

his mangled body was, by Joseph, wrapped in fine linen, his suffering soul was delivered unto the hands of his heavenly Father, no more to suffer: and his body, though it was greatly marred by various wounds inflicted by wicked men, is now alive. Yes, the Lord has risen indeed, and sits on the throne of his glory.

O Beloved, let us rejoice that we have such an high Priest at the right hand of the Majesty on high, who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Let it stimulate us to walk in the light of his countenance, cleaving unto him with full purpose of heart; so shall we be his disciples.—What a fountain of mercy flows from beneath the throne of God and the Lamb, to pardon and cleanse the whole Church,! How happy shall we be, if found among those whose robes are made white in the blood of the Lamb!

In order that we may not be disappointed, let us examine ourselves whether we be in the faith, whether our daily walk and conversation is such as becometh the Gospel; and whether we can say that the life we now live is by the faith of the Son of God, who hath loved us, and given himself for us.—Happy is the people that is in such a case. Let us make use of the Saviour as the Father's gift.—If Christ be ours, and we his, then is he the vine and we the branches; he is the Head, and we the members; he our King, and we his subjects; he our Lord, and we his obedient servants:—he our heavenly Father, and we his loving children, born of his Spirit, and nourished by his grace. We shall prove the truth of the Gospel by shewing its effects in our hearts and lives. The nearer we approach to him by faith, the more lovely and glorious will he appear to our souls; and the plainer shall we discover our native vileness and pollution; so shall we renounce our own righteousness, as filthy rags, and embrace him, as "the Lord our Righteousness." We shall know that without him we can do nothing; and that through Christ strengthening us we can do all things. Yea, we can walk through the valley and shadow of death, and fear no evil, his rod and staff will comfort us. We can run in all the duties of the cross with delight, and find him with us in all our way, according to his promise, "Lo I am with you always." When we peruse the sacred pages, his Spirit will enlighten us.—When we descend to the baptismal waters, or sit at his sacramental table, and receive the symbols of his broken body and precious blood, or when bowing at the family altar, surrounded by our children, the heavenly Jesus will be with us. His counsels will admonish us; his judgments will fill us with holy fear, his doctrine will instruct us, and his promises comfort and encourage us. The practice of his commands will separate us from the wicked who love not his law.