

matters that men act so madly as that. He cast himself at once into the boat, exclaiming, 'Thank God! I am safe.' Sinner, you are in peril, and the life-boat of salvation has come for you! It has rescued thousands from the perils of damnation;—it can save you! Oh! now, without one moment's delay, cast yourself into it, and you will be as safe as Omnipotence can make you. There are many ways by which you can obtain peace, but there is only one way by which you can obtain the peace that God will recognize as true and real—the peace that death cannot destroy nor judgment disturb, and that will be lasting as eternity. It is by faith in the merits of Jesus alone that such a peace can be obtained. * * * * My unconverted reader, there is nothing between you and peace but your refusal to believe God's Word concerning the work of his Son.

That Son has died for you; the Father has accepted his death as a ground upon which he can pardon you; he has sent you the message of reconciliation from the heavens, with the most satisfactory evidence of its authenticity: and now, with that very message in your hand, you remain in your sins and under condemnation, because you will not believe it! others all around you—your dear friends, your neighbours, your former associates in sin—have believed the heaven-sent message, have fled to the refuge, and are safe; and yet as precious blood has been shed for you as was shed for them. God is as willing to bestow pardon and peace upon you as upon them: but your unbelief stands in the way of His mighty love filling your soul. When we speak of unbelief, we do not mean a *blank state of mind*, in which there is no belief. Such a state of mind is impossible. The mind must rest upon something in the prospect of eternity, and when it does not receive truth it receives error. There is a sense, then, in which all men are believing, and according to the thing believed is the effect produced upon their hearts and lives. Adam believed Satan's lie, for example, and the belief of that lie about God's character converted or changed him from a good man into a bad man: and it is the rejection of Satan's lie, and the belief of God's truth concerning his Son, that alone can change man back into the image of God. Paul had as much faith before his conversion as he had after it, but it was faith in falsehoods—it was faith in a hereditary piety—in forms and ceremonies, in zeal for his religion, and in a righteousness which was of the law. Faith in these falsehoods gave him a peace; for a false trust will give peace for a time, as well