

salvation to perfection, and this was to be done by exhibiting to the world and to individual souls the completeness that is in Christ Jesus;—the love manifested, the atonement made, the law satisfied, the inheritance obtained,—purchased, God reconciled, the believer justified, the work finished, and the representative of man seated upon the throne of glory and receiving for His people every gift and mercy they can need. It is most evident then that the Spirit could neither enter upon this work nor assume His office of Comforter until the world was reconciled to God, and Jesus, by His resurrection and ascension, had given proof that the sacrifice of Him had been accepted and the victory completed.

Now see the result. Jesus hath gone to appear in the presence of God for us where He ever liveth to make intercession, and now through His Passion and merit the Comforter abides with us, and now through the Holy Spirit's operation, taking of the things of Christ and showing them to us, giving the soul an inner view of the love of God in Christ and the wondrousness of the salvation which is by Him. Now, from convinced hearts, groanings that cannot be uttered, ascend, and from quickened hearts strugglings that will not be quieted are made, and aspirations after holiness, mighty in their fervency, are breathed; and Jesus joins His intercession with that of the Comforter, and the soul, washed and sanctified and purified, is presented faultless before the throne of the Father, and accepted in the Beloved.

But we would now apply the whole, and first it is expedient for us that Jesus go away. How can this ever be? Just as it was for the disciples. There are many who do not question the Divinity of the Saviour, yet (like the Apostles) have low and carnal views concerning His work and salvation, who are pleased with the name of a mighty Saviour and a great Master and an all prevailing intercessor, who are delighted with the perfection of His character, yea who strive at times to imitate His glorious example, but who yet are in a great measure strangers to Him, as the All-sufficient Atonement for the sins of the whole world, as the believer's righteousness before God, as the great Head of the Church in whom alone we can be perfect.

Now, Beloved, how is it with you? What is your knowledge of Jesus and your faith in Him? Is it simply as regards His truth, and goodness, and love, without a deep feeling that His death was necessary to bring you to God, and His life to gather you into the Kingdom of Heaven? If so, it is truly expedient for you that this Jesus of the natural mind and the carnal eye pass away, so that under the operation of the Spirit you, may, with the Spiritual eye, behold and receive Him as your wisdom righteousness, sanctification and redemption, that you may discern the death of Christ as the life of the world, and the life of Christ as the