

love all those who are born of Him? Do we seek in self-denying love to serve them? Do we follow the weak ones with patient love? Do we visit the sick and suffering? Do we assist the troubled, and cast down, the sorely tried, with sympathy and help? Have we an open hand for the wants of the poor, the widow and the orphan? Do we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep? Do we in love and humility "esteem others as more excellent than ourselves."

Beloved! is not the contrary of these things often found among us? Does there not exist much indifference, want of feeling, want of forbearance, and—what is so opposed to the mind of Christ, and the heart of our God and Father—much self-will and self-seeking in our midst? Where is that precious "labour of love" which so greatly rejoiced the heart of the Apostle Paul? (1 Thess. i. 3.) Oh! let us cast one look into the depths of our hearts, and another into what we daily do and leave undone! We shall find much to judge, much to condemn. Let us go with it to the Lord and bring it to Him in honest self-judgment; and then let us be much occupied with Him, consider Him, learn of Him, and let His love overflow into our hearts! May we never forget that "love of self" is the first-named of the characteristic marks of the last difficult times. (2 Tim. iii. 2.)

— "To all that be in Rome, BELOVED OF GOD, called saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."—*Romans* i. 7.

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