

Christ on the Cross,
SUFFERING FOR
SINNERS!

OR,

The Sinner's Redemption,
Sanctification, and Exaltation,

By the DEATH of our

Lord JESUS CHRIST.

By the late Pious and Godly,
Mr. JOHN WELSH,
Minister of the Gospel in Jedburgh.

JOHN iii. 14, 15.

And as Moses lifted up the Serpent in the Wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

F A L K I R

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CHRIST on the CROSS.

THESE merciful words of our blessed Lord and Saviour, might ravish our Souls with raptures of joy, to think in what a miserable and wretched condition we were wallowing in by reason of sin and wicked abominations, that we were dropping into hell at eternal destruction, for the gates of the bottomless lake stand open, and is like a devouring sepulchre to receive us; but blessed be the most glorious name of the Lord of Hosts, who has sent us, out of his free grace and love, both a conqueror and a comforter, viz. Jesus Christ the sanctifier of our hearts, and the salvation of our souls.

Therefore, dear friends and Christians, let us with fear and reverence give attention to the sacred word of God, in which we shall find the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is very mean and poor, and the place too bad to entertain the Lamb of God, which takes away the sins of the world, Luke ii. 11, 12. Christ being thus born, and laid in a manger among oxen and asses, because there was no room in the inn, it might, in the first place, persuade us to humble, and also bend our proud stubborn hearts to the will and service of God; for Christ our blessed Saviour, thought it no scorn or disgrace to ly in a manger, to eat the bread and drink the water of affliction, to be buffeted, spitted at, reviled, crowned with thorns, and crucified on the cross, to shed his precious blood for the redemption of our lost souls; then shall we be made partakers of the covenant of grace, according to

ying of the Prophet, Ezek. i. 6. " Nevertheless will remember my covenant made with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will confirm to thee an everlasting covenant."

Shall we then, for all these special mercies and favours from our infinitely loving God, still sport with his glory, his goodness and majesty, and walk like children of disobedience? shall we pluck Christ again from the throne to crucify him? shall we kick at his divine essence, and requite him with ingratitude? Shall we deny God, according to the words of the Prophet David, " The fool said in his heart, There is no God!" So, let us be afraid to offend God, much more to deny God; for it is a fearful testimony of truth, from the mouth of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that " Whosoever denieth me before Men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven," Matth. x. 13. Therefore, consider with fear and reverence, the love of God, the goodness of God, the mercies of God, and the justice of God: For let none be deceived, God will not be mocked; tho' you vainly like to fly with your own pleasures and vanities of the world, without repentance, you will suffer the flames of punishment: From which eternal destruction, let it be the faithful desire and prayers of all people, to say, Good Lord deliver us. Let us, with devotion and piety, make use of the holy Scriptures for the help and nourishment of our souls, in which we shall find the life of our Saviour Jesus Christ to be most pure and holy; we shall find him lowly, meek, humble, courteous, wise, prudent, profitable, charitable, and indeed with a million more of special graces

and virtues, in which he doth strengthen the weak, comfort the afflicted, heal the lame, cure the blind, make the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, and the dead to walk, and the infernal devils to tremble. Then, since it is so that Christ is our Saviour, Redeemer and Comforter, how ought we to glorify the great God of heaven for sending his only begotten Son to suffer for us who knew no sin; and to bear the curse of the cross for our offences? O what satisfaction shall we render to the Lord of lords, and King of kings! Nothing like a new heart, and a new spirit, renewed by the newness of life, that we may receive the new birth, without which it is impossible to see God. Then, as new-born babes do thirst for the milk to nourish them, so will our souls long and thirst after the waters of righteousness, to taste of the tree of life, and to have our names recorded in the book of God, for chosen ones, yea his beloved ones, according to the Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians ch. i.

Knowing brethren, beloved, your election of God
 O how happy is that soul, that is linked to God and united to the blessed unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, in which divine Body, the glorious Majesty, the saints and martyrs, prophets, priests, apostles, and angels have joint communion, where the omnipotent God encompasses the royal camp of heaven, and where all are made heirs and co-heirs with Christ, triumphing over death, hell, and the devil, reigning and ruling in majesty, on the highest throne of felicity, joy and glory, which is the most finite and unspeakable, wearing crowns of gold

bedeck't with princely diamonds, to illustrate
their happiness with more glory.

O my beloved friends, heaven itself is lovely,
beautiful, rich, full of pleasure, joy and felicity;
it is a mansion of virtue, a paradise of pleasure,
the kingdom of God, and the crown of glory.
Then, since Christ was born to redeem us, let us
run that we may obtain, let us lay hold on Christ
by faith, and follow the steps of his apostles, and
follow the true worship of God; but let us not
follow every whimsical brain which disturb both
the church and the state. One says, Here is
Christ; another says, Lo there is Christ; but
believe them not, but search the Scriptures, and
there you shall find where our blessed Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of
God in power and glory.

