

Brethren, I pronounce this teaching as false and heretical as it is unnatural and unkind. I look forward to heaven as a place of great happiness, because, if I ever get there, I hope to meet these worthy patriarchs and prophets and kings whose histories now are so closely wound around our hearts; and I cannot think of people endeavouring to rule them out of all God's covenant mercies without a shudder and recoil as from the hissings of a serpent. From the time of the first death that took place in the world (that of ~~Abel~~ men have been saved and *saved through faith*. For, what is said? "Faith is the substance of things *hoped for*, the evidence of things *not seen*" (*Heb. XI. 1.*) and it was faith like that which saved the men of olden times. Read the 11th chapter of Hebrews and you will see how Enoch, and Noah, and Abraham, and all these men were saved. "These all died in *faith*, not having *received* the promises but having *seen them afar off*."—(*v. 13.*)

Besides this we find the word "Church" plainly and unmistakably used in the Old Testament. If the *brethren* will consult the Septuagint* (which they are fond of appealing to) they will find the word "Ecclesia" (which is the Greek word for church, congregation or assembly) used of the church of God in the Old Testament as well as the New, and to that church the patriarchs, kings and prophets belonged; and I shall dismiss this painful subject, (for it is painful to me,) with a clear decisive statement of our Saviour himself on this point, viz; "And I say unto you that many shall come from the east and west and *shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob* in the Kingdom of Heaven; but *the Children of the Kingdom* shall be cast out into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."—(*Matt. viii., 11-12.*)

Let Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (we are now told) never belonged to the church of God.

Brethrenism also teaches erroneous views with regard to the church of Christ—the church of the New Testament. They will tell you that the visible church of Christ consists of the *saved* only, and by holding that doctrine they become a self-righteous intolerant sect who believe themselves alone holy (and therefore alone the church,) on the sight of the Saviour and that all others who do not believe as they do are unholy creatures, unfit to be associated with.

In order to support this idea they will quote such a passage as *1st Cor. v. 9-11, &c.* "I wrote unto you not to keep company with *communicants*, or covetous, or extortioners, or with idolators, &c., with such *no not to eat*;" and again: "Therefore put away from yourselves that wicked person."

*The Old Testament in Greek.