot bridge over the mighty chasm of your iniquities, so as to reach a safe resting-place. But Jesus has done the work for you. O come unto him and be at rest.

(3.) Why did angels sing "Good-will to men" when the Word was made flesh? Because Jesus is the expression of the good-will of Jehovah to men. The scheme of salvation could originate only in the truest and sincerest good-will of God to men. Angels delight in this. It filled them with joy to see the expression of God's good-will to fallen men. This is fitted to meet a want in humanity. Man is prone to believe that God has