

pardon—true holiness—and a future state. But the Gospel reveals unto us, the existence of God ; his glorious perfections ; the righteous and reasonable character of his law ; the rebellion, apostasy, and fall of man ; the impossibility of justification by the works of the law ; Christ's own divine character as the Son of God, and the Saviour of men ; justification by faith in Christ ; the Deity and offices of the Holy Spirit ; the nature and necessity of regeneration, faith, repentance, holiness of heart, and life ; a future state ; a judgment to come ; and a recompense of reward to the righteous and the wicked ; and concerning the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God. As far as the knowledge of the Gospel extends, it enlightens the darkness of the sinner's mind, and dispels the darkness by which the earth has been overspread, and cheers even the dark valley of the shadow of death : so that death, with all its attendant horrors, wears a new aspect. Thus the Gospel discovers unto us things divine and eternal, and guides us to happiness and glory.

Another feature in the Gospel is *Peace* : It is peculiarly entitled the GOSPEL OF PEACE. It had its origin in and from the God of Peace. It is the Gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace, which gives to it its efficacy and glory. The message which the Gospel brings, the doctrines which it teaches, and the effects which its influence produces, are full of peace. The message which it brings to us is full of mercy, love, and peace ; of reconciliation ; of God reconciling us to himself in Christ, and beseeching us to be reconciled to God. It is a message of glad tidings, of good news, of glory to God in the highest, of peace on earth, and good will to men. It comes unto us under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures of truth, for the guiding of our feet in the way of peace, by making known and teaching unto us the things which belong to our everlasting peace. It is proclaiming peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near,—speaking peace to the heathen. It is the word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Peace is preached by Christ in the Gospel to you that were far off, and to them that were nigh. Believers in the Gospel with confidence can say, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The precepts of the Gospel and the doctrines which it teaches are those of peace. By it God is calling us to peace,—seek peace and pursue it,—have peace one with another, —if it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Blessed are the peace-makers. The fruits of the Spirit

through the Gospel, are love and peace. They shall have great peace that love the law of God, and that are guided by the Gospel. As far as the influence of the Gospel extends, enmity shall cease, and love shall abound : while at the same time those under its happy influence shall have peace as a river, and righteousness as the waves of the sea ; when the wicked shall have no peace.

Shu has turned this earth to one continued scene of hatred and cruelty ; and not till the law of love spreads its all-subduing efficacy shall enmity and contention cease. It quiets, it calms the turbulent passions of the mind ; it gives calm serenity and sweet composure to the believer in all the afflictions of life, and even at the hour of death. The time shall soon come when the God of peace shall bruise Satan, the great enemy of his people, under their feet. Then " violence shall no more be heard in the land, wasting nor destruction within their borders, and men shall call their walls Salvation, and their gates Praise. Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness in the fruitful field ; and the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever ; and then all people shall dwell in peaceable habitations, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places."

Again, the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, the Gospel of Christ, is a Gospel of TRUTH ;—pure and perfect truth, based on immutable and eternal truth itself. In the Gospel we have the true sayings of the God of truth ; the faithful and true record of the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ ; the " faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," all bearing a manifest impression of a divine original—of being from God : the true substance in distinction from the ceremonial shadows of the law ; the truth which shall make free all those that embrace it. All those that trust in it shall never be deceived. How unlike, then, how widely different the Gospel is from the various dark, ignorant, earthly, sensual, cruel, and false systems of religion, which have been invented by depraved men in different ages of the world. The Gospel, then, is not a vain tale, not a cunningly devised fable, but truth, confirmed by the authority of God—by the oath of the Most High ;—truth consistent with itself. There is no deceit in the promises and invitations which it makes : no delusion in the happiness which it confers. The principles which it inculcates, are in righteousness and truth. Its histories, precepts, doctrines, invitations, promises, and threatenings, are neither false, trifling, nor deceitful. It may be confidently trusted to, and relied upon.

(To be concluded in our next.)