

The gift of the Holy Spirit also proves the propitiuousness of God in Christ. The Spirit has been given for the sake of the Saviour. His influence is poured out upon men, through the Saviour. He is God's advocate with men on earth, as Christ is our advocate with God in heaven. He strives with men. He seeks to lead men to see the things that relate to Christ. As the Divine Father has sent the Holy Spirit, to show Christ and him crucified to men, that they may believe and live; and also to build up and establish believers in the faith of Jesus, in holiness and in consequent meetness for heaven,—he must have delight and satisfaction in the work of Christ.

The state of probation in which we are placed is still further evidence that God is well-pleased with the propitiatory work of Christ. Probation proves propitiation. We are kept on earth, and furnished with means and opportunities of repentance. Undoubtedly it is the propitiation which procures for us these blessings, seeing *we do not merit them.*

The blessings and comforts relating to this terrene and temporary condition, which we enjoy, also serve to instruct us in this glorious truth. As we are sinners, it is most evident that these blessings are not enjoyed by us because we deserve them. They flow to us from the overflowing fountain of divine goodness. But how is it consistent in God to bestow the bounties of his Providence on creatures utterly unworthy of the least blessing? The propitiation of Christ answers this question. God is satisfied with Christ's work, as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of men. Every mercy is blood-bought. Every blessing which we enjoy preaches the Gospel to us.

Reader, reflect on the resurrection of Christ from the dead; on his ascension into heaven; on the Holy Spirit as poured out on all flesh; on the fact that God is giving you to enjoy a period of probation, and that you enjoy unnumbered blessings from God, the *least of which you do not deserve*;—and you will see that there are the best of reasons for believing that the God, to whom you owe your existence, and whom you must meet in judgment, is a propitiated, well-pleased God in Christ towards you. Thus believing, you will enjoy his forgiving love for the sake of Christ, who finished the propitiation.

Consider also that God will at last judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to the gospel, and you will see further proof of God's propitiuousness, and at the same time the strongest