

those who reject his Son and despise, or disregard, the love he showed in sending him.

15. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth (R. V., abideth) in him, and he in God—This is the central truth of the Bible. Jesus of Nazareth was the second person of the Trinity, "the same in substance, and equal in power and glory" with the Father and the Holy Spirit. There is no redemption from sin if this is not true. Only God could save men. We dwell in God when we feel that he is near us and around us and try to live as if he were looking at us. God dwells in us when we love him and trust him.

16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him—Too many know about God's love, but do not believe it in their hearts. If we really believe it we cannot help loving him. GOD IS LOVE, this is the most precious truth in the Bible. Love is like the diamond itself while all God's attributes are the flashing facets on its surface. Notice how the beautiful opal changes its colors as you turn it in the light, yet all these glowing hues are from the one stone. God's love is the opal and his attributes are but love in different lights.

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

The subject of this lesson is, the love of God viewed in a variety of aspects.

1. *The manifestation of divine love.* It is not enough to know of the existence of God. It is necessary in order to our comfort and salvation that we should know what his character is. This we are entirely indebted to God himself for. We never could have attained to this knowledge. Nature could not have taught us it. Yet our Lord says (Jo. 17: 3) "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent," teaching us the vital importance of this knowledge. It has been charged against the church of Christ and the theology of a former day, that the presentation given of the divine character therein, was not true to the revelation of God in Christ. Whether the charge be just or not, certainly it is true that we grow as the ages advance, in our conceptions of God, from a lower to a higher stage. The divine character cannot be expressed adequately by one word, unless by giving to that word a very wide meaning. But the manifestation God has given to men of Himself in Christ, is most adequately expressed in that one small word "love." "In this was manifested the love of God," &c. But when we come to look into it, "love" is not so small a word as it appears. It must be filled with vast and glorious meanings in order to reach the use here made of it. There is no human love that can be the measure or example of it, although it may aid us in understanding its nature. God in His love must have regard to all the beings and interests in His universe.

He must also have regard to the claims of righteousness. Therefore Scripture pronounces this word in the midst of sufferings before which we stand appalled. The sending of His Son, His only begotten Son, into the world, was the manifestation of that love. He was not silent in regard to His love. He did not conceal it from us. Some people think that it is a weakness to show to their friends the love which they have for them. They are afraid of loving their children too much, or of letting their children know how much they love them. This is a mistake. Our Lord says we are to love one another "as He has loved us." That is the measure up to which you may love your children, and no child ever was or will be hurt, but many will be saved, by wise manifestations of love. Let it be spoken out in some significant way, so that its existence and strength cannot be doubted. To enable us to believe that God is love required some overwhelming manifestation of it, even such as has been given us in the gift of Jesus Christ. And this comes before us in a surrender and sacrifice so great, and in its carrying out so painful, that we are amazed at it. "So to love the world, as to give His only begotten Son" to die for sinful men—who can put all the meaning we ought to put into such love? Who can realize the greatness of it? In view of this manifestation we can say, "God is love."

How gracious is this exhibition of it. It is such as puts His love beyond all possibility of debate or doubt, and cannot but awaken in the believing soul, the response, "He loved me and gave Himself for me." Love is of no