

character and undisturbed by internal strife, enjoys peace. It is used in this sense in the New Testament, see Luke xiv. 32. It is used frequently in the New Testament as meaning an emotional state, tranquillity of mind, arising from a knowledge that the soul enjoys the Divine favour and is consequently safe. "Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. v. 1. The Psalmist regards peace as arising from a knowledge of safety, "for" he says, "I will both lay me down in *peace* and sleep, for thou Lord only makest me dwell in safety." Ps. iv. 8. It is used also as the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word translated "peace," as meaning happiness, prosperity of every kind. The Jews were accustomed when they met to say to each other, "Peace be unto you," i. e. May you enjoy every good. Also when parting, they were accustomed to say, "Go in peace," i. e. Go and be happy. The gospel is called the gospel of peace, because it opens up the way whereby man may have peace in reference to God. Jesus is said to be the Prince of peace, because all the subjects of his kingdom are happy, at peace with God. God is the God of peace, because he delights to diffuse bliss among his creatures. He does not wish that men should be unhappy, but that they should have peace from him through Jesus.

2. Good-will means benevolence or well-wishing. Good-will is a particular aspect of love. God loves with the love of good-will those whom he cannot love with the love of complacency. He delights in angels because they are holy. He delights in his people on earth, in so far as they are like himself. But he cannot delight in those who are living in rebellion against himself, because he cannot approve of them. But he has no ill-will to them. If they die impenitent he must punish them, not because of any hatred which he bears to them, but because he is righteous, and must show his detestation of sin to the universe,—the good of the universe requires an exhibition of his detestation of sin.

3. Why do angels sing "Peace on earth," when they view the incarnation of the Son of God?

(1.) Because the incarnation and propitiation of Christ (Christ became incarnate that he might make the propitiation,) reveal God as desiring that men should be happy, should have peace with himself and in their consciences. God says to them in the atonement of Christ, "I know the thoughts that I think towards you, that they are thoughts of peace, and not of evil." Christ is the gift of God, a gift which manifests his unspeakable love to men, his deep interest in them, and unquenchable desire for their good. Seeing that God gave up most freely his own Son for