

formerly. The blood of Jesus Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit had offered Himself without spot to God, had purged my conscience from dead works to serve the living God. The consciousness of the smile and approval of God, while obedient to the guidance and leadership of the Holy Ghost, was of such a positive character, that I was led to make diligent enquiry of the Lord for a solution of the spiritual meaning of this portion of Scripture. I knew it was no longer true of my experience according to the old interpretation thereof. In searching the Bible I came across many passages that assured me that my new-found experience was a scriptural one.

John, in the same epistle, says, that "Whosoever abideth in Him (Christ), sinneth not, . . . He that is born of God cannot sin," etc.; and Paul wrote, "That there was, therefore, now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death . . . That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit . . . And that sin shall not have dominion over you," etc., etc.

To my finite mind the paradox was unexplainable, till one morning in communion with God about the difficulty, light was given, which, to me at least, was and has proved to be most satisfactory and blessed.

Now, let us read first and second verses: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life. For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us." Notice the positiveness of the assertions of the writer. He writes about what he positively knows and has seen, and what was manifested unto him.

To himself, his fellow-disciples and other brethren, there had been heard, seen and manifested, some One living a life—a kind of a life that took their

thoughts back to the beginning of all things. They had heard and seen manifested in a man (a man in the likeness of sinful flesh), who, being the eternal Son of God, had become man in order that He might, by the sacrifice of Himself and by a life of obedience to the Father's will, redeem mankind from a lost and ruined state back to oneness and favor with God. In the beginning "God created man, male and female in His own image, with dominion over His creatures. The chief object in the creation of man was, that man should glorify and enjoy companionship with his Maker. All know how sin (the only thing that destroys fellowship with God), entered into the minds and hearts of our first parents by their eating of the forbidden fruit, which was followed by their expulsion from the garden of Eden, naked, wretched and cursed. They had by disobedience (or sinning), cut themselves off from the blessed fellowship with God which they had enjoyed.

Down through the ages that followed the hope of redemption and restoration of man to spiritual fellowship with God—by the coming of the Prince of Glory—was proclaimed by the prophets of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. It was promised that there would be a new covenant made with the House of Israel (see Jer. xxxi. 31-34): "This shall be the covenant, after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people," etc. Also Ezek. xxxvi. 25-28.

The New Testament records when, how and by whom the new order of things was inaugurated. John's Gospel, first chapter, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Who was this Word? None other than Jesus Christ. He who came to save His people from their sins.

The peculiarity of His life lay in the fact that He always did the will of the