

servant of God by office, and to administer justice, executively or judicially, is legally serving the Lord. And this should be done with fear, fear of leaving the law of God and walking in the counsels of the ungodly.

I have now paved my way to the text. But before I take up the text, I will quote David's defence: "My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." Psalms 7:10, 11. Then comes in our text: "If he turns not;" that is, if the wicked, legally wicked. And as any violation of the law of the Lord is sin, it is wicked; and with this character God is legally angry every day; and against such is this conditional threat made. But the Arminian would have you believe that this text applies to the dead sinner; and therefore try to establish a conditional system of salvation. But our text is a law text, and in its bearings has nothing to do with the salvation of the soul; but it has much to do in the moral, social and political salvation and legal happiness of a nation. And hence Solomon says: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Now as you often complain at us, poor Old Side Baptists, for not giving you something to do, I perhaps, will give you more to-day, than you are willing to do. And now my hearers, just look around you and see our condition; can you find three neighbors, that are on even friendly terms; look at the back-biting, stealing, lying, murder, drunkenness, adultery, purjury, bribery, fraud, false swearing by witnesses, prejudicial verdicts by jurors, misrepresentations by lawyers and unjust decisions by judges. And the innocent are punished and the guilty go free. yet you say because these things are connected, as they are, with the executive and judicial world, that I as a preacher have no right to cry against it: "but if the watchman see the sword coming, and warn not the people," &c., and the sword destroy the people, "then will I require their blood at the watchman's hand;" "but if the watchman see the sword coming and warn the people, and they take not the warning and the sword destroy them, then will I require their blood at their own hands, but the watchman shall be clear." And I declare before God and man, that I have to the best of my ability, faithfully warned you, and now these hands of mine are clear of your blood, if the sword should take you all away. What do we Old Baptists insist upon? Is it not for a strict adherence to the law of the Lord? And what think you would be our condition if the people were walking and delighting in the law of the Lord? What would be the difference in our national affairs, if our judges, our governors, our presidents, our congress and legislative bodies were all

delighting in the law of the Lord? For if they delighted in it, they would walk by it in lieu of the counsels of the ungodly. But you see this blessed book that I hold in my hand, set at nought, and its righteous laws spurned at, from the peasant to the king upon his throne; and the world filled with the counsels of the ungodly, and after such counsels the king and his subjects are fast running; and the earth is filled with violence and every abomination; and you inhabitants around Abbott's Creek church are not exempt. And have you not been warned from this sacred desk by the old servants of God, whose remains now sleep in their faithful graves in yonder grave yard? Yea, fifty years past, they have blown the warning trumpet at this place in Zion; and now God says to me, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, it is nigh at hand," &c. Oh! is there not enough to cause the inhabitants to tremble! A general departure from the law of the Lord, and a general resort to the counsels of the ungodly, religiously first, and politically second, is the wickedness that God is angry with. And what, my brethren, have our ears been saluted with for the past thirty years, by the worshippers of Baal or the false prophets and teachers? Calling for every dime of money, saying that they would "evangelise" the world, and in '60 or '61 the 'Millenium' would come; and a Millenium it was, the world devilized and a war of cut-throats. And all this has sprung from the counsels of the ungodly, yet you will still feed and encourage these lying prophets, who have been leading you, your sons and your daughters, step by step, from the law of the Lord, by their pretended zeal for the heathen. And now let me tell you to-day, that I have a paper here in my pocket, taken from these lying prophets' reports, showing that it takes \$214 for the Methodist Episcopal Missionary to convert a single African, and still worse to convert an Indian to the same faith. The false prophet must have the almighty sum of \$965 for each Indian convert. Now you are all sinning, who credit these lying teachers. Israel never went astray till they were surrounded with false prophets, who by flattery drew them off, causing them to fall in with these ungodly counsels. And you around this place still sustain these false teachers, who have divided families, brothers and sisters, children and parents, yea and the church itself, together with the peace and quiet of the nation to which we belong. Oh my friends! I am a citizen in common with you; I am not a detached being, what is my good is for your good also, and I am giving you this warning for your good and mine, that we may, in and out of the church, turn from every violation of

