

Hephzibah Crosby, April 9, 1749  
Transcribed by Prof. Ross W. Beales, Jr.

I believe that there is but one god over all, who made and governs all Things according to his own Will; and that this one God is in 3 Persons, Father, son and holy Ghost: I believe that as I was born, so I must dye, and that I Shall rise again at the last Day to Judgment -- I bless God I was born in this Land of Gospel Light, and of religious Parents that gave me up to God in Baptism, while I was young and that they taught me the true Religion: that I have had the word of God to read, and that I have had the word preachd to me from Time to Time; that by these Means there has been shewn to me the lost Condition I am in by Nature, and that the only way for me who am a sinner to become Justified and righteous before God is only by the merite of Christ's Blood -- if I shall not be found pardond and justifyd throught [*sic*] Christ in the great Day I must perish for ever, Therefore I desire to accept of Him as He is offered in the Gospel to be my prophet to teach, my Priest to atone Divine Justice for me, my King to rule in and reign over me.

I have for Some Time had a Desire to come to the Table of the Lord for He has Said do This in Remembrance of me, but knowing my own unworthiness<sup>1</sup> I was afraid -- but then being awakend by the word and providences of God, I am resolved humbly to come and give up my self to God and his people. It pleased God to visit me of late with a fit of Sickness and I was brought low, but He helped me: In my Distress I *cryed unto* the Lord and He heard my Cry and He deliverd me from going down to the pit.<sup>2</sup> What Shall I render unto the L. for all His Benefits towards Me? I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord, I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the Presence of all his people. And by reading the holy Scriptures,<sup>3</sup> especially that part of it that sett's forth the Humiliations of Christ his afflicted Life, his bitter

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<sup>1</sup>Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24-25; 1 Cor.11:28.

<sup>2</sup>Job 33:24, 28.

Death and suffering, and all to make Satisfaction to divine Justice for sinners, has been very awakening to me and for my Encouragement. I have also found by reading his word in other parts of it very gracious Invitations to come as Isa: 55.1. Mat. 11.28. and onward -- Rev. 22.17. Joh. 6.37. and many other places by which I have been induced to come.

But tho I have experiencd much Enlightening and humbling and been some times encourag'd yet I have had great Concern and been in great Trouble questioning myself whether I had been thorowly humbled before God, whether I have accepted Christ aright, and whether my Hope was not a vain Hope. I acknowledge, it is one Thing to say what one has heard or read or got by rote, and another thing what a person has really felt and experiencd; therefore I would not offer any thing but what I hope I have really found. for, not only has God been pleasd to awaken me, and his holy Spirit has been Striving with me -- but I have considerd the End God had in making me, that I might glorify Him what ever I can; and that God had such love to us as to send his son to dye for us when he had no need of us or any Thing we could do to make him any Thing more Glorious or happy. These having deeply affected me, I hope it is not Merely from Fear of Misery, or Desire of Happiness, but I hope out of a sense of Duty and Gratitude, from an hatred of sin and regard to Holiness, that I would come to Him: and I hope I have been brought to see that no Dutys or Goodness of mine can justifie me before God and having Seen the readiness and willingness of Christ to receive them that come to Him, I hope I find my Self willing to come and accept of Him. There is a great Difference between giving the Hand (in profession) and giving the Heart to the Lord. I think I have a Willingness to give up my self wholly to the Lord, there being no better way of disposing of my self than to devote my self, soul and Body to Him the remainder of my Days here; to *bind* my self, and to *Seal* my Bonds to him I have considerd my

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<sup>3</sup> Marginal notation: Ps.116.12.13.14.

Baptism also and the very solemn Bonds thereof and that it is a throwing away my Baptism if I do not come to this. I desire to be truly humbled for my Neglects of the Duty of giving my self up to God, in time past. Indeed I have often thought I *did do* this; tho not without fear whether I was Sincere -- but I find there must be a full and intire Resolution -- and ought to be able to appeal to God that knows all Things that it is in Uprightness of Heart. I have also often thought how strict those ought to walk who so solemnly Bind themselves: but I trust the Thought of binding my self to do what in me lyes will be no sufficient pull-back to me; for tho I can do nothing of my self, yet by the Help of G's Grace I would humbly Engage -- not without fear lest if I be left to my self, I should dishonor God and bring a Scandal to this high and holy Profession. Upon the whole, I humbly ask admittance among You, and whatsoever any body hath at any Time seen amiss in Me, I earnestly ask their forgiveness of, and I desire humbly to put my self under the Government of this Church requesting your kind and faithfull Watch over Me at all Times; and I ask your Prayers for me that I may walk agreeable to these solemn Engagements; and that I may not only be a Member of the visible Church, but that I may at last sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, and drink of that Wine that is ever *New* with God in Glory.

Hepzibah Crosby

\*Received from her partly in writing, and partly from her own Mouth.