



Seeing Ourselves

We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. – Isa. 64:6

The Holy Ghost convicts of sin. Men cease to be self-complacent when He comes. Self-righteousness is seen to be a sheet too short to cover us; our moral and spiritual nakedness is exposed. Our pride is rebuked, and we are ashamed. Our eyes are opened, and we see how self-deceived we have been – how un-Christlike in our tempers, how corrupt in our desires, how selfish in our ambitions, how puffed up in our vainglory, how slow to believe, how quick to excuse ourselves and justify our own way. How far from God we have wandered; how unfit for heaven we have become!

And He thus reveals us to ourselves in love that He may save us, as a wise and good physician shows us our disease in order to get our consent to be cured. But His supreme work of conviction is to convince us how hopelessly we miss the mark because we do not from the heart believe on and trust in Christ. This is the sin we do not recognize as sin until He convinces us of it: "Of sin, because they be-lieve not on me."

*O wash me now, without, within,
O purge with fire, if that must be!
No matter how, if only sin
Die out in me; die out in me.*

John 16:9