

loving Father. The laws that he has designed for man to walk by are the very ones that lead to his highest happiness. Parents check their children not to detract from or interfere with their happiness, but because of their love for them, and looking to future results to make their happiness greater and more secure. Our loving Father does no less for us.

Then comes the "following me" in our text. Jesus invites us to follow his example: to do *our* work as he did *his*. It does not mean that we should all go and preach the gospel by word of mouth. The Lord calls different individuals into different fields of labor, each one unto that work that he has best qualified him to perform.

The soul that obeys the divine law advances beyond mere hope, even to an assurance that the same loving Father that so abundantly rewards in this life will assign to the soul in the eternal life all the joy and happiness that that soul is capable of. They have the assurance that when life is over the language and welcome will be, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

It seems to me that the mission of our Society is to call the world away from mere outward forms and ceremonies, to call it away from a belief that rests on man's credulity, back to the simple, primitive faith, back to a religion that affects human life as in the beginning, to a belief in the eternal word that is eternal, that speaks unto man to-day as in any former day. I have no new doctrine to give you. I point you to the relationship that Jesus, as our example, held with God to the belief, revived by George Fox, that God now holds immediate communion with man, and by obedience to this inward monitor may you preserve your souls in peace.

By our abiding faith and by the purity of our lives may we show to the world that this course will bring to the soul the highest happiness that it is capable of appreciating.

FROM TOLSTOI'S "SPIRIT OF CHRIST'S TEACHING."

CHAPTER VI.

AND THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO ATTAIN TO A TRUE LIFE, A MAN ON EARTH MUST ABSTAIN FROM THE FALSE OF THE FLESH, AND LIVE IN THE SPIRIT (ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN).

For the life of the spirit there can be no difference between relations and strangers.

Jesus said that his mother and his brothers were nothing to him in their personal relationship; those were only near to him who fulfilled the will of the common Father.

The happiness and the life of man depend not upon his family ties, but on the life of the spirit. Jesus says, "Blessed are they who keep to the knowledge of the Father. A man who lives by the spirit has a home. Jesus said that no home had been appointed for him.

For the fulfillment of the will of the Father no appointed place is needed: it is everywhere and always to be found.

The death of the body cannot be terrible to a man who has surrendered himself to the will of the Father, for the life of the spirit does not depend on the death of the body. Jesus says that he who believes in the life of the spirit cannot fear anything.

No cares can prevent a man living the life of the spirit. To the man who said that he would perform the will of the Father afterwards, but that he must first bury his father, Jesus answered, "Only the dead can trouble about burying the dead; the living live always by fulfilling the will of the Father."

Care for family and domestic affairs cannot prevent the life of the spirit. He who troubles himself about the way in which his bodily life will be afflicted by his fulfilling the will of the Father, is like the tiller who, while he