

Section III.

The Divine Method of Saving Men.

Chap. 2 : 1-10.

WE come, in this section, to the consideration of a most interesting and important passage, as it deals with the method and ultimate purpose of God, in human salvation. In the closing words of the last section, we saw the Church lifted with Christ to the highest place in the universe—even to the throne of God, as the body,—the completeness of Him who filleth all in all. From this, the Apostle, as by a sudden transfer of thought, returns to earth, to consider the earthly condition from which these exalted ones were taken, and God's method of doing the great work.

The first words are significant,—*And you* —. Our translators have tried to supply the ellipsis by inserting the words, borrowed from a later verse,—“hath He quickened”—or “did He make alive.” (R.V.) But these words are not in the original text, as the italics show. If we believe that the words are inspired, then we must also believe that the omissions are no less inspired; and we will do well to pause and ask what is the meaning of the omission.

Coming down from the dizzy height, where he had just