

and purpose of God about us is that we should "be conformed to the image of His Son." The Holy Ghost is given to dwell in us meanwhile, to dwell in us individually—collectively too, but I speak now of the individual aspect. That is what the Christian is : Christ is his life, his righteousness ; it is a ministration of righteousness and of the Spirit (2 Cor. iii. 8, 9). "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. viii. 9); it does not say, "if he is not converted," though that would be true, of course. You see so many saints everywhere who are not settled in their relationship with God ; the present power for this is the Holy Ghost come down.

The coming of the Lord Jesus is not simply a little bit of knowledge which we may add to the rest, but it is the hope of the Christian. If we die we go to Him, but what is held out to us is that the Christian is waiting for Christ "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. ix. 28). If we die we go up to Him, and blessed truth it is too ; but that Christ shall come, this is the hope of the Christian—the only full hope. "To depart and to be with Christ, which is far better," true, but this is not the purpose of God for us ; the purpose of God is that we shall be like Christ (Rom. viii. 29, 30). I would not be like Christ with my body in the grave, and my spirit in paradise ; the expectation of the