

heaven. Our first parents sinned but once and were cast out of paradise. If God spared not the angels, nor our first parents, will He spare thee in sin? Behold His wrath against sin in the strugglings and wailings of the thousands drowned in the deluge and in that of the thousands who went down beneath the liquid fire that overthrew Sodom, of whom God tells us. Centuries after that they are still suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Make light of being a sinner because of God's goodness! If all the suffering that has been for six thousand years is consistent with His Fatherly goodness, why may not such suffering be consistent with the same goodness in the world to come?

Make light of being a sinner! When if death come now you would die without Christ, without God, without hope, without peace, without excuse, without escape and be lost to all eternity.

You expect to live on, and change. But, "we all do fade as a leaf" — in Autumn; A bird, a thrown-stick, a gust of wind may cause any leaf to fall and fade in early Summer. So God says: "When sinners shall say peace and safety sudden destruction cometh upon them" The fever day with its dull insensibility, apoplexy, or any one of the "ten thousand accidents," may come suddenly and you will see not, hear not, speak not, to those who gather round you — you will be in eternity—and echo will keep wailing around you evermore, the saddest of all words "It might have been." It might have been this throne or that throne, this crown or that crown in heaven: it is hell. You need salvation now. And if you realize this, you will appreciate the next leading thought of our text.

II. "CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS."

The fact that Christ Jesus came into the world implies His pre-existence. He existed and then came into the world. So we read in i. Peter, "We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, * * * who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world." Redemption was no after-thought remedy of an unforeseen evil. God in the past eternity held an ordination service, then the Father by the Holy Spirit set apart the Son to be the Saviour of sinners. Again we read, "I was set up," that is, anointed, "from everlasting, or ever the earth was * * * and my delights were with sons of men."

God hated sin but loved sinners, and, therefore, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners by the sacrifice of Himself.