

HERE is a perfect, an all-sufficient righteousness, which is answerable to all the demands of the divine law, and which is unto, and upon all them that believe. You will, however, observe, that I am not speaking of inherent righteousness, which is called *sanctification*, and is a personal qualification, but of a *justifying* righteousness, which is to be found only in the Lord Jesus, *Isai. xiv. 24. 25, surely shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness, and strength.—In the Lord shall all the house of Israel be justified.* And therefore the Colossians are said to be complete in him, who is the head of all *principality and power*, *Col. ii. 10.* This justifying righteousness is not in the Israelite, or true believer, but in the LORD. And the Colossians were complete, not in themselves, but in the Christ.

OUR justifying righteousness is, therefore, the righteousness of God in Christ, and becomes ours not by *infusion*, but by *imputation*, Christ alone performed it, but he performed it in our stead, and on our account. And though he alone possesses it, yet he possesses it as our covenant-head. God therefore imputes it to us; and accepts us on account of it more freely than if we had performed it in our own persons.

THE LORD is therefore our RIGHTEOUSNESS by the imputation of his mediatorial righteousness to us. And the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood, is therefore called by the same name, *Jer. xxxiii. 16. This is the name whereby she (the Church) shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.* Now no satisfactory reason can be assigned, for the Church being called by that incommunicable name Jehovah, but Jehovah's righteousness being actually imputed to her.

WE are therefore said to be *justified by his blood*, *Rom. v. 9.* and by *his obedience* made righteous, *verse 19. By the obedience of ONE shall many be made righteous.* Not by their own obedience, however exalted, but by the obedience of another shall they be made righteous. In the Lord have we righteousness and strength. For the LORD is our righteousness.

Thirdly.

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