

implies a connexion of thought. And by this grammatical and logical connexion their right application must be determined. It would be exceedingly wrong to interpret a passage without its context or contrary to its context. We must, therefore, look back to find the subject of these connected observations.

We point to the 17th verse. Having, previously to this, stated how persons may become the children of God, he, in this verse, proceeds to announce :—

**Ver. 17.** And if children, then heirs ; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Now, it is obvious that the words of this verse, have a meaning nearly related to those we want to expound aright. . As the 29th verse speaks of being conformed to the image of the Son as the first step, so does the 17th verse speak of suffering with Christ ; as the 30th verse speaks of being glorified in consequence, so does the 17th verse. And as this verse contains the first statement of the topic, so it definitely teaches us, in what respect we were to be conformed to the image of the Son. It was very important to state this. For, as the conformity of men, to one who was God as well as man, can only be “in part,” it was a wise precaution to prevent mistakes on this point. Besides it was all-wise to specify that part to which he now thought of our being conformed. It is expressly pointed out, that the conformity contemplated, is a conformity in suffering, in order to a conformity in the glory that should follow. But alas ! this specification of the apostle has been unheeded, and, consequently, the object of this conformity has become a matter of conjecture, and conjecture has sadly erred. And thus have originated the false and injurious comments that have been associated with this scripture.

The general topic is announced in the 17th verse to be this : The regenerate as children of God must suffer with Jesus the Son of God, that with Him they may be glorified

The general topic then is this : The children of God are appointed to suffer with the Son of God, that they may be also glorified together. They are to be joint sufferers in order to their being jointly glorified, and if they have been the former they shall be the latter.

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