

Man has always needed help. He is now, and has ever been, incapable of self-guidance or self-assistance. Whether conscious of it or not, he has, from the beginning of time, stood in need of "a lamp to his feet and a light to his path," and to be "led in a way that he knew not of" by any knowledge in himself, or in any friend this side of heaven. If at any time he has professed to be wise, he has proved himself the reverse, and become "vain in his imagination," and "through, his ignorance," his "foolish heart has been darkened" and "corrupted." That which is of the flesh, is itself flesh, and that which is of the earth is earthly and transitory; and hence he that has learned of his own heart, "leaned upon his own understanding," or directed his life by the wisdom of his friends, mortal and feeble after his own nature, has in his best estate, only enjoyed what was, is, and will be fleshly, earthly, and fading.

Now thanks be to Him who "bath laid help upon One that is mighty, —"able to save to the uttermost." Therefore if man, fallen man needs help, there is help for him—abundant, free, all-saving, divine. There is power for his weakness, love for his hatred, reconciliation for his enmity, pardon for his guilt, hope for his despondancy, light for his darkness, boundless honor for his deep degradation, a rich and glad inheritance, fadeless and eternal, for his present estate of poverty and woe.

But the gospel is—what? It is, in general terms, "the power of God;" it is "the love of God;" it is "the righteousness of God;" it is "the peace of God;" but let us speak of its elements and its principles more in detail. And here, if we shall speak correctly, we must copy with faithful accuracy from that Board of Missions, all of whom were missionaries, called apostles, whose work it was, by authority of the Lord, to "preach the gospel to every creature." These men "spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit," or "as the Spirit gave them utterance," and therefore "whose sins soever they remitted," were remitted by the Lord himself, as they were "ambassadors for him." Now as the Lord has sent no new ambassadors into the world since "he gave some apostles and some prophets," it is the more necessary to apply to them as the first and last he has given; for as in their appointment he promised to be "with them," and consequently is with them, "to the end of the world," nothing can be safer than to counsel them concerning every article and item embraced in the favour of God to the fallen souls of men.

Now so soon as man became his own enemy, which came to pass at