

er of men?" This confession is made under a sense of sin and guilt, attended with an indescribable pain of heart, and a fervent prayer for mercy and pardon, with a returning to God, saying, "I will arise, and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." Matthew 15:18. Sin also, when truly felt, produces a sense of unworthiness. "And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." (21st verse.) Oh! how unworthy we feel, when we go astray, and wander in forbidden paths! But how blind we are, while spending our substance of peace, in riotous living, in the enjoyment of the world and of the flesh, forgetting at the time that we are going astray, until our lives have wasted our peace, then we begin to feel the pinch of famine in our souls. This lashing of conscience brings us to our self, or to our spiritual senses, and we begin to hate what we have just enjoyed. What was one minute ago sweet to us, is now bitter to the soul as gall, and in a flash, we exclaim: "I have sinned!" and the next breath is, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned." What an honest heart is that, that can approach an offended God, and say, "I have sinned." Such an one feels that their crimes are such as will forever render them unworthy to be called His son, or a christian; hence he writes against himself, "and am no more worthy to be called thy son." But did his wanderings, his sense of unworthiness, or his sins, *turn the love of his father* from him? If so, why did he say to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him"? Oh! *love!* Oh! wondrous *love!* What hast thou done, what art thou now doing, and what wilt thou yet do? Hence Job saith, "I have sinned," and he turned to the Lord and was pardoned. The prodigal son said, "I have sinned," and he returned to his father's house, and found mercy. David was a man of God, yet he sinned, and goes to God to confess his faults, saying, "Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight." Psalms 51:4. Hence he comes to God praying to be washed with hyssop, and for God to create in him a clean heart, and to renew a right spirit within him. This is also the prayer of every christian who transgresses

God's law, and can say of a truth, "I have sinned." Again, David tells us what steps he took, after he had sinned, saying, "I said, Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I sinned against thee." Psalms 41:4. David's sense of sins committed, caused him to confess them to God, and ask for mercy, not *justice*. David went astray when he numbered Israel. Hence he says, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing, but now I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly." Psalms 24:8. So the christian sins, and confesses to God, and turns from and abhors his sins, and obtains mercy of the Lord. The christian sees the sword of justice drawn against his sins at times, so that he not only says, "I have sinned" but that I have sinned wickedly, or knowingly. "And David spake unto the Lord, when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly." Psalms 24:17. But he turns and builds an altar, and offers sacrifice to God, and the Lord accepted him, though he had sinned. Again, David, when off his guard, sinned a compound sin, for he committed adultery with Uriah's wife, and then to keep from confessing his sin, and to conceal the truth, he had Uriah put to death. But when God sent Nathan with a parable to him, he said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord; and Nathan said unto David, the Lord also hath put away thy sin: thou shalt not die." Psalms 12:13. David condemned himself to death by the law of Moses, saying, "The man that hath done this thing shall surely die." 5th vs. But God had mercy and pardon, grace and truth, treasured up in Christ for David, so he escaped justice, through mercy. His life, offered to justice through the law, would have went for his sin; but Christ's righteousness, offered to justice, through mercy, released him. Hence justice was satisfied, David humbled, and mercy admired. We will now notice the manner in which the ungodly say, "I have sinned." Men often confess, with an air of dignity, that they have sinned, or that they are poor sinners, when they do not feel a single pang of sin, but do it boastingly, while the christian says, "I have sinned," with an earthquake in his heart and soul, that rends his temple in twain from bottom to top. Again, men say, "I have sinned," when

God's naked bow is turned loose upon them in judgments and plagues, they also confess that the Lord is righteous, as it is written: "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, *I have sinned* this time: the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked." Exodus 9:27. But this confession did not cause him nor his people to love the Lord, nor to ask for forgiveness of their sins, but for Moses to entreat the Lord that there be no more terrific thunderings and hail, (the frightful storms of conscience.) When the Lord terrified Baalam, he said, "I have sinned," Numbers 22:44, though his heart was hard enough to curse Israel.—Some times wicked men will confess they have sinned, because they think their deeds are known, and that confessing it their time punishment will be lessened, as it is written, "And Achan answered Joshua and said, indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus, and thus have I done." But he did not feel after nor turn to God. Again, men acknowledge that they have sinned in order to hold their position in office, as it is written of king Saul: "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandments of the Lord, and thy words: because I teared the people, and obeyed their voice, 1 Sam. 15:24; his confession afterwards shows his first confession to be a confession of policy, and not of principle, as it is written of him, saying: "Then he said, I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord thy God, (30th verse); *thy God*, (Samuel's God) not Saul's God. Again, the ungodly are constrained by Divine power to confess that they have sinned in order that their own testimonies shall be a witness against themselves, and for those they are trying to condemn; such was the confession of Judas, as it is written of him, "saying I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood."—Math. 27:4. But instead of his doing better afterwards, he did worse, for he committed self-murder, instead of asking for mercy. Judas confessed that he had sinned under the terror of a guilty conscience, and committed suicide to get out of the indignation of the Lord. But the christian says, "I have sinned" and am willing to bear the indignation of the

Lord, as it is written of them saying: "I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness." Micah 7:9. Hence, we see and feel that the christian sins great as well as small sins, but the difference in his confession and the confession of the wicked is, that the christian repents, and turns to the Lord saying, "I have sinned," Lord pardon my sin, while the wicked says "I have sinned" but keeps on in his way. Then if any of us sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. Then let us go to him and say, "I have sinned" and beg his mercy, and intercession with the Father for us.—For He saith "And him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." Then may God help us to go to Him with all our sins, large ones, as well as small ones, He knows our weakness, was touched with our infirmities, and hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, and with His stripes only are we healed. Then dear christian, if you are weak, and tempted, and have sinned, do not despair, but remember the greatest christians have committed the greatest sins. Then let us continually go to him, and tell Him we have "sinned," and beg Him to be merciful to our unrighteousness, and to restore unto us the joys of His salvation.—Ed.

We have just learned, by letter from the bereaved companion, that our beloved brother, Elder A. P. Eanes, of Virginia, departed this life on the 2d of October 1870, in the 70th year of his age. An appropriate obituary notice of this aged servant of the Lord will appear hereafter.

APPOINTMENTS.

Elder JOHN H. DANIEL will preach as follows:
At White Oak, Saturday and Sunday, 5th and 6th November.
Lower Black Creek, Monday 7th.
At David A. Scott's, on Tuesday 8th.
Contentna, on Wednesday 9th.
Wilson, Thursday 10th.
Old Town Creek, Saturday and Sunday, 12th and 13th.

Elder JAS. S. DAMERON will preach as follows:
December 14th, 1870, Falls Tar River.
" 15th, Williams'.
" 16th, Deep Creek.
" 17th, Kehukee.
" 18th, Concho.
" 19th, Spring Green.
" 20th, Skewarkey.
" 21st, Flat Swamp.
" 22nd, Great Swamp.
" 23rd, Tyson's.
January 1, 1871, Meadow.
" 2d, White Oak.
" 3d, Wilson.