

the divinely-appointed means of cure that he was delivered from his leprosy, and you can never be delivered from the condemning power and polluting influence of sin without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But at present we cannot enter into this part of the subject. We shall make a few remarks on the cure of Naaman, his gratitude, and the lessons which they teach, in our next. M.

UNBELIEF.

ITS CRIMINALITY.

In order to exhibit the criminality of unbelief, we shall state some undeniable truths, in the light of which it may be seen.

1. Think on the love of God in planning the scheme of salvation for man. The race has departed from God and his law. This is a fact. The character and doings of humanity present everywhere the sad evidence of apostacy from God. Now God, in his free and boundless mercy contrived the plan of salvation for man's deliverance from the consequences of his sin, and from sin itself. He might have left us to perish in our sins. His justice as the lawgiver and moral governor of the universe, required an expression of his hatred of sin. This might have been given in our punishment, justice taking its course with respect to us. But it pleased the God against whom all our sins have been committed, to contrive a plan, in which these things are combined—the means of our deliverance, and the display of his abhorrence of our sins. He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, that, in his atoning sacrifice, he might present to the universe an expression of his purity, and open up a way for the forth flowing of his pardoning mercy to us. How surpassingly merciful in God to provide the atoning Saviour for us! This giving up of his own Son to die for us is the most wonderful thing the eternal Father ever did for us, whether we consider it as a manifestation of his wisdom or of his love. Angels never saw anything like it before. They see in the agonies and death of Jesus, the outgoings of the heart of the great "I Am." For any angel in heaven to have viewed this astounding display of love with indifference, would have instantly transformed him into a devil.

2. Think also on the love of Jesus, the Son of God, coming to earth to die for us. With what willingness he came to our