

What then of the conclusion to which we have been led? Is it one, the settlement of which fills us with pleasure and delight? Assuredly no. It is calculated to fill the heart with sadness. The terribleness of the conception is beyond the power of the "tongues of men or of angels" to express. It may verily overwhelm us in dismay. But as already said, we must guard against making feeling the standard here. God has spoken. It is for us therefore to bow reverently and accept his righteous judgment. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Several practical thoughts suggest themselves in connection with this solemn theme. We can do little more than mention two or three.

1.—We see cause for alarm on the part of the sinner. If the situation of the impenitent be, what we have seen the clear representations of God's word describe it to be, what verily must be his condition! Corrupt and polluted—alienated from God—exposed to his righteous displeasure—eternally banished from the presence of the Lord, if repentance and faith prevent not,—such, saith the Divine Word, are his condition and prospects. And this being the case, how great the folly, on the part of dying men, to allow the pleasures and possessions of time and sense to engross their attention, to the exclusion of the salvation of the soul!

2.—We see reason to thank God for the provision made for man's redemption. Man's condition as a sinner is indeed fearful. But he need not perish. The Divine helper is near. "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." Oh what gratitude should such "glad tidings" awaken in the breast of the sinner! The sinner's guilt may well arouse his fears, and no wonder, if at times, it should lead the thought onward to the borders of dark despair; but this very thought will only increase the value of the provision, when hope, through faith in the Redeemer, has dispelled the darkness.

3.—We also learn from this subject, the responsibility resting upon us as the professed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anxiety for the salvation of men, is a characteristic of every christian heart. How any one can lay claim to the appellation of christian, and feel no ardent longing for the salvation of others, is not a little astonishing. How can the man who "knows the terror of the Lord," neglect to "persuade men?" How can he who believes in "the wrath to come," and who