

our sins, and He has found it in the death of Jesus, in the shedding of His blood for sin. It is thus that Jesus "has made peace by the blood of His cross." It is nothing that can yet be done, *it is already done*, and God tells us so in His holy word. "As God is true," the Lord Jesus Christ has "made peace through the blood of His cross." (Col. i. 20); and it is thus that God announces the good news of peace by Jesus Christ. Christ also announces it, see (Eph. ii. 17): "And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

You have been all your life as to appearances much nearer than many others. Brought up by pious parents, accustomed to read the bible, to hear the gospel, to associate with Christians, you have been near, *outwardly*, while many people decidedly wicked, have been *outwardly* afar off. But you have now become conscious that whatever may have been the *outward* nearness in which you have lived, that *inwardly* and *really* you have been far from God. It is then to you that Christ announces peace; peace with God, which He has made by the shedding of His precious blood—God says, that He is satisfied with the blood of Christ, that the blood justifies Him in receiving us, you and me, into His favour. Read, (Rom. iii, 21-26). Why then should it be more difficult to satisfy us than God Himself? That which justifies God in justifying us, may well satisfy our hearts and put our consciences at rest before God. I know that the soul has need of a solid basis on which to stand, but what is there more solid than the word of God? "As God