

commerce changes ! communities change ! nations change ! Yea, the solid earth, and the heavens above it will change ! They will last their appointed season ; and then wax old as garment ; then, as a vesture, shall they be folded up and laid aside ! But He on whom the believer rests, changes not. " Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever ! " *

It follows from hence that the *principles* of your religion are the same. These, like their great Author, are immutable. Dispensations have varied. The Patriarchal has yielded to the Mosaic ; the Mosaic, in its turn, to the Christian ; but the principles of true religion have never varied. They are founded in the nature of things. They result from the relations in which the creature stands to his Creator, and his fellow-men. " Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind ; " — " and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. " † On these two commandments the Law and the Prophets are dependent. From these, as the great principles of religion, all holy practice must spring. From these, in all ages and under all dispensations, must emanate, " whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise ; " all proceed exclusively from this one source, the principle of love, implanted in the heart, by the Holy Spirit ; and exercised *supremely* towards God, and *subordinately* towards man.

And here, let me add, as a point which we are deeply concerned to remember, that *the way of salvation remains the same*. To man as a fallen being, one method, and one method only, has been or can be proposed, and that is by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ. Look back as far as the page of sacred history can carry you, and forward into the dark future, wherever the light of prophecy gleams upon it, and you read the same inscription, — " Behold I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious ; and he that believeth in Him shall not be confounded. " ‡ When Abel brought an offering to God, it was an *animal sacrifice*, and presented through faith in the coming Saviour. § When Abraham looked down through the vista of ages, he saw the day of Christ and was glad. || When Isaiah called upon Zion to arise from the dust and put on her beautiful garments, it was

* Hebrews xiii. 8.

§ Hebrews xi. 4.

† Matthew xxii. 37-39.

|| John viii. 56.

‡ 1 Peter ii. 6.