

they look up to God? How dare they think of heaven? But oh, it is just such as these that Jesus calls to Him. It is these that He invites to drink of the waters of salvation. It was for these that He poured out His life-blood as an atoning sacrifice before the mercy-seat of God. He died for sinners and for none but sinners. He redeemed them from eternal wrath; He made up for them a spotless robe of righteousness in which they might stand without sin in the great and terrible day of the Lord. Oh, what an assurance of salvation there is in all this for poor, way-worn, needy sinners! The sacrifice for us—for all who feel that they are sinners! Just the very thing we want—salvation full and free for everybody through the blood of the Lamb! What a grand foundation on which to rest the future!

And behold just here another ground of assurance. The gospel invitation is a very broad one. Salvation is offered to all mankind freely and right royally. It is "whosoever will" that may come. Do we want to be saved? Then most certainly we will be saved. The very want of our souls, the will to come to Christ, is an assurance of salvation. For we do not will these things of ourselves. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." So then the will is planted by God. He has begun the good work. And in this we may be assured of the future; "being confident," as the Apostle says, "of this very thing, that He which