

dwelt; but angels have earnestly desired to look into it. It was this that called the blessed Saviour from the bright abode of light and glory in the presence of Jehovah—to lay aside his robes of royalty and honor, and come down to earth, and take the likeness of men—to be subject to the keenest temptations and trials, and to be scorned and put to death. It was this that called forth the apostles to suffer the loss of all earthly things, and like their divine Master lay their lives down, looking for a more blissful state. It is this that calls men, "good and true," to make sacrifices of various kinds now—to set themselves apart from the world—its charms, its spirit, its practice—to bid a long and a final adieu to all the fleeting joys and enticements of this vain world, and place themselves under the control of our once despised but now glorified Lord. All Christian men feel the same desire for the well being of man. When they receive the love of God, and have it shed abroad in their hearts, their first and great desire is the conversion of others. This is called the "first love;" and all those who maintain their first love, have a deep desire that others may share in their enjoyment. They are all animated by the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same hope, the same joy, having been all baptized with the same baptism.

These are the living stones which compose the spiritual temple, and they are co-workers together with Christ according to their ability. "He that exhorteth, ministers in exhortation; he that teacheth in teaching; he that giveth, with simplicity." He that can teach is bound by the laws of our gracious King to do so. And so is he who can exhort. But he that can neither teach nor exhort, is bound equally and by the same law to give or sustain those who can (i. e.) according as the Lord has prospered him. And most certainly, if they maintain their first love, how gladly will they embrace the opportunity of giving to the support of those who teach and exhort sinners and woo them to Christ. They know that all they have is only lent them, and that they are accountable as stewards for the use they make of what they receive. How cheerfully does a true brother or sister embrace the opportunity of giving to the poor, or to sustain those who are preaching the gospel to erring and sinful man.

That brother who neglects or refuses to impart of his substance for the benefit of the world in this way, has lost his first love, and is in a condition not enviable. Oh! what mighty results might be produced if all the professed members of Christ's body were as living and true as they ought to be. How soon would we have evangelists peregrinating our land, and bringing to the fold of Christ many happy souls. It