

NONE BUT HE COULD HAVE THOUGHT IT.



SOME time ago a man, who had heard a minister of the Gospel preach on the previous Sabbath, went to him in a state of mental anxiety to ask him how he could be saved. "What troubles me," he said, "is this: God says that He will condemn the sinner, and punish him. Then how can God forgive? Surely He must punish if He would keep His word."

"God keeps His word," said the minister; "and His judgment of death for sin is not, and cannot be, set aside."

"Then I am lost."

"No; that does not follow."

"How so?"

"Because God has found a ransom. He saw that not only you, but every man and woman living were ready to perish, because all had sinned; there was 'none righteous, no, not one.' Now, as all were under the same condemnation, no man could either save himself or his fellow-man. But God, so far from having any pleasure in the death of sinners, in His infinite pity and love devised a plan to save them. It was necessary that the honour of His holy law, which had been broken, should be established, and His eternal hatred of all evil, and love of holiness, and His marvellous mercy to sinners, be seen in such a way as never to be forgotten in this or any other world. And how did He effect this? Why, by finding a substitute to die instead of the sinner. He sent forth His own dear Son. Jesus willingly undertook the work of our redemption. He knew that it would involve poverty, shame, degradation—the sorrow of Gethsemane and the bitter woe of the cross of Calvary—but He did not turn aside. He 'loved us, and gave Himself for us.' He was 'wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.'

Our sins were all 'laid upon Him.' Thus He became our surety, and made atonement for us. His resurrection from the dead was a public testimony that His work on our behalf was accepted of God. And now, for Christ's sake, God can receive back into His favour and His family all that believe in Jesus, and rely upon Him for salvation. Into the heart of the penitent believer He sends the Holy Spirit, to deliver him as fully from the power of sin as the precious blood of Christ does from its guilt, and thereby to fit him for eternal life."

The man was delighted, and astonished.

"Is it really so?" he said.

"It is in the Bible," replied the minister.

"Then the Bible is from God," was the reply; "for none but He could have thought it."

Reader, what do you think of God's thought? Are you willing to receive Christ as your Saviour? His work requires no addition. It is a finished work, and you are invited by Jesus Himself to come to Him, just as you are, to enjoy its benefits. Should you do so, He will in no wise cast you out; and, "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." *May be had as an Illustrated Handbill.*

A CHILD'S FAITH.



HAVE you ever thought of the life of a child? Why, the life of a child is a perfect life of faith. That little child—what can that little child do? Why, that little child could not find its way to the street end and back again! That little child could not find the next meal! That little child could not furnish a shelter for its own head to-night! and yet has that child any fear about it? Not at all. How comes it that the child's life is the happy life that it is? Because instinctively and beautifully it is a life of faith. The child could not buy the next loaf, but it has a firm belief that "father" can. It has an unbounded belief in "father's" and "mother's" power. Its life is a life of perfect faith in its parents.