

works, as before, have continued to be acceptable to God? Certainly not. Paul, in his defence before the Jewish Council, truly said,—“I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.” Now suppose that Paul, notwithstanding the supernatural and powerful evidence afforded him of the truth of Christianity, had continued to disbelieve it, and to consider Christ an impostor, neither Mr. Roy nor any other person will say that he or his Jewish services would have continued to be acceptable to God; but would conclude that he would be justly liable to severe punishment for his wicked unbelief. The Jews, as a nation, rejected the Divine Messiah when His light had come to them, and for that rejection their country was desolated and subdued, and they were all either slain or brought under severe captivity. Doubtless there were some pious persons among them, according to their legal dispensation, but rejecting the Saviour, they justly suffered with the rest. As a further proof that persons holding various doctrines and creeds may, and should, be united in one church, and that Mr. Wesley continued growing in extended sympathy as to religious belief, Mr. Roy has given the following quotation from one of Mr. Wesley's sermons:—“And who are we that we should withstand God? Particularly by laying down rules of Christian communion, which exclude any whom He has admitted into the church of the first born, from worshipping God together.” This related to the case of Cornelius, which has just been explained; and it had reference to the admission of Cornelius, a Gentile, into the Church of the Jewish Christians, which the Apostle Peter, who was sent to Cornelius, at first thought improper, but by the previous vision, and the divine instructions then given to him, and being informed of the angelic visit to Cornelius, his Jewish prejudice was entirely removed, and finding that “the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the Word,” he immediately baptized Cornelius, and received him into the Christian Church. Observe Mr. Wesley's words, “any whom God has admitted into the church of the first born.” But no part of that citation, or any part of the sermon shows that Mr. Wesley considered that Unitarians or other deists, or Universalists or other unbelievers in the primary and fundamental truths of Christianity, were of “the church of the first born,” and should be admitted to Christian communion with those who hold the true Christian faith, as revealed in the Scriptures. Several passages of Scripture expressly forbid such communion. In Rom. xvi., 17, it is