

Another encouraging motive is furnished by the example of Christ, who, as the 18th verse tells us "once suffered for sins." i. e., for sins falsely laid to his charge by the false witnesses that were suborned against him. Though a well-doer, Christ suffered as an evil-doer; the just for the unjust: i. e. the just for [υπερ] i. e. in the name of the unjust, when "he was numbered with the transgressors." Influenced by the context, we understand this verse to refer to those sufferings which Christ endured as our example, and not, as is commonly supposed, to those atoning sufferings which he endured as our substitute. For in these he did not leave us an example but a peculiar work, which we dare not attempt to imitate. But these sufferings in which he left us "an example," were those in which he, "when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:" ii. 23.

"Being put to death in the flesh," He submitted even to martyrdom. He was "with wicked hands crucified and slain." And one thing made these sufferings very trying, he was thus treated by those who were unspeakably indebted to him, for his redeeming love, his atoning sufferings, and his interceding mediation on their behalf, and if he endured such treatment from such persons, well may his followers endure bad treatment from those who, perhaps, are not at all, or but very slightly, indebted to them.

"But quickened by the spirit." That which was put to death, was made alive by his own life-giving or quickening spirit. For Jesus "the last Adam," is "a quickening Spirit." But how does the Scripture, which says that he was made a quickening Spirit, receive its fulfilment? Examine 1 Cor. xv: 44, 45, and you will find that it receives it, when that which "is sown a natural body, is raised a spiritual body." Jesus, when first raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, was in a form, which those who had known him in the flesh, could recognize, and bear witness to. But this body was afterwards quickened, or made a spiritual body, by his own quickening spirit. The very body which was put to death, was the body that received this resurrection and this final quickening.

"By which also he went." Εἰς. By which, i. e., by which spiritual quickening, and consequently, in that spiritual body, he personally went.

"And preached unto the spirits in prison, which sometime were disobedient," &c. The word translated "disobedient," literally means, unpersuadable. The word rendered "preached," is not the