

of those sinners Christ Jesus came into the world to save ?
Attend to the words of the Redeemer :—

III. *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life ; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life ; but the wrath of God abideth.”*—John iii. 36. Free as is the offer of salvation, then it is manifest that none can be saved but those that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith it is that we are *“justified and have peace with God.”* Great and marvellous was the love of God in sending His Son to be the Saviour of a lost world, yet that love extendeth not to all ; but is restricted to a certain character :—*“Whosoever believeth on the Son ”*—he, and he-only, *“shall have everlasting life.”* Every one, then, who sees the prominent place that faith occupies in the plan of salvation, must be anxious to obtain it. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”* How then is this pearl of great price to be procured ? Is it by any inherent energy or effort of your own ? No : faith is the gift of God. It is not produced by your wisdom, or influenced by the strength of your arm, but like all other good and perfect gifts, it cometh down from above, from the Father of lights. Since, then, you cannot be saved without faith, and since faith is not in your own power, but is the gift of God : if salvation be not obtained, it is the leading sentiment of the day, not to lay the blame to man's account but to God's, who did not confer the gift of faith. But would these blind zealots reason thus in other circumstances ? Are they not daily receiving bread from the hand of God, which He might withhold if He saw proper ? And might He not leave them, if He pleased, without a drop of water to cool their tongue ? But would they consider themselves justified in sitting down idle,—folding their arms on their bosom, till God would put the bread and water to their lips which the cravings of nature required ? Were starvation to ensue would they blame God or themselves ? Though their daily bread is the gift of God, they must be diligent in the use of the means God has appointed for obtaining it. And after they have done all they can, the gift must still appear to be of God, and not of men. For