

on the cross of the Son of man. If man, instead of rebelling against God, by believing Satan's lie, had firmly held on his way in the path of loyalty and truth, continuing still to wear the crown of glory which the Creator had placed upon his brow as the lord of God's heritage here below; never would Gethsemane's walls have re-echoed the sighs and groans of the "Man of sorrows" in the dark hour of His agony, when his soul was exceeding sorrowful even unto death; nor would that agonizing prayer have been wafted to the throne of God: "Father! if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt:"—never would Calvary's gloomy brow, draped in the sable robes of night, while it was yet day, have resounded with the heart piercing exclamation: "Eli! Eli! lama sabachthani?" that is to say, My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken me? If man had not ignominiously allowed Satan to snatch the royal diadem from his brow, and obliterate in the mire of iniquity, its spotless and unsullied purity which reflected, and was a reflection of, the glory of God, Paradise would never have been lost, and therefore it would never have required to be regained. But man sinned. Thus it was that the sinless Jesus had to die before a righteous God could pardon the transgressor.

One word more, dear reader, ere we pass on. Do you think that you are comparatively a little sinner? As a friend, let me say to you, however good you may appear in your own eyes, in God's sight you are a "great sinner." Why will you persist, in a course of soul-ruining self-deception? O think no more that sin is a light matter. We have been speaking of Calvary. Let not vision linger around the mere words in which that scene has been feebly described. Look through the words, and away to the great reality concerning which they have been penned. Look to the cross—to the precious sacrifice offered upon it; and read in the light of yonder lamp of love, lighted by the hand of a loving God, and burning amid the thick darkness which surrounds the wondrous scene,—"God loves you." "He desires with all His heart to save you." But stay! There is another lesson to be read. Read it with due care. "The soul that clings to sin, and will not turn from the error of his ways," "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power."

2. The double purpose of the uplifting. Evidently one purpose which God had in view in the case of the Jews, by causing