

to the consequences of disobedience. Having sinned, he could not be restored to the favour of God by the moral law, inasmuch as that law threatened death—demanded satisfaction. A remedial scheme was necessary that man might be brought back to God, and to the path of rectitude. A remedial scheme has been most graciously provided by the God of love and mercy. The gospel is the glorious announcement that God gave his only begotten Son to atone for sinners. It tells us of the transaction of the atonement of Christ, which honours the law, satisfies justice, pleases God as the law-giver of the universe. But that men may enjoy its rich blessings it is necessary that they believe this gospel. Hence God's commandment that men should believe in his Son. The gospel has been made known to men for the obedience of faith.

To obey this command is to regard the gospel, in its real import, as true to yourself, a sinner; as revealing the love of God's heart to you, though utterly unworthy, in giving up the dearest object of his love to agonies and death for your salvation—to take peace and safety on the ground of the completed and accepted atonement, which it unfolds.

This command you should obey and continue to obey. Thus will you begin a life of faith, and live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved you and gave himself for you. Thus will you abide under the power of the saving truth and the Holy Spirit's gracious influence, enjoy peace, become increasingly holy and meetened for heaven.

Since God commands you to believe in Jesus, it must be possible for you to do so. God does not command men to do impossibilities. His service is a reasonable service. But it would not be reasonable to command men on the pain of a "sore punishment" to do what they have no power to do.

Since it is possible for you to believe in Jesus, you must have power to believe. Sin has not annihilated any of your powers. In your state of sin, you are using your powers in a wrong way.