

are sanctified by faith. Acts xxvi. 18. The truth is the instrument of purification. But that it may be brought in contact with the soul it must be believed. The Spirit is the sanctifier. He sanctifies by the truth. Hence the truth needs to dwell in the mind by continuous faith, so that the soul may be changed into the image of God, and become increasingly meetened for heaven. Pardon would be of no use without purity. Nothing impure can enter heaven. We see the wisdom of God in appointing, as the condition of pardon, that which secures the moral purity of the soul that complies with it. It is through the truth by the agency of the holy Ghost that the soul is sanctified. To be pardoned the soul must believe that truth, and so come under its purifying power.

Here, O sinner, is one all-important reason why you need to believe in Jesus to be saved. In no other way can your purity be secured than by your mind coming in contact with the sanctifying gospel, and without purity pardon would not benefit you; as impure, you are unfit for heaven. But as God commands you to believe his Gospel that you may be redeemed from the curse of the law, he requires of you that which will bring your soul under the influence of the truth, which the Spirit uses to redeem from iniquity. When you see and believe the love of God to you in sending Jesus into the world to die for you; when you see God's hatred to your sins as expressed in the dreadful sufferings which Jesus voluntarily bore to atone for sin, your soul begins to loathe sin, and to love that God, who loves you notwithstanding all your sins,—you become holy, you become good. O well might the Apostle say, that the cross of Christ is the wisdom of God and the power of God. Truly the scheme of grace is a "witty invention." Believe the gospel then, O sinner. Look to the ransom of Jesus' precious blood paid for your soul. Thus enjoy God's pardoning mercy, and rejoice in acceptance with God through his Beloved; thus come under the power and influence of sanctifying truth.

"Nothing but thy blood, O Jesus,  
Can relieve us from our smart;  
Nothing else from sin release us;  
Nothing else can melt the heart.

"Law and terrors do but harden,  
All the while they work alone;  
But a sense of blood-bought pardon  
Soon dissolves a heart of stone."