

OMEGA.—Laying aside this kind of illustration, I have something particular to say in direct proof that the charity I approve is the charity of the bible. But I will ask you one question before I further reason. Have you ever read, or heard quoted, a passage of scripture which says, ‘Blessed are they, who, according to their own pleasure, do obey or do not obey the Lord’s commandments?’

ALPHA.—No, father, I am persuaded I have not, and I think I have read, or heard you read, the whole bible. I am familiar with such passages as these, “Blessed are they who keep his testimonies.” “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life.” “Blessed are the pure in heart.” * But a passage such as you mentioned, father, I have never seen nor heard.

OMEGA.—The last passage you quoted, from Matthew fifth, requires of us a passing remark. This might be enlisted by Mr. Orthodox to show that his doctrine of charity was taught by the Saviour. If any one were to ask you, Alpha, what this passage means if we are not taught by it to love all whose heart is sincere, how would you answer?

ALPHA.—I would reply that the Saviour did not say *sincere in heart*, but *pure in heart*; and then I would prove both by reason and scripture that no one can be pure in heart unless he knows, obeys, and loves the laws of God; that ‘the testimonies of the Lord are pure,’ and they must be learned and complied with before there is purity of heart.

OMEGA.—What scriptures would you quote, my son?

ALPHA.—I would not only refer to the words of the apostle Peter in the first chapter of his first epistle, “you have purified your souls in obeying the truth,” but I would directly rely upon his words in the fifteenth of the Acts. Speaking to his brethren upon the great question whether the Gentiles should be circumcised and observe Moses’ law, he there says, “You know how that some time ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should *hear the word of the gospel, and believe*. And God, who knows the heart, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as unto us; and put no difference between us and them, *purifying their hearts by faith*.” Now, as Peter always preached the whole gospel, and this gospel embraces precepts, these Gentile converts must have understood and submitted to the precepts of the gospel before their hearts were made pure, else it could not have been *by faith*; for faith you taught me is only another term for confidence, and we cannot be said to confide in anything that we do not understand and are not willing to receive fully.

OMEGA.—Or you might express yourself in other words and arrive at the same conclusion. A heart purified is only another

* Ps. 119: 2. Rev. 22: 14. Matt. 5: 8.