

Netden Bridge April 1857.

To the Baptist Church
meeting at St. Bridge.

For some time previous to
my beginning to attend the Inquirers' meetings
my mind was often impressed with holy
& divine truths; but these were too - much
like the 'morning cloud & early dew which
appeareth for a little while & then vanisheth
away'. Since I have been accus-
tomed to come to these meetings, - which
I can say, I have always done, with
much pleasure, & I hope profit too -
I have been more deeply affected with
holy things, & my desires have been more
anxious that I may know the "truth
as it is in Jesus". I have frequently
thought of that hymn "That awful day
will surely come, The appointed time draws
nigh": & my conscience has accused
me of being unprepared to appear before God,
with all the burden of my guilt upon
me, with which I feel to be justly

chargeable, for I feel as the Scriptures declare, that the "heart of man is deceitful above all things, & desperately wicked", that all have sinned & done evil in God's sight - & that I have sinned against my God, Maker & Preserver in heart & life, broken His holy laws, & am therefore exposed to His displeasure. I would mourn with sincere penitence & sorrow over my past sinful thoughts & desires, & humbly hope that as He has said - "Let the wicked forsake his way, & the unrighteous man his thoughts, let him return unto the Lord & he will have mercy upon him, & to our God, for he will abundantly pardon him" - "Whom that cometh to me I will, in no wise cast out." Seek me early, & ye shall find me" - that he would have mercy upon me, & forgive ~~all~~ ^{my} sins.

I believe that Christ ^{& suffered} died in the room & stead of sinners - & that He is able & willing to save to the very uttermost, that if I am saved it must be through Christ, for "there is no other name given under heaven, whereby men can be saved." & "whosoever believeth on Him shall be saved."

My prayer ever is "Lord I believe, help my unbelief". My hope for pardon & acceptance with God, is on the grounds of Christ's death & atonement - I have nothing, & can do nothing to obtain God's favor, but with the poet say

"Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to the cross I cling"

I pray that Christ may become more & more precious unto me, & know more of Him, & love & serve Him better; that the Holy Spirit may guide me into all truth, & lead me in the ways I should go - in the paths that lead to God's right hand even to everlasting life. -

My desire is to follow Christ, & obey Him, & in accordance with His commands I feel willing to confess Him in the ordinance of Baptism, if you think proper to receive me amongst you.

Begging a remembrance in your prayers,

I am, dear Christian friends
Yours very truly
John Wade