

up treasures on the earth, anoint their heads when they fast, resist not evil, to be pure in heart, to swear not at all, not to do alms as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, in prayer they were to enter into the inner chamber and having shut thy door pray to the Father in secret, not to be anxious for the morrow to "do the will," leave the dead to bury their own dead, baptize, observe the Lord's Supper based on "take, eat, this is my body," etc., etc.

As an outcome of the efforts of Christians to obey these commands we have the origin of the sects. Each sect instead of being guided by the Holy Ghost into all truth has become a word-guided body. We have thus the spectacle presented by the sects of being bound by antagonistic interpretations of the same words of the Lord Jesus. They are just where the disciples who walked the earth with Jesus were. They are guided by the historic words of the Lord Jesus; at least they profess this guidance. In multitudes of instances the profession and practice differ. We are not faultfinding; we are simple recording facts. These facts will be almost universally admitted. Instead of being Spirit-guided, the sects are word-guided. For all practical purposes the Holy Ghost need not have come. The words of the Lord Jesus are sufficient guide. Jesus' instructions about baptism produce on the one hand immersionists, and on the other those who by pouring and sprinkling fulfil the commands of Jesus. Swear not at all, literally fulfilled, would produce nations of "affirmers," heal the sick, nations of "divine healers," carry neither purse nor script, nations of "itinerants." Regarding the "being perfect" and "pure in heart," there is more diversity than uniformity of creed. Laying up treasures is more honored in the breach than the observance. The exception is to pay any attention to the command about "doing the will." Everybody "eats bread" and "drinks wine" except the Quakers. Give to him that asketh has originated many forms of organized charity, and there are many more in embryo. Most of the praying is done in public with open doors. The confusion at Babel was not

exceeded by the confusion that exists regarding the commands about anxiety for the morrow, how often bread must be eaten, resisting evil, etc.

And while many of the sects stand or fall on what they deem the literal observance of one only of the "all things" that Jesus commanded should be taught, they all lay claim to coming nearest the scriptural standard of what Christ's Church on earth should be.

But let any of the sects through their representatives be asked do they observe "all things that Jesus commanded," and the answer will invariably be in the negative. How is this? And if this be true regarding the "all things," what about the "many things" that Jesus said the Holy Ghost should teach, when He came, and which the disciples who had forsaken all to follow Jesus were not deemed able to bear? How many of the "many things" are the most advanced representatives of the existing sects able to bear? How many of the "all things" that the Holy Ghost came to teach had been taught, and to whom have they been taught, and with what result?

As a matter of fact an examination of the existing creeds will convince the most sceptical that not many of them contain or teach the "all things" that Jesus taught when on the earth, not to speak of the "many things" that the Holy Ghost had to teach when Jesus went away.

Creeds are peculiar things, many of them are very elastic. They are all built upon the Bible, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone of the structure. We sometimes wonder if Jesus were personally present on the earth whether He would not create as great consternation among the creed-makers and creeds as He did among the money-changers.

We don't believe He would own a tenth part of what is called Christian. We believe He would institute an enquiry amongst his professed followers, many of whom are sincere, as to where they got their authority for much of what they believe, much of what they teach, much of what they practise. While He said of His gospel "a way-faring man though a fool shall not err therein," we believe He would say of the