

and tutor come back and find them there, the more timid cease their instructions. Those who are bolder advise the children to defy their parents. They whisper that till they are alone they can teach them no more. They slink away with them into the women's apartment, or bid them come and learn the ways of perfection in their own workshops.

I speak bitterly about this, says Celsus, because I feel bitterly. When we are invited to the Mysteries, the masters use another tone. They say, 'Come to us, ye who are of clean hands and pure speech, ye who are unstained by crime, ye who have a good conscience towards God, ye who have done justly and lived uprightly.' The Christians say, 'Come to us, ye who are sinners, ye who are fools or children, ye who are miserable, and ye shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.' The rogue, the thief, the burglar, the poisoner, the spoiler of temples and tombs, these are their proselytes. Christ, they say, was sent to save sinners; was he not sent to help those who have kept themselves free from sin? They pretend that God will save the unjust man if he repents and humbles himself. The just man, who has held steady from the cradle in the ways of virtue, He will not look upon. We are to confess ourselves to be sinners, and to pray and sob for pardon. The