

washed, and let not man find fault with God's work. "What God has cleansed call not thou common or unclean." "According to your faith so be it unto you." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith;" and "we, that is, "whosoever is begotten of God sinneth not. But he that was begotten of God keeping him, and the evil one toucheth him not. He that is with you is greater than he that is in the world."

Verse 10 says in effect, if we persist in claiming that we have not sinned, yet our lack of soul rest, peace, fellowship and fulness of joy, evident to ourselves and others, are by our blindness and hardness of heart, saying that God is the liar. All instinctively feel that there ought to be fellowship with God and brethren in Christ, if there is no positive sin of which they are guilty. "God is not man, that He can lie." Dare any one by their own unbelief, pride or blindness of heart, accuse God of lying? "Honesty is the best policy." No one should any longer claim to be in fellowship with God while they walk in darkness or constantly commit sin, feeling the need of daily confession, of having sinned in thought, word and deed. And no one should profess to live without sinning, unless he is filled with and walking obediently in the comfort, wisdom and power of the Holy Ghost; always doing the will of God on earth, as it is done in heaven.

THREE PICTURES IN 1ST CHAPTER 1ST JOHN.

1st. Christians.—The fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ, fulness of joy by walking in God who is light, and walking in Him there is no darkness at all, sin is dispelled and holiness enjoyed.

2nd. Liars.—Those professing to enjoy fellowship, yet walking in darkness or sinning in thought, word or deed every day. Sin and fellowship with God and one another are rendered impossible by walking in darkness or by sinning.

3rd. Deceived ones.—All professing to have no sin to confess, or that they are not guilty of positive sin, yet are out of harmony and fellowship with God and

one another, are deceived. The sin ought to be sought out, confessed, forgiven and cleansed away, or we deceive ourselves. Sin is necessarily present in the soul and life if fellowship with God and one another is not experienced.

Sin alone breaks fellowship; where no sin is, fellowship is enjoyed constantly with God and one another.

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Galt, Oct. 5th, 1891.

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT.

The letter killeth—the Spirit giveth life. "Ye search the Scriptures and they are they which testify of Me; but ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life."

The Jews came to the Lord Jesus with the Bible in their hands with the result above stated. They preferred the letter to the life. It is just as true in this day as in the days when the Lord Jesus was upon the earth, that men prefer the letter to the life. Nearly the whole of Christendom observes the Lord's Supper. The letter that they observe is "this do till I come." May not this letter kill? What about those other words of the Lord Jesus, "He shall guide you into all truth." Is Christendom killed with an observance of this letter? Is it as universally true that Christians are "divinely guided" as that they observe the Lord's Supper? But the Spirit must guide in harmony with the Word. Then what letter is it that kills? Jesus said, "This do till I come." He also said, "Be perfect." Not one jot or one tittle of this word can pass away till all be fulfilled. Can observance of these commands kill? Everybody is willing to eat the Lord's Supper, to do this till I come. Nobody is willing to be perfect. How is this? Everybody is willing to be guided by the Holy Ghost in harmony with that word which says, "Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness," and universal baptism is the outcome. But when it comes to being guided in harmony with that other word which says, "do the will," how many are so guided? Not to do the will in baptism and the Lord's Supper only, but to