

at being obliged to accept such a refuge, yet glad at the offered deliverance, they took shelter where the scarlet line in the window witnessed that judgment was passed.

And so, dear reader, the blood of Jesus Christ tells us sad, humbling truths as regards ourselves, though it tells us joyful news as regards God's mercy and love. It tells us that we are alike condemned as sinners before God, so that the poor degraded harlot is entitled to mercy as much as the most upright, decent, and moral. It tells us that the heart, the whole nature, the whole man—reason, understanding, all—is, in every individual, so corrupt, so stained with sin, that nothing but the precious blood of God's own Son can enable the very best to stand guiltless before Him; yea, and even that the very best stands in as much need of it as the most openly abandoned sinner on