

love to me. "We love Him because He first loved us."

Convince me that God only loves me with a world-wide, general kind of love, and I shall certainly respond to His love with a *very general* kind of obedience. Convince me that His love will possibly give out, and perhaps ultimately fail forever, and I certainly shall not feel very warm or heroic in my devotion to Him, or inclined to sacrifice much to please Him. Persuade me that He is constantly regarding with jealousy my coldness or faithlessness, and I shall serve Him with suspicion and heartlessness. In short, convince me that God's love to me is only hourly or daily, *according to my good behaviour*, and my service must become as mercenary as the work of the man who labors for daily pay, and who knows that there is no deeper attachment between him and his employer than so much work for so much wages.

But convince me by this Word and by the inward witness of God's Spirit that God loves me with all His heart—in that love gives me all He can give—that His love to me is everlasting love, generous, infinite and divine, never had a beginning and will never have an end—that its continuance depends not on me, that it existed before this world with all its sin and change