

Hence it is never said that we are to die to sin. The old man does not and would not ; the new man has no sin to die to. We are said to be dead, and commanded to reckon ourselves dead ; "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" ; "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Col. iii. 3 ; Rom. vi. 11). We are then directed to mortify our members which are on the earth, in the power of this new life, and of the Holy Ghost which dwells in us. I have the title, then, to reckon myself dead.

What a gain is death to me in this respect, if really the desires of the new man are in me ; yea, what deliverance and power ! What is death for faith is the old, harassing, sinful man ; in which, if responsible to God, I was lost, and unable to meet Him. "When," says the apostle, "we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death" (Rom. vii. 5). But Rom. viii. 9,— "Ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." The flesh is not our place of standing before God. We have acknowledged ourselves lost and ruined in it. That was the standing of the first Adam, and we were in it. Law applied to it death, judgment. But I am not in it now, but in the Second.

So as regards ordinances, the apostle says, "If ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why as though living (or alive) in the world