

and condemns all sin in temper and action—that all transgressors of his law offend against his authority, incur his displeasure, and deserve punishment. To this every man's reason must assent. This is what is generally called *natural religion*. It is a religion adapted to guide the conduct of holy and innocent beings. But it by no means comes home to the case of sinful and guilty creatures.

These, having already fallen under condemnation, need first to know, whether there be any help, or any hope for such as they are. The relief provided for, and offered to such, is what is properly called the *gospel*. This instructs us, that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God—that God, in his self-moving mercy, has constituted a Redeemer of sinners—that this Redeemer is in an eminent and peculiar sense God's own son, his express image, the brightness of his glory, possessed of Divine attributes, entitled to Divine honours, the Creator, and Upholder of all worlds—that this wonderful person, being manifested in our flesh, bare our sins in his own body, made himself a sacrifice for them, and having purged them by his blood, rose from the dead, ascended to glory, and became head over all things for the Church—that thro' him God has shed forth the holy influence of his spirit to convince men of sin, renew them after his image, and sanctify them to a preparation for that world, to which the Redeemer has ascended—that pardon is now graciously ensured to penitent and believing souls, and that the Divine Spirit is freely granted to those who seek it. This is the scheme of grace stated in the gospel. It is the rejection of this scheme, which our Apostles call “denying the Lord, who bought us,” or redeemed us. And the denial of him in this character, they call a damnable heresy; because it is a denial of the whole gospel considered as a plan of redemption for sinners, and as distinct from the religion of nature.

There are those who acknowledge Christ as a *teacher* commissioned of God to instruct us in our duty by his doctrines, and yet deny him as a *Redeemer* sent to deliver us from pun-