

one of this present time when evil abounds on every hand, earth full of sin, shame, sorrow, oppression, injustice, cruelty, wrong in every form. The other picture is the earth full of the knowledge of the Lord, righteousness reigning, peace and joy abounding in the earth. This is not the eternal state, it is to be here on this earth. Now Christ does not reign; soon He is to reign. How is the great change to be brought about? All we can know must be learned from the Word of God.

How is earth to be transformed from its present state to one where Christ reigns? Scripture presents no picture of things getting gradually better. It is just the opposite.—The church is established by God in the world, but what is its history as prophetically recorded in the Word? Take out one chapter, Matt. xiii., and can you find in the New Testament anything that indicates the triumph of the church over the world? Are not rather all the pictures of its future which the Holy Ghost gives by Paul, Peter, Jude, John, pictures of decline, of decay ending in complete apostacy and removal? There is not the least intimation that God purposed the salvation of the world by the preaching of the gospel. Men have assumed it, have imagined it, have taught it; the Holy Spirit never.

Instead of the world being brought to a state of righteousness, the church becomes corrupted by the world.—This is what Matt. xiii. really teaches. Evil doctrine leavens the whole mass, they turn their ears from the truth and are turned unto fables. The tree of profession grows so large that

satanic power (which snatches away the good seed when it can,) finds a congenial lodging in its wide spreading branches. Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. Not a word about things or men getting better and better, or that the people of God will grow holier. No, Scripture says on the other hand that "the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." 2 Tim. iv. 3, 4. R. V.

And one of the fables which the great mass of Christendom has turned aside to, is that the world is growing better and is to grow better, and one of the sound doctrines which they will not endure is that this present dispensation is to end in failure, rejection and judgment.

Christ does not now reign, by and by He is going to reign, He will bring this present state of things, rebellion, sin, injustice, unrighteousness to an end. Christ came. He was rejected. He is coming again. What takes place at His second coming?

He has a people here on earth now, true believers. They are members of His body, and body, bride, and church are one and the same as Eph. v. 22-33 teaches. That is, Scripture in order to show the intimacy, the union, the oneness that exists between Christ and His redeemed people, represents Him as the Head of the body while they are the body; pictures Him as the Bridegroom and