

from God. By looking to Jesus he was delivered from the power of the enemy ; by looking away from him he is again in the enemy's power and ready to be carried away by every evil influence. Thus when the professing Christian is away from the Cross, he is unsafe. Were he to die thus, he would go to hell.

When the Christian is away from the Cross he cannot see the evil of sin. He thinks that when he lived near the Cross he was too strict and puritanical. The evil of sin is displayed in the Cross, and is to be seen only when we are looking at it. What caused Jesus to die ? It was sin. When a Christian is looking to Jesus he feels that he dare not indulge in that which caused him to bleed and agonize—that he dare not tear open his wounds and cause them to bleed afresh by sinning.

Christian, there must be a continued looking to the Cross that your heart may be always right with God, under holy influences, kept from sin. This looking to Jesus must be a constant exercise of your mind. Faith in Jesus is an act of mind. But you must continue to exercise it that it may become a habit. In a strong Christian, faith is a habit. He has so accustomed himself to look to Jesus that he does so habitually and continually. As the needle points to the north his soul points to Jesus. As some opposing influence may at times draw the needle aside, either in the one direction or the other, so some unlooked for influence may disturb the believer's soul for a moment : but, if he is strong, has formed the habit of faith, his soul returns to Jesus as its home, its resting place. Looking to the Cross is the normal state of his soul. It is this strength of soul you need, Christian, that you may overcome the evil one—and be above the foolish pleasures and vanities of the world.

2. THE CHERISHING AND THE EXPRESSING OF HUMBLE AND ADORING GRATITUDE.—An exercise that must pervade all the intercourse of the believer's soul with God, as well as all his duties in all his relations in life, is *looking to the Cross*. He is right in heart neither towards God nor man, unless he is looking to Jesus. But certainly the exercise to which a person will be first prompted in looking, and to which he will be influenced, while he continues to look, to Jesus, is that of humble and adoring gratitude. When a person looks to Jesus, gratitude fills his heart, praise flows from his tongue, and he sinks overwhelmed amid the immensity of his obligations. His song of praise is, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." "Worthy is the lamb that was slain." This