

Again we find the Father, Son and Spirit working in perfect harmony in relation to the Church. We read that believers (II. 20, 21, 22) "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." A wonderful building this is assuredly when Father, Son and Spirit are the Architects and Builders, and the indwelling Guests.

E. The name of Christ:

This epistle furnishes us with one of the names of Christ, and He is called the "Beloved" (I. 6). He is loved of the Father. By this name we are reminded of the words in the Epistle of Peter regarding the corner-stone which was disallowed of men but chosen of God and precious (I Peter, II. 4).

F. Christ the Source of Unity:

The epistle reveals to us Christ the source of unity in the universe in cooperation with the Father who works with the Son here as elsewhere. Accordingly we read: I. 10, "In the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him."

We thus learn that there is no spot in the universe unaffected by Christ's redemptive work. The pure whiteness of heaven itself has been

stained by the fall of the rebel angels. The peaceful green of earth has been stained by the fall of man. Accordingly Christ's work affects heaven as well as earth; and we read that Christ will create new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness (II Peter, III. 13).

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. In relation to the work of Redemption. The actual work of the Spirit in relation to redemption is not mentioned in this epistle; but it is distinctly implied in the words: I. 13, 14, "In whom (that is in Christ), after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance." In these words we learn that the Holy Spirit is just as distinctly concerned in the work of redemption as the Father and the Son.

B. The Holy Spirit in relation to the work of Sanctification. The teaching with regard to the work of the Spirit in regard to Sanctification is very full in this epistle. Five aspects of His work are presented to us; and He is represented as sealing, strengthening, filling, giving life, and teaching to pray. III. 14, 15, 16, Thus Paul prays that we may be strengthened with might by Christ's spirit in the inner man. V. 9, We are told that "the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth." V. 18, We are urged to be "filled with the Spirit," and in VI. 18, to "offer up prayer and supplication in the Spirit."