

V. For convincing a man of righteousness to be had only by faith in Jesus Christ, consider how, *Rom. x. 3, 4,*

It is said, that the Jews, *being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God,* (and so they perished.) *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.* And Acts xiii. 39. *By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.* And 1 John i. 7. *The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

For convincing a man of judgment, if a man embrace this righteousness, consider 1 John iii. 8. *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.* And Heb. ix. 14. *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

But if a man embrace not this righteousness, his doom is pronounced, John iii. 18, 19. *He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.*

Hence let the penitent, desiring to believe, reason thus:

"What doth suffice to convince all the elect in the world of the greatness of the sin of not believing in Christ, or refusing to flee to him for relief from sins done against the law, and from wrath due thereto; and what sufficeth to convince them that righteousness and eternal life is to be had by faith in Jesus Christ, or by consenting to the covenant of grace in him; and what sufficeth to convince them of judgment to be exercised by Christ, for destroying the works of the devil in the man, and sanctifying and saving all that believe in him; may suffice to convince me also:

"But what the Spirit hath said, in these or other like scriptures, sufficeth to convince the elect world of the foresaid sin, and righteousness, and judgment:

"Therefore what the Spirit hath said, in these and other like scriptures, serveth to convince me thereof also."

Whereupon let the penitent desiring to believe take with him words, and say heartily to the Lord, Seeing thou sayest, *Seek ye my face;* my soul answereth unto thee, *Thy face, Lord, will I seek.* I have hearkened unto the offer of an everlasting covenant of all saving mercies to be had in Christ, and I do heartily embrace thy offer. Lord, let it be a bargain; *Lord, I believe; help my unbelief:* Behold, I give myself to thee, to serve thee in all things for ever; and I hope *thy right hand shall save me: the Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; forsake not the works of thine own hands.*

Thus may a man be made an unfeigned believer in Christ.