

once, and "by that one sacrifice of Himself, He hath for ever perfected them that are sanctified." All that is now requisite to salvation, is to look to Him in faith, and speak to Him in prayer. Christianity does not know any class of men called *Priests* in any other sense than that in which all christians are, who present their bodies a living sacrifice. It does not know any distinct class of christians called *priests*, because it has no work for them to do—no atoning sacrifice to offer. True christianity does not know any such thing as an *Altar* in its churches, because there is no sacrifice to be offered upon it. It knows no sacrifice for sin, but that of Him who offered Himself "without spot to God, once for all," and who on Calvary, exclaimed: "It is finished."

III.—THE STREAMS FLOWING FROM THE SMITTEN ROCK.

"Thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it." Every where in Holy Scripture, water is used as a most expressive emblem of the blessings of salvation. "There is a river the streams whereof make glad the city of God." "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." The last call upon a slumbering world, before the globe is wrapped in flame, is a call to come, and "take of the water of life freely." And is there any emblem that could more forcibly remind us of the *necessity* of salvation? Water is one of the great necessities of our physical life. Nothing can be a substitute for it. It is said that one could live longer without food than without water. Salvation is the great necessity of our *Moral* nature. Nothing in the universe can be a substitute for it. The Saviour's testimony on that point is very explicit: "What would it profit a man tho' he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Moses realized the truth of that, when he "esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." Paul could say: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

1. The water flowing from the smitten rock was *abundant*. The abundance of those waters thus miraculously supplied, was celebrated in the songs of the church in after years. "He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers." "Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed." And in Jesus is there not an abundance of grace to supply the wants of all those who call upon His name? Until the rock in Horeb was smitten, it yielded no water; but being smitten, it yielded abundant supplies; so Christ being made perfect through suffering, "became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him." From Jesus Christ, and Him crucified there flows forth "abundance of grace"—pardon for the guilty, purity for the depraved, consolation for the sorrowful, grace to help in every time of need. "It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell." So that in Christ there is not merely a fullness, but an *all fullness* of new covenant blessings. And this all fullness *dwells* in Christ. It is not like a stream that is sometimes full and sometimes empty, but like a noble river, always full and

Vol 1, No 5, Sept 1880