

The best of men who ever lived, have come short of fulfilling the law of God.

Whether it be Moses, who went up from the mountain of Nebo, and God said to him "thou shalt not go over into the promised land," and buried him in the land of Moab; or David, to whom God said, "thou shalt not build a house to my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight."

Whether it be Peter who denied his Lord, or Judas who betrayed him; all have come short of the glory of God, except, reclaimed and saved, through the atonement of Jesus Christ.

"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death passed upon all men."

We need not look back to the ancient cities of the plain, Sodom and Gomorrah, for evidence of the inherent sinfulness of human nature.

Trace human history from the early dawn of creation, down to this morning of the twentieth century.

From Sinai, the thunders of the Law of God, have come echoing down to us in this fair city of Illinois, a very garden-spot of earth, here to meet with conditions and evidences of human depravity, such as might cause angels to weep, and archangels to mourn. Our criminal, and our juvenile courts alike, demonstrate the terrible consequences of sin.

The adaptation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to raise humanity from its fallen state, to enter into the soul of the repentant,—to renew and sanctify the believer; this is what Christ commissioned his disciples to set forth, the glad tidings that "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life for the sins of many."

To His *unbounded goodness, greatness, mercy and love*, we ascribe the opening of the way of life. Transcendent theme—worthy of an angel's tongue.

How did he abolish death?

By his life and teachings, by his death and resurrection from the dead.

Before the tragedy of Calvary, as he looked forward to that dark hour in which the earth did quake, and the veil of the temple was rent in twain, he said, "I have power to lay down my life * * * and I have power to take it again."