

who believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them, 2nd Cor. 4: 4. While, therefore, I cannot but deeply deplore the state into which christendom is torn and distracted by the commandments and doctrines of men, I do affirm that the serious inquirer after truth, if he bring to the examination of the bible a clear head and an honest heart, can there acquire that important knowledge "How a man can be just with God."

A. How then can you account for the fact that so few take the word of God without the traditions of men to guide them?

B. Since it is a fact well attested by the "faithful and true witness," that few find the narrow way, it is not necessary for me to account for it. This, however, is certain, that since man came under the influence of error he is more inclined to receive it than truth—to believe man than God. As proofs of this assertion, we will state the following cases. If a man were found who would assert that there never lived such men as *Julius Caesar*, and *Alexander the Great*; and that all profane history of those days was a fabrication; the general impression relative to such a person would be that he was bereft of reason. But when he persisted in it, and in every other respect gave signs of a sane mind, the next impression would be that he was diverting himself with "words without knowledge." Who would believe such a person? no one in his sound reason of course. But men are found who will assert that there never lived such persons as *Jesus Christ*, *Peter* and *Paul*; and that all sacred history of those days, though better substantiated a thousand times than any profane history of the same antiquity, is a complete fabrication. These men will gain admirers and followers in abundance. Another case. When *Jesus* came among the Jews he gave every evidence that reason could ask that he came from God; still they did not believe. They heard his words, saw his miracles, and heard *Jehovah's* voice from heaven proving that he was the Son of God; still their teachers said he was not. The people believed their teachers without evidence, and rejected all the evidence he brought to sustain his Divinity, and persecuted him unto death for confessing it. We should always bear in mind the humbling fact that man is more ready to receive error than truth.

A. As the way of truth was not popular in our Saviour's day, it cannot be a valid objection to any system professing to be his that it is spoken against. I am anxious to come to the point of our present en-