

derstand the relation which Christ bears to the church, He is called the Head and the church the body. Eph. i. 22, 23 ; Col. i. 18, 24.

3. The church began on the day of Pentecost. It is as raised from the dead that Christ is made Head of the church; there could be no body until there was a head, hence the church could not begin until Christ was raised out from the dead. But,

4. The body is formed by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor. xii.

13. It was on the day of Pentecost that this work commenced and that the Church was begun. Acts i. 5, and ii. 1-4.

5. The church of Christ which He purchased with His own blood is composed only of those who are saved by faith in Him. 2 Peter ii. 2, 5, 9, 10. It follows that those who are unsaved, who have never been born again, who have not the Spirit of Christ are not in the true church, no matter how great their profession may be. They may have been members of denominations for many years, may be high in church office, may be ministers, and have high sounding titles, may have done a very great deal for their denomination, all that is not of the least avail, if they have never been born again, if they are not indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

6. All through the Epistles we find it asserted again and again that there was and is all along to the end of this dispensation that which is false along with that which is true, that the false is to grow and at last overshadow the true, that this time is to end in the taking of the real children of God out of the world by the Lord Jesus when He comes, and that the

false mass of corrupt profession is to be spued out of His mouth. The end of the church of Christ is to be ever with the Lord, to be with Him, to be like Him, to behold His glory. The end of the false and corrupt church is to be punished with the ungodly with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power. The true goes into the very presence of the Lord to enjoy Him forever, the false is banished eternally from His presence. Compare 1 Thess. iv. 16-18 with 2 Thess. 2.

We look around and see a great mass of profession, we turn to 2 Tim. iii. and read, (R. V.) "But know this that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof: from such turn away."

Solemn words these, and most suited to what we see at the present day. All these things exist, nay, characterize much of the profession of this time. In the next chapter the Holy Spirit completes the picture, and here the reference to the church is so unmistakable that no one can deny it. "For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine ; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts ; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."