

them with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness doth he draw them, (JER. XXXI. 3.) and by creating them in Christ Jesus unto good works, or implanting holy and divine principles in their souls, (EPH. ii. 10.) makes them an holy people, that shall show the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Wherever this heavenly love is shed abroad in the heart, it new creates the mind, and sweetly attracts the soul to God. Love draws, and the soul runs after, and is ever pointing homeward toward its sacred centre, which is the heavenly rest. Whenever this divine principle is implanted in the mind it inclines the soul to yield implicit obedience to all the precepts of heaven, according to the words of our Lord, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In vain may any conclude they are under the influence of divine love, while they do not have respect to the well established law of the great King of Zion. Here, brethren, is an infallible criterion for each one to try himself by; for the Apostle says, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God; (but) he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." And again, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." And the true believer finds by happy experience, that in keeping his precepts, great is the recompence of reward. The Psalmist could say, "I love thy commandments above gold, yea above fine gold; therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right. Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore does my soul keep them. The entrance of thy word giveth light." Whenever divine love exists in the soul, it reigns supremely there, and sets Immanuel on the throne; and it is enough unto the soul that his name be exalted and set on high. When this living principle springs up in the heart, it immediately centres upon God, and all his precious children, who bear his heavenly image.

1st. It fixes upon God with supreme affection, and views him to be the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely, and admires his glorious character. And,

2ndly. This love embraces all the children of God, for their heavenly father's sake. And this is an evidence, both to themselves and others, that they are the children of God, and disciples of Christ. First, it is an evidence to themselves; for says the Apostle, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." And, secondly, it is an evidence to others; for our love and attachment to the precious children of God, is an evidence even to the world that we belong to Christ; as says our Lord, "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." So much was this divine principle in exercise among the primi-