

you as it was to them. The love of the world has so completely filled your heart, that there is no room in it for *the habitation of God through the spirit*. Nor do you desire that He should dwell there. The Law of God is unchangeable, and cannot be revoked. It will not admit of the least deviation from its requirements, because it is *perfect*, like its Divine Author. But this law you have broken; and you have no means, in yourself, of repairing it, or of satisfying its demands. The sentence of condemnation is gone forth against you; and the sword of eternal justice is drawn to execute it upon you. If you die in this state, you will *lie down in darkness*, and perish under the frown of the Almighty;

To such a character as I have supposed (O! that it were only supposition, and not reality) it would be my duty to address these alarming declarations, to warn, rebuke, and exhort him to *flee from the wrath to come*. But is there any hope? Blessed be God, there is; and it is to be found in the Gospel of Christ. There let us search for it, while we consider the Sacred Oracles as proclaiming to us,

II. A DISPENSATION OF MERCY. Man is not now in his original condition. God created him "upright" and holy. He stood high in the favour of his Maker, whose presence he enjoyed, and in whose service he delighted. His residence was Eden, and every action was piety and pleasure. He was placed under a law, with but one prohibition, as a mark of his dependence, and a test of his faithfulness. But this prohibition he