

The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin.—1 John i. 7.

## Taking Out Guilt.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



LITTLE while ago, an elder of the church at the Tabernacle, speaking of a brother who had been recently called to occupy an important post, said, -

*"He can take the guilt out of a great many people"*

The expression was somewhat singular, but it was understood, by those to whom it was spoken; and it conveyed to them a clear idea of the estimation in which the speaker held the earnest worker, whose praise he was thus sounding forth.

As the sentence fell upon our ears, it assumed a slightly different form from that above written. We mentally inserted another letter in one word, and thus altered the worthy elder's testimony into

*"He can take the GUILT out of a great many people."*

Happy is the man of whom this can be said, even though it must be with this qualification, that he can only be the instrument which the Lord Himself will use for the purpose of taking the guilt out of a great many people! Our reason, however, for calling attention to the remark was that it conveyed to us a most accurate description of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. "HE can take the guilt out of a great many people."

For *He has taken the guilt out of a great many.* In the Paradise in which He dwells with His redeemed, He is surrounded by myriads of holy, happy beings, who once were as full of guilt as the most degraded men and women upon the face of the globe, but now, "they are without fault before the throne of God."

"I asked thence their victory came,  
They, with and breath,  
Ascribe then conquest to the Lamb,  
Their triumph to His death."

Nor is their's the only testimony we can bring to the power of Christ to take away guilt. Upon this sinned earth, at this moment, there are millions of men and women and children who will give confirmatory evidence to this blessed truth, that Christ can take away guilt, for He has taken away theirs. There was a time when, like criminals before their judge, they could only bow their heads in sorrow and shame, and say, "Guilty, my Lord." but that sad season has gone for ever, they are now "forgiven," "washed," "sanctified," "justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

The proofs that we have had of the power and love of Christ convince us that *HE can take the guilt out of a great many more people.* As the elder spoke well of his brother, so ought we to publish the fame of our Elder Brother, who is, "mighty to save." Each

believer in Jesus may feel quite safe in using Charles Wesley's argument—

*"His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me."*

No force less than that of Omnipotent grace could have taken the guilt out of such sinners as we were; and that stupendous miracle of mercy having been wrought, we look for similar marvels in the case of other guilty ones. Who can be so presumptuous as to doubt either Christ's power or willingness to save?

*"Whoever receiveth the Crucified One,  
Whoever believeth on God's only Son,  
A free and a perfect salvation shall have;  
For He is abundantly able to save."*

*My brother, the Master is calling for thee;  
His grace and His mercy are wondrously free;  
His blood as a ransom for sinners He gave,  
And He is abundantly able to save."*

## A Counterfeit Salvation.



SOMETIME ago I was at a friend's house, and on the table were some flowers, which looked so very pretty that I was tempted to smell them. *But they were artificial,* and so produced no smell. They looked natural enough—I never saw any look more so. This trivial circumstance suggested to my mind a subject of greater importance, namely that of an *artificial salvation.* Is there such a thing? one may ask. Aye, indeed! we see it on every hand—men and women with the *form,* but without the *power.*

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