

But Jesus Christ did not come to keep us out of hell and get us into heaven. He came to keep hell out of us and put heaven into us. He came to save us — yes! but from what? Pain? No! He suffered the death of the cross, and told us we must take up our cross if we would be his. What then? From punishment? No! It is doubtful if he anywhere promises his disciples escape from punishment. He came to save them that will trust in him from their sins. One Evangelist tells us that he was called Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. Another Evangelist tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. John the Baptist hails Jesus as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. He himself in his last meeting with his disciples, pledging them in a cup after supper, says that this cup is the blood of the new covenant, shed for the remission of sins. It is sin, not punishment, which is remitted or sent away; it is from sin, not from punishment, that his blood relieves us; it is sin, not punishment, that the Lamb of God takes away from the world;