

Alas ! it is really so. It has been thus from the days of Cain and Abel down to the present. Hence we are not to expect anything else. Yes, the truth, as it is in Jesus, may bring a storm on those who receive it ; but never mind my brother or sister, it is better to be saved in a storm than to be lost in a calm. And yet it is not always that simply recovering the truth brings the storm, but taking the PATH which the truth points out. In these days almost any truth may be made popular as long as you will go on with the great current of profession. You may hold the doctrines of grace, full atonement through the cross, salvation simply through Christ on the principle of faith, also the heavenly calling, and the Lord's return, and the storm may not come ; but take the PATH of truth, the path suited to these doctrines of Christ, having your back turned on that from which you are delivered through the cross, and your face firmly set towards that into which you are brought in Christ, and you will find that you cannot make the PATH popular, rather, you will find the winds contrary, yea, these contrary winds may amount to a hurricane, carrying all before it, all of earth you have held dear. Yet, surely it is better that it should be so, than that you should purchase a calm at the expense of truth, and by dishonoring Him who bore an infinitely greater storm for us on Calvary.

But the question comes up, why is it that the precious gift of God is thus made the occasion of trouble and bitterness ? Surely the fault cannot be with the truth itself, nor with the One from whom it came, and by whom it came. The truth brings no discord in heaven where all is pure and good. Why then is the effect so otherwise on earth ? Surely it must be something very unlike heaven, and contrary to God, which it has to meet, and which is the opposite of itself.

It is very clear that the coming of Him, by whom truth came, was divinely meant for blessing to all. When Jesus was born, the angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," and a multitude of the heavenly host was with the angel, praising God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." This was what was in God's heart. This grace was toward all and for the blessing of all. But though this was blessedly true, yet, alas, in view of the fact that, while some would bow to the truth and be saved, many would reject it, and be bitterly against those who received it, the Lord had to present His coming, looking at the results under a very different aspect. He said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth ; I came not to send peace but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

And who is to blame for this unhappy result ? Certainly not those who receive the truth in the love of it, and act accordingly. They do not turn bitter against the others, but pray for them, and long for their real good. The blame is clearly with those who reject the truth, and are bitter towards those who receive it, thus taking sides with him "who abode not in the truth." He is urging them on, and will in due time meet his doom ; but those who put themselves in his power, cannot clear themselves by casting the blame on him. We are individually responsible to receive the truth, and thus be on God's side.

Of course there are those who are slow in understanding anything, and therefore slow in seeing and receiving truth, and yet longing to know the truth. It