

seemed never before to have heard these "words of life." And oh, how comforting it was to my heart to see the face of that poor deserter brighten up with joy. The Lord opened his ear at least, to hear the Gospel of the grace of God. Reader, are you still a bond-slave of Satan, hurrying on to hell? Let me ask you, who can deliver you but Christ. The handcuffed prisoner could not deliver himself. I asked him what he could do? Ah, he could scarcely get his hand to his eyes to wipe off the tears. I asked the sergeant what he would think of a would-be officer who should deny the sufficiency of that ransom which had been accepted by the Queen, and should begin to speak thus.—"Ah, true, it was a great price, but do not believe the Queen will discharge you without you *do something* to increase the value of that ransom, and when you have done all that you can, you may merely hope for liberty." Do not be so presumptuous as to believe that message of the Queen. The sergeant could not endure even the thought of such cruel lies.

Ah, this reminds one of Paul, who said, Let such perverters of the Gospel be accursed. It was with this loyal zeal for God he wrote this Epistle to the Galatians. And is not this the great lie of the day? You are virtually told not to believe the all-sufficiency of the finished work of Christ, *though God himself has accepted the ransom*, and proved this by raising Him who offered it, from the dead. These wolves in sheep's clothing tell you that God will not pardon your sins for *Christ's sake only*; that He will not give you a free discharge from the power of sin and Satan, *through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone*. Oh, flee, flee from such dreaming liars! "Do the best you can!" Best eh! when there is *no best* in a handcuffed sinner. "Keep the Law!" When God himself says, If that were possible, Christ has died in vain. Read Romans ch. iii.; 1 John iv.; Hebrews x. Believe the testimony of God to the value of the blood of Christ. He is sincere. It is true that he that believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved!

But you ask, Are there to be no good works? Oh, yes! But, are *the handcuffs on or off?* that's the question. The soul that has really been delivered from the power of Satan, will never forget its liberation. "We love Him because He first loved us." "God is love; and he that dwelleth in God, and God in him." Believe, then, believe and live. C. S.

### "HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE."

"In order to life, nothing more is needed than to come to Jesus."

No preliminary qualification is demanded. No selection of persons according to their

merits is made. None are excluded for the presence of one quality or the absence of another. To the dead, one thing only is essential—That they should come to Christ.

Neither before conversion nor after it, is any other thing necessary to life. It is indeed true, that faith will not justify if it be found alone; but that is because if it abide alone, it is dead, and its deadness is known by its barrenness. All the living bear fruit; but it is their life that makes them fruitful, not their fruitfulness that begets their life.

To go conclusively off from self and all other Confidence, and cleave to the Son of God as all your salvation is all that is necessary to life. "He that hath the Son hath life." It is not that the fruitful branch will get into the vine; but the branch which is in the vine will be fruitful.

The effects which the change produces have not produced the change. One of faith's fruits, for example is brotherly love. "Hereby we know that we have passed from death into life, because we love the brethren." Here is fruit, which by its ripeness and sweetness, proves that the tree has been made good; but the fruit bearing had no place as a cause in changing the character of the tree. All labour to induce good fruit to grow on a bad tree, in order thereby to make the tree good, is labor lost. Make the tree good; then and therefore will its fruit be good.

It is not the coming to Jesus and a better obedience that together will give life to the dead. Coming to Jesus is, itself alone, life from the dead.

### I AM COMMANDED.

Supposing an order comes to-night (I will imagine myself to be miserable, black and ragged) that I am to go, *just as I am*, at once to Windsor for an audience with the Queen. If the Queen sends an invitation, I should say, "I will not go—I refuse to go," but if she sends a command, (supposing her to have absolute authority over me) if I did not go I should be punished; therefore I go—not because I have anything ready to go in, but because I am ordered to do it. I arrive at Windsor; a big grenadier says, "what are you up to here? You have no right here." "I am commanded to come," I reply. "Then," says he, "you must pass, for the Queen's commands must be attended to." A little further on, a chamberlain in livery, says, "What's your business here? I am surprised the porter should allow a person like you to pass. You are filthy, sir." I answer, "I was told to come, and I am come as I am." I go a little farther, and another one says, "according to the laws of this court you cannot possibly enter." I am abashed; then I show him the command, and he permits me to pass. I go into the ante-room and sit down there