

the Spirit who is present with me—I have rest in Him—His peace.

And mark what flows from this presence of the Comforter. "But ye see Me," and "Because I live, ye shall live also." It is the life that has overcome death; He has been down under death for us, and if He lives as triumphant over all, I live too. Blessed to have it from, with, and in the Lord Jesus Christ. How anxious He is to make us happy!—Do you know how to walk in it, to live in it? It is not by the sight of the eyes, but what is unseen and eternal, in the knowledge of the Father and the Son.

The consciousness of belonging to these things makes us heavenly in walk and ways. We have the consciousness of being a present object with the Father and the Son. In verse 21 He takes up the practical present reality of it. If you love Me, the way to show it is by keeping My commandments, not by regretting Me when I am gone; he that loveth Me is the one that has My commandments and keepeth them. And here we get the positive manifestation of Himself to us in the path of obedience. Obedience is what characterises you. You keep His commandments when you know them. When I get this close relationship with the Father and the Son, the proof of being in them is to act according to them. Can a child be in the house and not know his father's wishes?—If he can he must be a very inattentive child. If you are living in the relationship of a child, you must be in the power of what the Father likes. You could not be otherwise. The soul must be attentive to Christ's

wishes. Christ said, "Thou openest mine ear morning by morning to hear as the learner." If we were walking like Christ, with our ear opened, as attentive children, we would understand what His wishes are, we should learn them and answer to them.

He delights to make us know His will. Here it is not that sovereign grace and love, which gave His Son for me when I was a sinner, but it is the Father dealing with the children, according to the children's walk. It is the manifestation of Christ's life and ways; it is all very feeble in us, but the Lord's heart is always true, if our hearts are not; the attentive child listens for His commandments, and seeks them, wants His will, wants it because he loves it. If we love the Lord Jesus Christ we should only want that, no matter what the rest is; if I can only please Him, I live in the present enjoyment of Christ, because my heart is abiding with Him. What an anticipation of heaven it is—walking with the Father and the Son! And they come and make their abode with us.

The Lord seeks to strengthen and encourage us in the path of obedience; and until the time comes for us to abide with Him, He will come and abide with us, if we keep in it; and what He gives us here is His PEACE, while putting us in His own place in that uninterrupted intercourse with His Father.

The Lord give His people thorough self-judgment in the thorough consciousness of what we are, as set aside before God in the cross, and the consciousness of the place that God has set us in Christ. May we