

every weighty motive of duty, gratitude, and interest. We hope and pray that the Divine Spirit will accompany our labours with a blessing. Have we been to *some* of you the saviour of life unto life? O! that we were rendered thus useful to you *all*! Our hearts desire and prayer to God for you is, that you might be saved; yes, we greatly long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ; for what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

From the ideas we frame of the Parent and Governor of the universe, we are led to conclude that he never operates without design. Whatever the ends of his operations are, they must correspond with his supreme excellencies, for he cannot deny himself or act a part repugnant to his moral character. His designs being in unison with his perfections, must be the best, all things considered, that could be proposed. However mysterious in some instances to finite minds, they are good in his sight. If good in his sight, and adapted to display his glory, it cannot be indifferent to him whether they are accomplished or not; he must necessarily will their accomplishment. Infinite wisdom can easily apply means suited to their accomplishment, and omnipotent power as easily render those means effectual. Hence we infer that his counsel shall stand, and that he will do all his pleasure. But though the purposes of God, being founded in his infinite excellencies, are as unchangeable as his nature, and like his boundless knowledge and sovereign dominion, extend to all his creatures, with all their circumstances; yet being known only to himself, they cannot be the rule of our conduct, or the foundation of our hope. His revealed word, the declaration of his mercy to miserable sinners, is the ground of our faith, the motive of our repentance, the source of our holiness and most animated obedience. By the law we are taught our duty and convinced of our apostasy from God; by the Gospel we are encouraged to return to God and our duty; we are made partakers of the divine nature. How thankful should we be, therefore, for the Holy Scriptures! Without *these* unerring oracles we could have formed no *just* ideas, if any at all, of the divine perfections and government; we must have been totally ignorant of the way of salvation, and of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; and, consequently, of our own highest dignity, purest happiness, and noblest end. But if the Scriptures are the medium of our divine knowledge, the source of our holiness, and the foundation of our eternal hopes: if they are the only rule by which we can judge of our true character, and shall be acquitted or condemned before the judgment seat of Christ; how necessary is it for us to be

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