

of it; all those that did not bring the doctrine of Christ with them. The house of Gaius on the contrary, was the *guest chamber* of the truth, and had to open *itself* to the witnesses of it. She was to be the guardian of this mystery—he, the fellow-helper of it.

The atmosphere within God's house should be so full of the fragrance of the name of Christ, that all who are of a contrary part should be forced out, (1 John ii. 19); the door at the entrance should be so closed, that the same should know that they would be kept out (2 John 10); but the welcome should be so clear and fervent, that all who savour and witness of that name, should feel themselves at home in it (3 John 3). Shall we not all join, beloved, in such services as these? Surely all this is Kohathite service—this is business with the ark itself. Oxen and waggons could not aid in it, (See Num. vii.) The material of the service is too delicate for such help. The shoulders of the Levites must do the service, and even their hands must reverently and only reverently handle the sacred deposit committed to them.

NOTE.—“The doctrine of Christ” is the confession of the truth as to His blessed Person—the Christ of God as revealed in Scripture. “This is the true God and eternal life. Little children keep yourselves from idols.”

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