

come unto him, as is the current opinion in the present day, we must have considered it an inestimable token of love.

But to stop here robs God of His glory, and strips him of His attributes of love and mercy. It would make Him, to speak with reverence, a God of insolence and mockery: For God knows what is in man, and is well assured that to rest salvation on such a basis, no man would ever have come unto Him. For every man in his natural state hates his God, and prefers the vile servitude of Satan to the glorious liberty of the Sons of God. But God was determined to have sons and daughters born unto him, he was resolved to draw many thousands who would not otherwise have come. This Christ foresaw and knew,—and the thought of it refreshed his soul when he beheld the perverse rebellion of men. When he could find no comfort from the men of the world, he retired into the secrets of his Father's counsels for a moment's joy; and in the depth of that amazing love, he bathes his soul; crying out, "*All that the Father giveth me shall come unto me.*" These he was sure of, and he saw them all; and as he viewed them he saw the Father's image in them every one. Abel with his bleeding brow reclining on his Father's arm. The Preacher of righteousness before the Throne. The meek and the much tried son of Amram; and the sorely afflicted man of Uz—Abraham and the faithful ones with Isaac and Jacob, in the holy place—Paul the good soldier, and Peter surnamed a rock—John and James—Martha and Mary,—the few in Sardis, and the souls under the altar,—the faithful witnesses, martyrs, and contenders for truth—Knox and Calvin, Wishart and Hamilton, Rutherford and Halyburton, men of renown—stout warriors in the everlasting cause. These with all the others that God had given unto him, he viewed as the travail of his soul, and knew that they would come unto him. God had set his love upon them, and he did it freely, and he did it determinedly: and it is not possible that he could turn from his purpose. Christ claims them as the gift of his Father; (John 17, 6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 24.) And this doctrine the Apostle Paul maintains; and well he might:—"*plucked as he was, like a brand from the fire.*"