

for your sins, and of the loving holy Spirit who strives with you to bring you to himself. Believe in Jesus, as having died for you; yield to the love of God revealed in his death for you; be thus reconciled to God and restored to his favour, and commence to run in the way of God's commandments with enlargement of heart. A.

A WELL-PLEASED GOD.

God in Christ is a well pleased God. This is a most important, a most blessed truth. It just needs to be understood and believed, that peace may fill the soul, that the heart may be lifted up in gratitude and love to God, and in admiration of his goodness, and grace, and mercy.

But is it really true that God is well-pleased in Christ? Isaiah says, "The Lord is well-pleased for his righteousness' sake." (xlii. 21). At our Saviour's baptism the Spirit of God descended on him like a dove and lighted on him, and a voice from heaven said,—“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matt iii, 16, 17). When Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, and Moses and Elias, a voice came out of the bright cloud which over shadowed them, which said,—“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” (xvii. 5).

God is not well pleased with sinners. He is displeased with sinners, and he has reason to be displeased with them. He hates sin. Consequently those who commit it, and love it, must be objects of his disapprobation. It is necessary, for the stability of the moral empire of the great Ruler, that he show his hatred to sin and manifest his displeasure with sinners. The sinner is thus under the wrath of God, and exposed to punishment, which is an expression of that wrath. Sinner living in sin, God is not, cannot be, well pleased with you. While he loves your soul, he hates your sin; and if you turn not away from sin, you must perish without remedy. God is truly a consuming fire to all the workers of iniquity; and you, living unrepentant and unbelieving, are a dry firebrand ready for the flames.

God is a well-pleased God in Christ. This does not simply mean that God is well-pleased with Christ, as he approves of the conduct of an angel, or of Adam while he continued in innocence and purity, or of any good man living under the power and