

Father, and manifested to those with whom He came in contact that He lived a life absolutely well pleasing unto God. And one to which God Himself gave witness to as pleasing Him, speaking audibly, so that many heard, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. iii. 17 and xvii. 5).

Christ was a spectacle to men and angels. "A man like unto other men in appearance; a man with like passions; a man persecuted, without a home or place to lay His head; a man tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. iv. 15). "He that seeketh His glory that sent Him, the same is true and no unrighteousness is in Him." (John vii. 18). Fellowship between Jesus the Son of man and God never was broken. Sin alone could break it, and Christ never yielded to the tempter, and a life of complete victory and triumph was an accomplished fact, lived on the earth.

Christ's object in living that life on the earth included the redemption of fallen and incapable men, so "that they might be delivered from the hand of their enemies, that they might serve the living God without fear, in righteousness and holiness all the days of their life" (Luke i. 74, 75), and thus regain in Christ, through the Spirit, first, fellowship with God, and second, power to resist successfully sin and temptation in every form. It is evident from the third and fourth verses, those to whom he was writing were not living up to redemption privileges as purchased for them by Christ. My object, John says, in writing you is that "ye may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full," etc. We notice the same positiveness here. He did not write to them and exhort them to seek an experience he himself did not enjoy, nor did he take the place of a seeker along with them; but, from his exalted place of fellowship and fulness of joy in God, he exhorted them to step up by like faith into the true blessedness.

If, as many say, that the eighth verse describes the best experience of the Christian, and that there is constant

need of confession of positive sin, then we maintain that John was an impostor, as he encouraged others to seek an experience of fellowship with God without sinning by abiding in Christ. (We have seen that where sin is there can be no true communion, fellowship or fulness of joy. God cannot look on sin with the least degree of allowance.) Did John exhort people to seek impossibilities? "Nay, verily," a study of his writings soon convinces us of his sincerity and truthfulness. When one follows practically his instructions, he finds that his own experience measures up to what John says of his own—"one of fellowship, fulness of joy, and freedom from sinning."

Verse 5, "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all;" and verse 6, "If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth." This describes one side of the picture, which is a true description of those who are professing to be children of God, enjoying fellowship with Him, yet having constant need of confessing that they do sin daily in thought, word and deed. "They walk in darkness and not in God, who is light." The result of walking in the light, John says, "is fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin." Sin and darkness cannot abide the light and presence of God. Sin must be brought to light and cleansed away, and darkness must be dispelled. As well speak of there being darkness in broad daylight, as a sinful walk and fellowship with God. It is an impossibility. John says, all claiming to have fellowship such as he and others enjoyed, and who did not keep His commandments, were liars and the truth was not in them. "He that sinneth is of the devil," etc.

First picture.—Sinning or walking in darkness an impossibility, no fellowship with God or one another can be enjoyed and sinning indulged in.

The picture reversed, or second picture.—Walking in the light, there is fellowship one with another, and cleansing and keeping clean from all sin the constant experience. Verse 7, "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the