

January 3

“Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” - 1 Corinthians 2:2

Picturing the cross as the Holy Spirit engraves it on the heart in spiritual regeneration, faith gently and effectually transforms the spirit, that was chafed and restless, into the “meekness and gentleness of Christ”: the whole soul receives Him whom it lifts up as its “wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30). Oh, what calmness steals over his ruffled soul! What peace flows into his troubled heart! What sunshine bathes in bright beams the dark spirit, who, from the scenes of his conflict and his sorrow, flees beneath the shadow and the shelter of the cross! The storm ceases; the deluge of his grief subsides; the Spirit, dove-like, brings the message of hope and love; the souls, tempest-tossed, rests on the green mount, and one unbounded spring clothes and encircles the landscape with its verdure and its beauty. Child, chastened by the Father’s love, look to the cross of your crucified Savior; and as fix upon it your believing, ardent, adoring gaze, exclaim,

Wearily for me thou soughtest,

On the cross my soul thou boughtest;

Lose not all for which thou wroughtest.

What is your sorrow, compared with Christ’s? What is your grief, gauged by your Lord’s? Your Master has passed before you, flinging the curse and the sin from your path, paving it with promises, carpeting it with love, and fencing it around with the hedge of His divine perfections. Press onward, then, resisting your foe resolutely, bearing your cross patiently, drinking your cup submissively, and learning, while sitting at the Savior’s feet, or leaning upon His bosom, to be like Him, “meek and lowly in heart.”