

will. If it were his pleasure all His followers could have them, but there are treasures that might be endangered by riches, thus many humble, poor Christians rich in faith and good works, are children of the Kings of Kings and feel there is a mansion prepared for them where Christ will be ever present and sorrow and sighing will be no more. "Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also with all that therein is." Deut. 10th, 14. Thus again and again God asserts His right to each and all of those things which man prizes most. "Sanctify unto me all the firstborn among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is mine." Ex. 13th, 10. "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Ps. 50th, 10. Of Canaan the land of promise, the land hardly obtained by travel, toil and warfare, He said "the land shall not be sold forever for the land is mine," saith the Lord of Hosts. The pages of the New Testament give the same universal claim made and acted on, "Come and follow me" was the address of the God - man to whomsoever and whenever He pleased. It meant the forsaking of every earthly calling or possession yet was not asked as a favour but demanded as a right. Jesus spoke with authority and not as the Scribes. He sees two men fishing on the Sea of Galilee, following their occupation by which they provided for the wants of their families as well as their own. Jesus speaks, "Follow me" and at once they leave their boats, nets, everything and follow the master. Further on two more are occupied in the same manner, but their aged father is with them, Hark! there comes the same command, with the same result, "they left the ship and their father and followed Him." He called Matthew from the receipt of custom, and at once all was left in obedience to that command. The poor widow gave all she was worth and Jesus commends her generosity. The young man who loved his riches too much to obey Christ's command "To sell all that he had and follow Him," refused the call and is never mentioned again; while those who obeyed, willingly yielding up everything that they might gain Christ, recognized themselves as stewards of God's bounties,— he held fast by the sense of ownership and by his covetousness and unfaithfulness shut himself out from the kingdom of God. "He went away sorrowful for he had great possessions." Yes! riches may be kept to the everlasting ruin of those who possess them, and allow their hearts to grovel and be satisfied with the perishing and passing things of earth. Following Jesus meant the giving up old employments, companions, home, everything, but what matter? Winning souls for the master, from the service of sin and self, from