

into all men because all have sinned," says Paul (Romans 5:12 *Conyngton* ed.). Isaiah was surely as good a man as others in God's sight, but at the sight of deity he confessed his sin (Isaiah 6:5). At the end of his book he confessed for himself and his people that, "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6). The word is literally that our righteousnesses are like "menstruous cloths" and yet certain deluded men have thought that by sitting on a pillar or by wearing haircloth shirts they could be more righteous than they need to be and give some excess merit to others! Unclean and repulsive are their best works in the eyes of God when, "the stars are not pure in his sight. How much less man that is a worm." (Job 25:5). Daniel quailed, too, at the vision of God, "For my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength" (Daniel 10:8). John, the beloved disciple who only of the twelve was not killed for his faith, at the vision of God fell down as dead (Revelation 1:17). In the midst of his glorious vision he twice fell down by mistake before an angel to worship him, but was warned not to do so (Revelation 19:10; 22:8,9). And as John later writes the vision down in his book he glorifies Christ as "Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev.1:5).

But the matter of works of super^erogation can be settled by the one verse in Luke 17:10 where Jesus clearly tells His Apostles, "Even as you also, when you have done everything that was commanded you, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what it was our duty to do' " (*Conyngton* ed.)

The fact is Jesus paid it all. The consequences of our sin which we sometimes suffer here upon earth are in ~~not~~ way penal and in no case are said to extend beyond the grave. Saved by grace we pass at death immediately to glory. And no man can deny entrance