

*our own selves.* Marvel of marvels! God set forth His Son, not on a throne in the heaven, but upon a cross on the earth—not by the shout of the archangel and the trump of God; but by groans and blood from the heart of that Son whom He thus gives to die for sinners—and here, and here, and here again, are sinners busy with a thousand trifles, refusing to listen—refusing to think, refusing to care—whether or not the Saviour dies thus for them. Again in matchless mercy the God of heaven makes the wondrous proclamation to you. Again burst forth the glorious news of salvation through the Son of God in all the thunder of their power to save. Pray you receive the tidings at their true value, for,

II. Jesus Christ, whom God hath thus publicly set forth is *the propitiation.*

It may be no new thing to tell you that God is merciful. Have you ever thought that He is merciful to you? It is indeed true.

You have heard of the mercy-seat in the Jewish economy. It covered the ark of the covenant. It was overshadowed by the Cherubim, and halved by the Shechinah. There, where the Lord manifested visibly His presence among His people, the high priest sprinkled seven times the blood of victims slain on the occasion of the great yearly sacrifice. It was thus under the economy of types and shadows, that propitiation was set forth for the sins of the people.

When you and I come near the Lord, who shall go before us to make propitiation for our sins, and invoke the mercy of the God whom we have despised and disobeyed? Shall any one go before us with blood to appease His just vengeance? The Lord of glory—the Lamb of God—has been already before us: “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away *the sin of the world*” (John i, 29). Behold Him, my fellow sinner. Behold Him now. He bled for you. God hath set Him forth to be a propitiation for you. It is thus that retributive vengeance is warded off by a merciful God, from the heads of those who, like you and me, have miserably earned for themselves *eternal woe*, the just penalty of a broken law. As truly as this vengeance had speedily descended upon the race, had not this propitiation been consummated upon Calvary; so truly shall you and I have life—life eternal through Jesus Christ, set forth by God, if we but receive this propitiation, *through faith* in His blood.

III. It is *through FAITH in His blood* that Christ, whom God hath set forth, becomes YOUR propitiation and MY propitiation.