

love and grace in the forgiveness and justification of the guilty sinner who believes in Jesus. In virtue of the blood-shedding of Jesus, God is righteous, absolutely righteous, in remitting the sins of the vilest sinner who believes. "*It behoved* Christ to suffer." Righteousness required it if the sinner was to be saved. There was no other way. "The Son of man *must* be lifted up." Awful necessity on account of man's utter ruin, and the righteous requirement of a holy God.

But God Himself provided this divine remedy. God in love gave His Son for them; and the Son gave Himself. "God so loved the world." "God is love." The cross is the proof. There unrighteousness, hatred, malice, outrage, and every horrible wickedness were met by God giving His Son as an atoning victim, and the Son giving Himself to suffer, the just for the unjust, that He might bring them to God. Oh! wonderful story of love. Every demand of righteousness was met by God's own provision. And what remains for the sinner? Just to look on as a self-judged sinner, and take it in as all for himself. "There is life in a look," and there is forgiveness, sure and eternal, on grounds of righteousness, to the sinner who believes.

#### THE COMMISSION TO PREACH FORGIVENESS.

This was given only after the ground was laid. Before the cross, individual cases of for-