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Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

## ANCIENT AND MODERN PROFESSORS OF CHRISTIANITY.

(Continued from page 28.)

6. THE ancients lived for Christ—the moderns for themselves. “I am crucified with Christ:” says Paul (Gal. ii. 20), “nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God.” The disciples then were taught that they were not their own—that they had been bought with a price—(1 Cor. vi. 20). “Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” The entire history of the followers of the Lord in the days of the Apostles, may be referred to in proof of their self-sacrificing dispositions; indeed, one of the most evident traits in the character of the primitive christians was their unselfishness: in possession of houses and lands, to them the cup of happiness was not full until they had sold all, that the whole brotherhood might participate with them in all things. So anxious were they that others might, with them, “taste that the Lord was good and gracious” they hazarded their lives and their all in the dissemination of the truth. But how is it now, even with those who boast of having returned to the primitive faith and practice? What is the distinguishing peculiarity of the present age? What is the mammoth sin of modern professors? What stands out in bold relief before the most undiscerning? It is *selfishness*. This, like Pharaoh’s “lean kine,” eats up every thing rich and noble in this world, and then its possessor is “miserable and poor, and blind and naked.” Selfishness is the demon that has possession of too many hearts we fear, even of those whose intellectual powers have been much interested in the truth as it is in Jesus. Like the evil spirit spoken of by the Saviour, nothing short of prayer and fasting and a long continued study of the Divine word can expel it.

Many religionists and politicians exclaim loudly against the one idea system; but when one monster sin is found to be the root of all others, no one acts wisely who does not endeavour to bring all his powers to bear upon that until it is entirely destroyed. Selfishness is the root of all the disunion and hatred amongst professed christians: the anxiety for show and display in meeting houses, chapels, and churches; in dress and equipage—in parade, and form, and ceremony—springs entirely