

THE GOOD NEWS.

A SEMI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL:

DEVOTED to the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the OLD AND YOUNG.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM.

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Ephesians v. 32.—This is a great mystery. but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.

CHRIST is the centre and heart of this portion of Scripture, as He is of the whole Bible. The sum of the Scriptures is the gospel; the sum of the gospel is Christ; the Scriptures are the system, Christ is their central sun. The doctrine of this text, which we select as a foundation for a discourse upon the *Mysteries of Christ's Kingdom*, is the union and relation subsisting between Christ and his Church. The point we aim at in our remarks upon this passage, is to show, that God requires from us an implicit belief in all His revealed word and will. Although all the essential truths of the gospel, are to carnal reason, incomprehensible, we having actually no ideas of their existence; yet, being plainly revealed to us by the Spirit of truth, they are no longer secret mysteries, but plain and clear truths presented to our faith for belief, rather than to our reason for speculation; while the *manner* of their existence is incomprehensible to reason, the *matter* and fact of their existence is clear to faith. And further, that the work of grace in the soul is supernatural; that the plantation of a sinner in the true Church of Christ is the work of the Almighty One, and that the invariable mode by which God draws a sinner, is through the word of truth which the Father himself has given, the record of his Son, the Incarnate Mystery.

Instead, then, of telling you that we are only required to believe what we can un-

derstand and reconcile, I would show you that we are required to believe and esteem every Bible truth, the whole mystery of Godliness, as precious objects of our faith. In these last days, when men will not endure *sound doctrine* but are turned unto *fables*; preferring human systems to Divine revelations of truth, popularized, rationalized theories of natural religion, to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, it behoves us to present the distinctive truths and principles of the gospel, which put honor on the word of God, and on the work of the Holy Spirit. To exhibit the Mystery of Godliness as indeed a great mystery, and to exalt the religion of Jesus Christ as something infinitely above nature's reach, making true Godliness the effect of the independent operation of Almighty God. His workmanship, a new creation wherein a new nature is implanted, even to the very root, from which all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed. For every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.

Let us now endeavour to illustrate this truth in the light of Scripture. For method's sake we may take the words as they stand in the text, suggesting a natural division of our subject.

Let me then speak—I. Concerning Divine mysteries, generally.

II. Concerning this

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