

A Conversion in Ayr Prison

There have been many noted men in prison who have felt the saving power of the gospel.

Robert Fleming, in one of his best known books, records a case which clearly proves that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, even in the experience of the degraded and the criminal.

He records the experience of a notorious criminal who had been sentenced to death in Ayr. He was so foolish and hardened, that those who knew him thought that he was beyond the pale of grace and the reach of hope. But while this man was in prison, the Lord wonderfully wrought on his heart. He began to think of his past life and the extreme sinfulness of his heart. Then, after much serious exercise and sore wrestling, a most gracious work of repentance followed, with great assurance of mercy.

This continued to be his experience, and he was so rooted and grounded in the truth, that when at the last he came to the place of execution, he could not cease crying out to the people under the sense of pardon and the comforts of the

presence and favour of God, "Oh, He is a great forgiver! He is a great forgiver!"

He spoke further, and said, "Now hath perfect love cast out all fear, I know God hath nothing against me, for Jesus Christ hath paid all; and those are free whom the Son makes free."

His end was one of transport and joy, and by his death he exhibited God's marvellous grace, raising him above the experience of other men who, not long before, seemed in some respects on a level with, if not below, the very beasts of creation.

True it is, Christ saves to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.