

He bore them. And surely had it been possible for God to have lowered the requirements of law and justice that he as the righteous Ruler of the universe might be propitiated, he would have done so when his well-beloved Son was the victim. But no: even Jesus must pay to the uttermost farthing. No one can contemplate God's love and purity as thus seen in the cross—love freely giving, and holiness exacting; and both embracing each other: love gratified and holiness satisfied—without experiencing the most powerful sanctifying influences.

Then the minister must exhibit the cross even to the people of God.

1.—*Christ and Him crucified are the best means of consolation to the believer.*

None are exempt from trials in this world. During the week Christians have many things to annoy them, even when their worldly circumstances are most prosperous. They come to the house of God on the Sabbath, and what do they so much need as consolation? True, they need to be warned against worldly-mindedness, lest temptation draw them aside, they need to be stirred up to discharge all their duties properly in the relations they sustain. But still there is nothing they need more than consolation. And a Christian will be better fortified against worldliness and the inroads of temptation, and better prepared for his duties by true consolation than perhaps in any other way. Then he feels the practical worth of the religion of Jesus, and is constrained to do all he can for his Saviour. It brings into exercise the gratitude of the soul, one of the most potent springs of action within us.

Now the cross of Christ is abundantly fitted to console the believer. O what rich streams of consolation flow from the Cross! Is the Christian enduring bodily affliction? How is he comforted when he thinks that Jesus, without repining, endured sufferings unutterably dreadful, and endured them, when he deserved them not, for man. O in the light of the cross, he sees clearly that he deserves sufferings far more dreadful than he is enduring, and that they must have fallen, with all their accumulated force upon him, had it not been for the agonies of the cross. Has the spirit of the Christian been ruffled and chafed by the coldness and selfishness of a harsh and unfeeling world? O what so well fitted to hush the tumults of passion, to lay the soul in humble confidence at God's feet, as a view of Him, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, threatened not, but committed him-