

THE GOSPEL.

THE gospel,—that is the glad tidings of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—is what saves the sinner by faith. “BY WHICH ALSO YE ARE SAVED,” etc. Read I Cor. xv, 1-4. The sinner is not required by scripture, to give up anything or to quit his sins as a *condition* of salvation; but just as he is, in his sins, owning his guilt before God (which is repentance,) and believing the gospel, he is saved by faith.

The sinner is not able to “give up his sins and come to Christ.” But *in believing* the gospel of salvation, he is pardoned through the efficacy of the shed blood of Jesus. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1-7.) He is *now* able in obedience to scripture to forsake his old habits, and haunts, and to pursue a different life according to the desires of the *new* nature he has received by faith in the Son of God, John vi. 47.

Good works follow saving faith, but never come in, before it. A dead tree cannot bear fruit; nor can an unsaved man bear the fruits of faith. As fruit proves there is life in the tree, so good works prove there *is* faith. “I will show thee my faith by my works.” Read James ii. 14 to end. But salvation is by faith without works. “For by grace *are ye saved* through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast;” Eph. ii. 8, 9. Therefore, seeing salvation is through faith alone without works, the