

horrible thing for men to forget God. Think of king Nebuchadnezzar. It would seem that his people and his place forgot him, once, and drove him from the palace of his pride to eat grass as oxen. We pity the poor monarch, proud as he was. He was forgotten, or, if remembered, it was only to be despised.

God is our king. Homage of the purest is His due. We have given that homage to a thousand things which work our ruin. We seek many *inventions* instead of the true God. With all their respectable show of religion, the men of this day of cultured intellect are as truly idolators as were the heathen, who cut down a tree to make a fire of part of it to prepare their food and warm themselves, and who took the rest to make a god. Is. xlv. 19-20. For men to-day are busy making money. Part of that money they take to clothe and feed themselves—to put on a respectable appearance, that they may go where others go, to church or ball-room as the case may be, and with the rest they make a god. Drawn upon the ledge, and lodged in the bank, they give their whole thoughts to it, or to what it will buy, or what it has bought. With their gold or its proceeds they are in league; and as they are thus busy, the name of God is forgotten. The true God comes amongst men proclaiming his name. That very name is his unimpeachable title to man's whole service. But men turn round to the God who feeds, and clothes, and strengthens them, so that they may increase their wealth and other comforts; and coolly say "Who is the Lord that I should serve him?" So the God of heaven is thus driven out of hearts like yours and mine. His name is forgotten amongst us almost. When we speak of it we think of some sternly upright—harshly just tyrant who comes into the midst of man's happiness to spoil it utterly. The Lord is not known amongst his own offspring. He has been a stranger to you and me, the greater part of our lives it may be. Oh it is shameful, it is disgraceful. Let the text speak—let it speak and let us hear. Unless the truth of God come into our hearts, we are verily still amongst the strangers to God, still lost, still ruins. The Lord comes with his truth; let the earth be silent.

I. There is one God.

We would think here not so much of the unity of God as of his reality. While the Bible clearly teaches that in his unity the Deity mysteriously joins three persons, we pass over this truth to notice the fact that there *really is a God*.