

Calvary

Years ago a party of people were trekking the vast prairies of what are now the Middle Western States of America. These prairies were covered with tall, dry grass. They had passed a river the day before and were going on with their covered wagons and cattle when suddenly they were horrified to see a thin red line across the western horizon. They cried out with fear, "The prairie is on fire! What can we do?" The dry grass was to their shoulders, the river was now a day's journey behind them, and they knew of no barrier ahead of them that might hold the flames back.

One of the group was used to pioneer life. He said, "Clear a space and set fire to the grass behind you." They did this, and the wind carried the flame away towards the river. "Now", he said, "come onto the charred ground – and you will be safe." And so they took their stand there. They could now feel the heat of the fire on their cheeks; and one frightened little girl cried, "Are you sure we won't be burnt up?" "Don't be afraid", the old pioneer said, "the flames can never reach us here: we

are STANDING WHERE THE FIRE HAS BEEN.

When a sinner takes his stand at the place called Calvary, making what once happened there the sole ground of his trust, he is standing where the fire has been, and there the judgment of divine wrath can never reach him. He is perfectly and for ever safe because he is relying for his salvation upon the redeeming death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In God's great mercy, the believing sinner's Substitute was put to death upon the Cross that there may be deliverance from God's Judgment, Law and Wrath. By Christ's death, the believer's state has been wonderfully changed. Once threatened with damnation on account of his sins, he is now delivered from all evil and from every fear. "We did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted; but he was wounded for our transgressions" (Isaiah 53:4,5); "Jesus... delivered us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10); "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36).