

and eternal blessing, and they would not give it up even if they had to suffer unto death. Paul had set before them "the *living* and *true* God," in contrast with their *lifeless* and *false* gods, works of their own hands, which could neither see, nor hear, nor talk. But it was the living and true God as revealed in Jesus Christ, for it is in Christ only that God is fully known. Creation declares His eternal power and Deity; the heavens declare His glory; the firmament displays His handiwork. But it is in Christ that His *heart* is seen; nay more, all that He is in love, righteousness, holiness, truth; His hatred of sin, yet love to the sinner; the maintenance of His holy majesty in the judgment of sin, yet opening the door of salvation wide to the sinner, have been revealed in Christ. Men had been proved sinners, whether without the law, or under the law, and were in a lost and helpless state. They had no righteousness they could bring to God, and no sacrifice that could atone for their sins. And it was just when man was proved to be in this helpless condition, that God revealed Himself in Christ on the cross. In the death of Christ God furnished the needed sacrifice and ransom. And He was asking from the Thessalonians neither righteousness nor sacrifice, but showing them in the gospel that He had freely furnished everything in Christ, and that through faith in Him all would be theirs. The poor Hindoo mother need not throw her babe into the Ganges to be devoured by the crocodile, nor do men need to lay their children in the arms of the fire-god, to appease the deity. No, God is satisfied