

Letter to [John Arundel], 5 September 1837

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Dear Sir.

Being very desirous, for some years past, to devote my life to the of missions, and thinking, at one time, that my education for that purpose be prosecuted throughout by the fruits of my own industry; after a of one season at some medical, and other classes I find that this nearly impracticable: Observing frequent appeals for missionaries, the Evangelical Magazine, and talking over the matter to my pastor Rev.nd M.^r Moir of the Independant church, Hamilton, I was encouraged offer myself to your society: and, subsequently, I received information to an account of my christian experience, Doctrinal views, and Christian , which I now endeavour shortly to give.

Through the merciful providence of a gracious god, it was my privelege to enjoy the , example, and prayers, of pious parents, who still walk before god in the of the living. These, however, had no effect on my desperately wicked heart, only to restrain me, in some measure, from outward immorality; When about my year, I was visited with great distress of mind on account of my sinfulness, and desire to possess the peace of mind, and happiness, which I felt convinced, true christian alone enjoyed, This I could not attain, because of my looking within for an effect, which I thought must be produced there, by spirit of god, ere I could be entitled to take the benefit of the gospel, and delusion being strengthened by some preaching, which I then heard, my only appeared to be, just to wait the good pleasure [of] god. Thus, continuing to look for ground of hope, than the finished work of christ, I found neither peace nor

[0002] , which caused me, (never having revealed the state of my mind to any one) often to my sad state with tears in secret. The anxiety of my mind after some time abated a perpetual uneasiness, a soreness of heart still remained, which no amusements nor pursuit could assuage, Until in my nineteenth year, it pleased god in mercifull & compassion to shew me my folly & error, by means of a work, entitled,

"The Philosophy of a future state," previous to reading which though sceptical thoughts not actually entertained, concerning the reality of the existence of such a state it had no influence whatever on [^][my] conduct, If I bestowed on them a thought had no attractions for me, and Hell was never an object of alarm. But now full conviction of their relation to me, filled my mind, and I likewise felt that the work of Christ was the only ground on which I could hope to find peace my soul here, and enjoy the prospects of bliss hereafter, and enabled by divine to cast myself on the mercy of god through Christ. a peace and joy entered heart, to which till then I had been an entire stranger. This has been interrupted by unbeleiving doubts & fears, but with the help a gracious god, I have been enabled to dismiss these, by repairing to the only of the sinner, the lamb that was slain. and now, trusting that he will keep from falling, through life, and believing he will save me at last, not for anything am, or can do, for I see nothing in me nor about me to merit such great mercy on the contrary every thing deserving the wrath and curse of god through eternity: solely, through his own sovrein grace & love, flowing through the propitiatory blood Jesus Christ his son.

That, the scriptures of the old and new Testaments, are a revelation of the will god to fallen man, this being attested by such evidence as no one with [an] unbiased can resist. That they contain a perfect rule of faith and practice. "All

[0003] being given by inspiration of god, and profitable for doctrines for , for correction, for instruction in righteousness," From these we learn that is one god, in three persons, Father, son, and holy spirit; that he is the creator , and moral governor of the universe___That man was created by him holy happy. but broke his law, and introduced rebellion into the world, thereby the favour and image of god, and entailing sin and misery on himself and all posterity, "By one man sin entered into the world," and "by one man's disobedience were made sinners"___The total depravity of all men, "There is none righteous, no, not one" 's righteous law being violated, man might have been justly condemned to eternal , the desert of his sin, but god, in infinite mercy and love, devised a whereby the claims of his justice are satisfied and the sinner saved, By the substitutive sufferings & death of his own son, who offered himself, a sacrifice without spot . Thus, procuring a righteousness, which is unto, and upon all them that [...] sinner who renounces his self-righteousness, and places all his dependance on the righteousness of christ, is justified before god. and assisted by the spirit of god, works out his deliverance from the pollution of sin- all are invited to accept salvation through Christ because of the moral depravity of man, a divine influence is necessary to make him to receive it, which is promised to all who ask it; and those who choose to reject this must perish___That the son is truly & properly god, equal with the Father- The divinity personality of the holy spirit___Resurrection and final Judgement___Eternity of future bliss & punishment ___Weekly communion___Congregational or Independent form of church government, in some degree that happiness which the gospel imparts, and feeling, in some , my obligation to redeeming love, it is my earnest desire to consecrate my whole to the advancement of the cause of our blessed redeemer in the world, thereby endeavouring evince my love & gratitude to him "who though rich, yet for our sakes became poor"

David Livingston

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