

now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." Then we get the special purpose and calling in Eph. i. 4, 5, according as He hath chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world." Again in 2 Thess. ii. 13 we read, "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

Wonderful statements are they not? Do we realize that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world? What had we to do with that? just as much as we have had to do with any step in our salvation. Where is there any room or place for our "doing," seeing that God has chosen us, called us, forgiven us, justified us, sanctified us? When we were dead in trespasses and sins, He quickened us together with Christ (and that was by grace :) He raised us up together, He made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. All these things has He done of His own love and grace, and what room is there for any works of man? God gives man no chance to boast of his own doings. Is it not a most amazing thing that any man can think of doing anything to gain or earn or obtain the favor of God, the gifts of God, or likeness to God? It is simply a proof of man's utter blindness to the truth, and shows how completely enshrouded in error the mind of man is. "Not of works, lest any man should boast."

We must be content to let God have all the glory of our salvation, of the salvation of all that are saved.

It is all of God, purposed in eternity, wrought in Christ, and to be enjoyed by us eternally. And the salvation, the eternal salvation of every believer in Christ is assured and secured by the power of God. How blessed and precious are these truths! But alas, go out and preach them among the believers who are taught the current religious teachings, and they shrink with horror from these blessed truths. Why, they are Antinomians who teach that men are eternally saved when they are born again, so the current teaching declares, and thus souls are robbed of the peace and rest they ought to be enjoying from the blessed truth of assurance of salvation. So too, God's eternal purpose is similarly lost sight of, and error takes the place of truth in the hearts of believers. Then people are set to work for salvation, and a soul that depends on its own doings for salvation, can never in this life enjoy real peace.

"In deep, eternal counsel,
Before the world was made,
Before its deep foundations
On nothingness was laid ;
God purposed us for blessing.
And chose us in His Son,
To Him to be conformed,
When here our course was run.

In present, blest acceptance
In Him who came to die :
In Him, who now is seated
At Thy right hand on high :
In grace, which is unchanging,
We stand from day to day,
And prove the boundless mercies
Which strew our pilgrim way."

J. W. NEWTON.

Of all knowledge, the knowledge of God is the principal. There is no true wisdom without godliness.