

fruit unto God (which man, under the law, never did) . . . . . But now we are *delivered from the law, being dead* (margin) to that wherein we were held ; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

The law has been carried out to the full, and has killed me, as it were, in the person of Him who, in matchless grace, took my place and bore all the consequences of the place that he took. How sweetly Paul puts it (and it is true of every real believer), "I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. *I am crucified with Christ* ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ, liveth in me ; and *the life which I now live* in the flesh *I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Gal. ii. 19, 20). How the "newness of spirit" comes out in the above, viz., "The love of Christ constraineth." *His love* working in the heart *is the motive*, and HIMSELF the Object before the soul.

What a real deliverance God's is ; but it excludes all boasting, and so man does not like it, but prefers one that lets him have some credit, if ever so little.

It is helpful to contrast Ex. xii. 13 with Ex. xiv. 31. In the former it says "*When I see the blood, I will pass over you.*" In the latter, "*Israel saw that great work* which the Lord did." They were then, as it were, on resurrection ground ; and it is in resurrection that the power of God has been displayed. "He was crucified through weakness,