Also take our blessed Saviour's words for a
testimony of this truth. Read Matth. xxiv. quite
through, which fortelleth of false Christs, and
false prophets: And so in the Epistle of Jude,
you shall find that the prophecies of old are now
come to pass; for how many new Christs, and
new prophets, and strange confused opinions have
we had in this latter age? And sure enough there
is but one God, one faith, one baptism, and one
entire commandment, which is according to the
words of our blessed Redeemer, Matth. xxii. 27.
*And Jesus said unto them, Thou shalt love the
Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy heart,
and with all thy mind. I know no purer religion
than this is, first to love God above all, and your
neighbour as yourself, and according to the say-
ing of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
for every one to do unto another, as he would they*

should do unto him. But alas! our hearts are frail and wicked, full of deceit, nay, there are many of them that pretend and profess the most purity, love, godliness and true religion, that do and will the feonest of all, betray you with a Judas kifs, speak you fair to the face, and cut your throat. Upon which crew of infidels our Saviour Christ cries out, *Wo unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because ye shut up the kingdom of heaven before men; for you yourselves go not in, neither suffer ye them that would enter to come in. Wo unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye devour widows houses, even under a colour of long prayers, wherefore ye shall receive the greater damnation,* Matth. xxiii. 13, 14.

Then, since it is so, that hypocrites are so much hated of God, let us endeavour to love one another with an entire and sincere affection.

In the first place, Let our souls, hearts, and minds be to love God, and to fear God; as he is the great Judge both of heaven and earth.

In the second place, Let us love ourselves, and seek after Christ for the saving of our souls.

In the third place, Let us relieve the household of faith, and love our neighbours as ourselves, that it may be said of us as it is said of faithful Enoch, that he walked with God. Let us leave off pride and envy, covetousness and drunkenness, swearing and whoredom, and let our daily practice be in the divine worship of God with pure devotion and unfeigned piety; let us relieve the poor without grudging, for charity is the brightest glory both in heaven and earth. The apostle Paul amplifies on the three supernatural Graces, *viz.* Faith, Hope, and Charity, 1 Cor. xiii. 13.

God, the omnipotent glory and divine Majesty, and charity, for he has sent his only begotten Son to suffer for our sins, and to redeem our drooping souls that lay wallowing in blood, and being dead in sins and trespasses, that by laying hold on Christ, we have free access to the tribunal seat of grace, to cry Abba, Father. Secondly, Christ Jesus, our blessed Redeemer, is charity, for he thought it no shame nor scorn, being equal to God, exalted above the sacred quire of angels, to become man, and undergo the persecution of the tyrannical Jews, at last to suffer his precious blood to be shed, and his flesh nailed to the cross, and all this to save his people from the punishment of eternal death. Thirdly, The Holy Ghost is charity, for whosoever hath the faith of Christ, hath the Holy Ghost to be his comforter. They need not fear that are stedfast in faith, what man can do to them, for man can destroy the body only : But fear God who can cast into hell both soul and body : And our Saviour saith, *Whosoever is brought before a Magistrate for the testimony of the truth, needs not fear what to speak, for the Holy Ghost will teach them,* Mark xiii. from the 9th, to the 14th verse.

Gentle reader, you shall find both the joys and sorrows the saints do endure ; but, says our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, *He that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

Then seeing it is so, that God is the God of us, and Christ the Sun of glory, let me exhort you all in the name of our blessed Redeemer, not to worship any other gods but him, neither in heaven nor in earth ; and let not the riches of the world steal away your hearts to adore money as

a god; nor let the vain pomps and pleasures
the world bewitch your hearts to worship the
gods; but let us worship the great God of heav
with fear, love, and reverence: let us pray
voutly, and praise his name continually, let
walk in his laws and ordinances, that we m
have his eternal love and blessing.

Let our meditation be upon Divinity, that o
reward may be in heaven; that when this earth
tabernacle of ours shall be dissolved, we may
received into the kingdom of glory: let the do
of our hearts and souls stand open, that when o
Saviour Jesus knocks, he may be received with
joyful welcome: For which fulness of goodne
and glory, let it be the desire of sinners earnest
to entreat our blessed Lord and Saviour to dra
us with the cables of his love to himself, and pla
us in the bottom of his love, where we shall
made more than conquerors thro' him that lov
us, Rom. viii. 33. John xvi. 3. *These thin
have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might ha
peace. In the world ye shall have affliction, but
of good cheer, I have overcome the world. Jo
x. 17, 18. Therefore doth the Father love m
because that I lay down my life to take it up aga
No man taketh it from me, but I lay it dow
and have power to take it up again. This co
mandment have I received from my Father.*

The love of God the Father, the grace of G
the Son, and the sweet and comfortable fello
ship of God the Holy Ghost, be with us all, bo
now and for evermore. Amen.

F I N I S.