

this message without going to the stake or to the dungeon, and ~~the~~ Southern Europe sank into ^a darkness which lasted ^{for} two or three centuries and far exceeded anything ~~we have~~ ^{it had} known in the time of ^{the} Reformation. And in ~~the~~ Northern Europe the gospel spread and there were many who came to know the Lord ~~who never knew Him~~ ^{than they had ever known} before, but then during the ^{more} last century unbelief has come into ⁱⁿ and many of our cities you can hunt and hunt before you find a place where the gospel is preached. The simple idea that everybody on earth has a simple choice. ^{Accept} ~~Accept~~ the Lord ^{and he saves you} and ~~you are not saved~~ ^{don't accept Him and you are not saved, just that}. There is all there is to it. ~~It~~ ^{It} simply does not fit the facts, ^{Too} facts are more involved than ^{they} appears to us at first sight. So, we ~~as~~ Christians have to face this situation and we cannot face it properly ~~if~~ we do not understand the ~~first~~ ^{first} vital truth of the Old Testament and ^{of} of the Scripture as a whole, which I wish to speak this morning, the terrible nature of sin. Now, under that I want to touch upon four features. First of these is ^{the} source, which we dealt with yesterday. Adam was given absolute freedom of choice. He was given a perfect free environment. And he had ~~three~~ choices. Would he follow God or would he ~~turn away from him~~ ^{follow} and fall into sin. ~~None of us~~ ^{None of us have a} had free ^a choice ^{as Adam had.} ~~than that.~~ The force of sin pulls us. We all have the force of sin pulling on us all through ~~our~~ lives. But Adam was given this free choice and in this situation he ~~has come~~ ^{succumbed} to the temptation of Satan and he fell and sin came into the world, and as a result of sin death ~~came~~ came into the world. Now, ^{Why} did God have to permit sin ^{to} to come into the world? Why did ~~He~~ ^{have to} permit Satan to fall? Why did ~~He~~ have to permit man to fall? There are matters in the constitution of the universe which we ~~cannot~~ ^{cannot} simply settle with a simple ^{phrase.} ~~word~~. Our Westminster Confession