

of Satan's character was on everyone of them, just as the stamp of God's character is on Christianity. Fornication in its grossest form was connected with Baal-worship, and this with unblushing shame. See Numbers xxv, and Rev. ii. 14. And human sacrifice was connected with Moloch-worship. Even the children of Israel caused their children to pass through the fire to Moloch. According to Jewish accounts the image of Moloch was of brass, and hollow within. His face was like that of a calf, and his hands stretched forth to receive his victims. They built a fire within this fire-god of the Amorites, and the priests laid the poor infant victims in the hands of this heated monster. (See Smith's Bible Dictionary). Is it difficult to see the old "murderer" behind all this? The marks are too plain to be mistaken. The forms of idolatry might vary, but all were connected with Satan, and the demons which are under his direction, foul, wicked, and destroying soul and body. This awful enemy of God and man, might lead men by their lusts and passions, or by their fear, but he never gave them that which brought peace and rest and satisfaction of heart, and he never does, but only deceives men, to lure them on to their destruction.

The Thessalonians were idolaters, but the very fact that they *turned to God from idols*, shows that they were not satisfied; and the fact that they endured persecution and every kind of hardship for the sake of the truth, showed that they valued what they found when they were turned to God. They had found what was *true*, and what brought them present peace,