

Men in their natural state imagine that they can have some acquaintance with GOD and often seek to impress themselves and one another with their devotion to their ideas about what HE is like. They devise religions and other superstitions in order to define and give order to their philosophies about HIM and HIS dealings with men. Most often these concepts are centered in how they can influence HIM into bestowing HIS blessings on them. Cain was one of the very first men to demonstrate these traits. He devised an offering for the LORD which he thought was surely worthy of HIS notice. He soon found out that the LORD is the ONE who defines how and with what that men are allowed to approach unto HIM. He grew angry when he discovered that his offering was rejected by the LORD and slew the one who was approved by GOD. This has always been the pattern of natural men as they slew the prophets and finally rejected the ONE sent into the world by HIM to be the REDEEMER. Even now this same pattern is played out time and again and shall be even to the very end of the world as we know it.

The LORD has determined to bring HIS people to HIMSELF by a *“way which they knew not”*. Just as surely as HE has set the stars in their places and called them all by name, HE has determined to call HIS people, the sheep of HIS pasture and the apple of HIS eye, unto HIMSELF at a time appointed by HIM. We can proclaim the certainty of this even as Job spoke of GOD’s handiwork in setting the stars in place, but this does not make us acquainted with the ONE who sets the stars in place. Men often like to boast in their doctrine and even set up tests to determine who the children of GOD are by whether or not they adhere to their definition of certain doctrines. Yet it is not by perfect doctrinal knowledge that one is made acquainted with the ONE who is the REDEEMER but it is by the calling and operation of HIS SPIRIT, quite apart from the works of the flesh, that a man is enabled to know HIM. This “knowledge” is not that which can be taught by men nor can it be conferred by one man to another. David said, *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”* David knew as Paul did that GOD alone could bring a man into a place of rejoicing and understanding in a place of fellowship or communion with the GOD who inhabits eternity in reality and not in the imagination of men. Men imagine all sorts of vain things and assume that by their deeds and devotion that such blessedness comes. Some assume that because they are faithful proclaimers of GOD’s word that they must be included in the number of those who are known to HIM. Multitudes are convinced that their doctrinal scheme is the absolute truth which if they embrace tightly enough they too must be included along with their families as members of a covenant people. Yet the scripture plainly reveals that all of the promises of GOD are yea and amen in CHRIST and to all of those who are in HIM. Simply put HE is pleased to dwell with HIS elect and to call them out of the darkness and into HIS glorious light according to HIS design even as surely as we can survey the heavens and see the unchanging placement of the stars which HE has set forth. Yet the comfort of GOD’s children is not found in surveying the skies, their righteous deeds, nor even in their creeds and confessions but as Isaac Watts wrote:

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the PRINCE of glory died.

My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Can there ever be any greater place of comfort and rejoicing for the sons of GOD than in the SPIRIT led contemplation of the substitutionary atonement which the LORD JESUS CHRIST made for them?

Can I survey this scene of woe Where mingling grief and wonder flow?

And yet my heart unmoved remain, Insensible to love or pain?

Come, dearest Lord, thy power impart, To warm this cold and stupid heart;

Till all its powers and feelings move In melting grief and ardent love.

Do you find comfort in the glorious work of CHRIST?