God's law, and avert his heavy judgments. For if the sinner turn not he will whet his sword; oh, do you not hear him whetting his sword in thunders, do you not see his sword glittering in the lightnings, can you not hear his sword roaring in the mighty seas, and do you not see his sword in the burning volcanoes, and in agitated rivers and lakes, even in our own country. Some time back in one of the Northern lakes, the waters rose suddenly 4 or 5 feet above high water, and then sunk 2 feet below low water, all in about fifteen minutes. Is not all this warning to us, that if he turn not He will whet His sword. You that have swine fattened, generally when you get ready to kill, you give evidences of your intention by whetting your knife, and although the swine is unconscious of the danger they are in, and are fat and flourishing, yet you have determined to slay them. But after you slay several of them the others become instinctively taught, to know there is danger. So it is with the people of this generation, they as are the swine, fat and flourishing, in the counsels of the wicked, and are at ease in their corruption, yet, "if he turn not He will whet His sword." This is a conditional law expression, and the condition is, if you all legally turn from the violation of the law of the Lord, and delight you in the law, and forsake the counsels of the ungodly and drop the false teachers, then he will stay his judgments, but "if he turn not He will whet His sword."

"He hath bent his bow, and made it ready." This signifies that His judgments are all ready; His bow bent and strung. But we see how long suffering God is with the wicked. He marches slowly with warnings and threats. But has not the whetted sword been used in our midst? The wicked is God's sword. Hence David prays, saying, "Deliver me from the wicked, which is thy sword." And notwithstanding the North has been the sword in the hand of the Lord to punish the South, because she turned not, yet this sword is the wicked, and God is an enemy with the wicked every day. And His seven vials of wrath is and will be poured out upon them in some way, if they turn not.

I come now to the 13th verse: "He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors." We have no need of preparing any instruments for the death of our enemies, for vengeance belongs to the Lord, and not to us, and He has them all prepared. He also has His arrows all ordained against the persecutors. I have no use for weapons; I never went armed in my life. But remember, you persecutors and oppressors, that God has His arrows all pointed and laid up upon His shelf for you, and His instruments of death are

ready. I have felt impressed for some time, that the time is not far distant, when the faithful servants who boldly expose every grade of sin, will have to preach through iron grates, and I perhaps will be one of them. Oh! my dear ministering brethren, in the stand, be strong in the Lord, and when these trials come, remember, that "the eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are his everlasting arms." If die I must, I had rather die a faithful martyr of the cross, than to die any other death.

I will now in conclusion, speak a little of the powers of the Gospel, and try to show you the difference between the law and the Gospel, and between the Scriptures and the false teachers. Gosselly, the sinner is dead in trespasses and in sins. But the false teacher says he is alive so he can work. The Scripture says, "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him." The false teacher says you can all come. The Scripture says you are saved by grace. The false teacher says you are saved by works and grace. The Saviour says, "The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live." The false teacher says you all hear, but won't live.

Oh! I well recollect when I heard that wonderful voice, as of seven thunders, that caused me to live in His sight; that resurrected all the faculties of my soul to a sense of guilt and ruin; that opened my eyes to see my inward parts, and caused me to cry, alas for I am undone, for mine eyes have seen the Lord. That unstopped my ears, and so loud and terrific was His thunders of justice against me that I was sure I was sinking down to hell. I never saw such a cloud of sin hanging over any other as I saw over my soul. And as I strove to rise, the lower I sank, till I thought I was past the day of grace, and my doom was forever sealed; but as I sank I cried, Lord if I can be saved have mercy upon me a lost sinner, at which instant, my burden of sin was rolled away and I could not see it for the glory of God any more. I verily thought I was soaring to glory and to God. So sure was I of this blessed change of worlds, that it was some time before I could tell whether I was in the body or out of the body. But I must bring my remarks to a close soon. And now to the poor penitent sinner, let me say to you, that this blessed Saviour is all your chance. He is mighty and able to save to the utmost all that come unto God by him. Come, come away, then from self; He will in no wise cast you out.

And now may the Lord bless truth, delivered first and last to the benefit of saint and sinner, and to the glory of His grace, is my desire for Jesus sake. Amen.