

by an offering for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

In this way we read, the *seventh* and eighth chapters of Paul's admirable Epistle. The only objection which can be raised to this interpretation is, because the Apostle speaks in the singular, and as it were speaks of himself. This, however, was a common mode of speech with him when illustrating general principles. Hear him in another epistle, "All things are lawful unto me; but all things are not expedient—I will not be brought under the power of any." "Conscience, I say not of thine own, but of the other; for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience." "For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for which I give thanks." "Now, I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." "For if I build again the things which I destroy, I make myself a transgressor." In 1 Cor. iv. 6, he informs us how he uses these illustrations. "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos, for your sakes." The Apostle James also includes himself with those to whom he is writing thus, "With the tongue bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men who are made after the similitude of God." With the same propriety, then, might we say, that James declared that he as an apostle blessed and cursed God with the same breath, as to say that the holy devoted Apostle Paul had reference to his Christian character in the chapter under consideration.

Can it be any thing short of blasphemy to say, that the chief of Apostles was as bad, yea worse, than Ahab, king of Israel. The person of whom Paul speaks was "*sold under sin*;" and the worst that was said of Ahab was (1 Kings xxi. 20,) "Thou has sold thyself to do evil in the sight of the Lord." And about the time that the wickedness of Israel was such that God was giving them up, it was said (2 Kings vii. 17) that they "*sold themselves to do evil, &c.*" Also Isa. l. 1. "Behold for your iniquity ye have sold yourselves." We repeat the question: Can a Christian indulge the idea a moment that Paul—the zealous and devoted Paul, was as bad, yea, worse, than these men? The conclusion is irresistible; if, indeed, it be admitted that he was speaking of himself!

It may be said, however, that this individual "*sold under sin*" "*delighted in the law of God after the inner man!*" True, and Isaiah, a short time after saying they had sold themselves to work iniquity, adds, (chap. lviii.) "*Cry aloud, spare not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins*"—yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsake not the ordinance of their God; they ask of me the ordinance of justice; they *take delight* in approaching to God." See also Eze. xxxiii. 32.

Our limits prevent us from giving our readers all that we intended on this subject. We have something more to say of the dangerous tendency of the views too generally entertained from some expressions in this chapter. These we shall lay before our readers, at a "more convenient season."

EDITOR.