

But follow them. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.

What think you of a Christianity like this? It is ours—yours and mine—if we will have it. Does it not kindle our longing, and do not our hearts cry out for so complete a surrender of ourselves to Christ? Claim the promise, for it is yours. “Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.—P.

SHELTERED.

Wonderful it is for sinners such as we are to be forgiven—more wonderful, a great deal, for sinners to be justified. As forgiven, God's mercy reaches out its hand to us; but as justified, His righteousness shields and covers us. God, with all that He is, is for us. Himself is our “hiding-place.” What arrow of the enemy can pierce through such a defence?

He who has been in death as the due of our sins has been raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father. The brightness in the face of Him who represents us to God is the assurance of how complete has been the putting away of cloud and distance between us who believe and God.

The cross is both the judgment of the world and our salvation.

Faith can see judgment passed over already, and realize already deliverance out of a present evil world. To it we belong no more—no more of the world than Christ is of the world.

Just as it was in the night of the Passover, when the blood of the Lamb was put upon the door-post, and Israel,

in order to their first step out of Egypt, had to learn the shelter of the blood, to see the judgment upon Egypt come and roll over, and to know it passed and gone, and themselves saved.

Christ's death for us is what Scripture teaches us to reckon as our death, and by that death with Him to know ourselves free from condemnation;—dead to sin, to law, and to the world. We look back on judgment, and not forward to it. We have heard the blessed words of Him by whom alone God will at last judge the world, saying, “He that heareth My words, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment” (so the words really read,) “but is passed from death unto life.” John v. 24.

Thus furnished, we start upon our journey. God's perfect love casts out fear for him that is perfect in the lesson He would teach us. For “herein is love made perfect with us, that we should have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1 John iv. 17, *margin*. As He is,—Christ, who is now with God,—so are we.—F. W. G.

CONVICTION.

Some of you know what it is to see yourself a sinner, and yet the sight of the fact brings with it no smart—no sting; it does not cut deep into your very soul. On the other hand, some of you may know what it is to see your sins all armed like an armed man to pierce you through and through with daggers. Then you cry out—O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? You feel a piercing sting as if your soul