

# THIS MAN RECEIVETH SINNERS

The Rev. George Whitefield, the famous 18th century preacher, had a brother who sadly fell from his profession and lived for a number of years in a backslidden and careless state.

The time came when he was roused to a perception of his spiritual and eternal danger, but shortly afterwards he sank into melancholy and despondency. One afternoon, he was drinking tea with Selina, the Countess of Huntingdon, who sought to raise his hopes by speaking to him about the infinite mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

For a while it seemed to be all in vain. "My Lady," he said, "I know what you say is true. The mercy of God is infinite. I see it clearly. But ah! my Lady, there is no mercy for me. I am a wretch, entirely lost."

"I am glad to hear it, Mr. Whitefield," said Lady Huntingdon, "I am glad at my heart that you are a lost man." He looked at her with great surprise and shock. "What! my Lady, glad? Glad at your heart that I am a lost man?" "Yes, Mr. Whitefield, truly glad," said her Ladyship, "for Jesus Christ came into the world to save the lost!"

Mr. Whitefield put down his cup of tea on the table. Then he said, "Blessed be God for that." "Glory to God for that word," he exclaimed. "Oh what unusual power is this which I feel attending it! Jesus Christ came to save the lost! Then I have a ray of hope." And so he proceeded.

As he finished his cup of tea, his hand trembled, and he complained of feeling unwell. He went out of the house for air: he staggered, then he was brought in. Shortly afterwards he died.

The Lord Jesus Himself said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10); and similarly did the apostle Paul write, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). O, believe it, dear friends. It is true!