

There is however a dark back-ground to this divine picture. The Pharisees, scribes and "the elder son," religious but Christless professors represent those who seek rest in their own "dead works." They can pray "with" themselves, and "thank God that" they are "not as other men." (Luke xviii, 11), but they are strangers to this new found joy, and ignorant of the grace of God. They despise when they have no nature nor taste for, and "being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." which "is by faith," and found only in the prodigal's path "from the far off country." (Rom. x, 3, 4). "By grace ye are saved through faith." (Eph. ii, 8, 9).

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Either Christ's atoning sacrifice is sufficient, or it is not. If it is sufficient, why these doubts and fears? The words of our *lips* profess that the work is finished, but the doubts and fears of the *heart* declare that it is not. Every one who doubts His full and everlasting forgiveness denies, as far as he is concerned, the completeness of the sacrifice of Christ.

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The ground of settled peace, in the midst of a world of sin and sorrow, is to assure my soul that God is true when He says, that He "so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

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