

## THE ATONEMENT.

## INTRODUCTORY.

The doctrine respecting the propitiation of Jesus Christ is one of the most important doctrines of Christianity. Take it away, and you strip the religion of Jesus of its glorious peculiarity, emasculate its power, denude it of its beauty and reduce it to a mere system of Deism. It is the key-stone in the arch of Christian truth. It is the sun in the light of which the other doctrines of the Christian system are distinctly seen, from which they derive their value and their importance. But for the atonement indeed, there would be no doctrine respecting repentance or faith, or pardon or regeneration. There would be no object to which the soul might turn so as to repent, no saving truth which it might believe, no way of pardon, no means of regeneration. The atonement is that in Christianity, which meets the wants of fallen man.

We purpose in a few articles, to present to the readers of the *Day-Star*, what appears to us to be the truth of Scripture, respecting the atonement, its extent and its nature. The subject is one of vital importance and deep interest. It is important that our conceptions of it be correct and scriptural. A person may have erroneous views of some of the doctrines of the Bible and his spiritual weal be thereby unaffected. It cannot be supposed that a correct understanding of all the doctrines of Christianity is necessary to salvation. For who then could be saved? A person may be a child of God, and yet be in error, as to some of the doctrines, that lie at some degree of remoteness from the central truth of the atonement. But an error respecting the atonement itself may be fatal. We therefore earnestly request that our observations be not viewed through the spectacles of prejudice, which give a false coloring to objects of thought, but candidly and honestly considered.

We assume that the Bible is the word of God, that we ought not to reason against the express averments of revelation, that any theories, which we may entertain when they are seen to be contrary to the plain declarations of "the volume of the book" should be at once discarded. With those who reject the Bible as a revelation from God, we have at present no controversy. "To the law and to the testimony" is our motto.

The doctrine of atonement pre-supposes that mankind is in a fallen and lapsed condition. Man has violated the law of God. God is the moral governor of the universe; man is his moral sub-