

II. That though sent and controlled by Christ, they are provoked by our sins.

1. All our social ills are sent by Christ.

Christ is exalted as head over all things to the Church. His title to universal supremacy rests on his mediatorial relationship to his Church, and in virtue of this title he reigns uncontrolled in glory, grace, and providence. In glory, Angels and ransomed immortals bow under his control and delight to yield Him universal homage. The bright cherub and the burning seraph who float around his throne in glory, acknowledge his universal authority, for they feel that as they are indebted to Him in common with all other objects in His vast empire, for their creation, so in common with man they are indebted specially to his mediation for their unfallen and confirmed purity. His dominion embraces also ransomed men. The spirits of the just made perfect, are included in his subjects—and each of these gladly bows in grateful submission under the sceptre of his glorious rule, in heaven—for He is King of Glory.

But while in person he is enthroned in glory the admiration of Angels and of Saints, His dominion extends to the utmost bounds of the spirit world, and he possesses dominion over "the spirits in prison." Fallen Angels and lost souls, though under the government of the prince of darkness, are also under control of the Son of God as mediator. "He conquered death and him that had the power of death that is the devil." So that, Hell itself is under Christ's ministerial sovereignty, just as the convict colonies of this empire are under the Supremacy of our gracious Sovereign the Queen. So even the devil and his angels with the myriads of the damned in hell are all under the sway, and all quail beneath the righteous sceptre of Him, who is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Such being the case it also follows that in another department of his rule Christ is Supreme. He is sovereign in grace—and reigns over and controls the spirits of good and bad men—as well as those of good and bad angels. The believer will own no authority save that of Christ. He is the law giver, the king, and the judge, because the Saviour of his own elect. "The Lord said unto my Lord sit thou on my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool—in midst of all thine enemies be thou the Governor. * * * Thy