

is holy ; of continually striving to regulate our lives and conversation by the light of His gospel, before the Father's blessing can be bestowed upon us through the blood of Christ. " This, then (says the apostle,) is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness we lie and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his son, cleanseth us from all sin." And as if he had foreseen that some would attempt to found on this declaration the false doctrine of a state of sinless perfection in this life, or of being freed from the *power* as well as the *guilt* of sin, the apostle follows up his declaration by this other declaration : " If we say that we have *no sin* we *deceive* ourselves and the truth is not in us," and then he immediately declares the condition on which the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin ; " If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to *forgive* us our sins, and to *cleanse* us from all unrighteousness." Indeed, the very expression of cleansing from sin necessarily implies the existence of sin, since none can be cleansed who are not polluted ; none can be said to be cleansed who need no cleansing.

And with regard to that other doctrine, that the meritorious efficacy of the passion and death of Christ so cleanses and purifies *our nature*, that we