



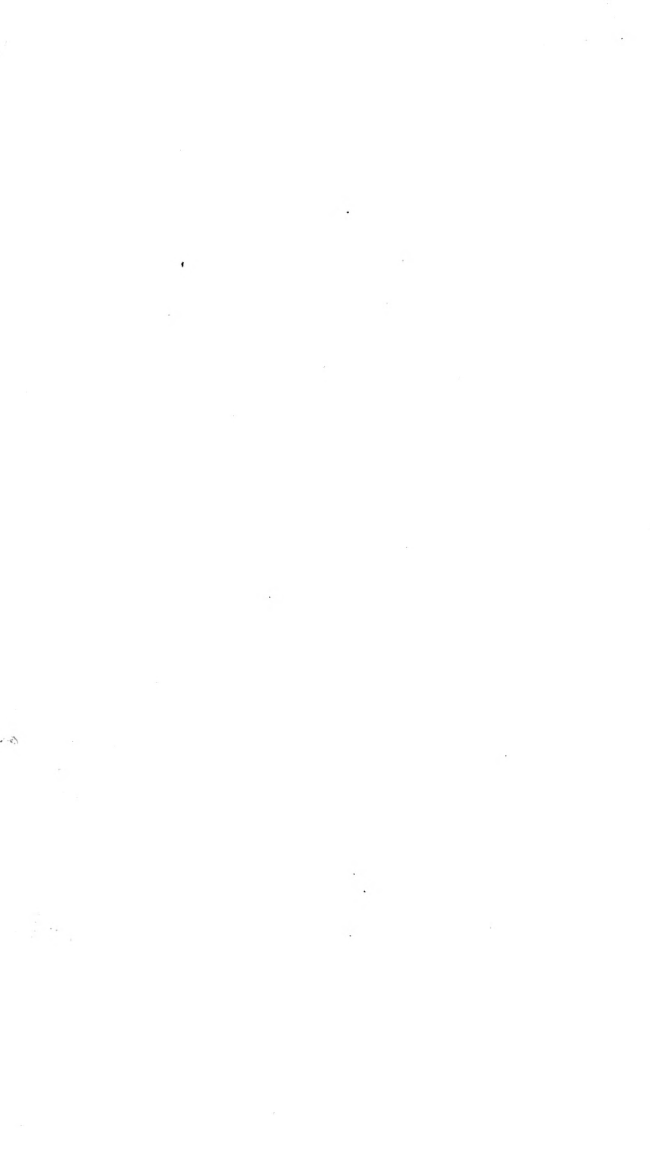
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PRACTICAL EXPOSITOR:

OR, AN

EXPOSITION

OF THE

NEW TESTAMENT,

IN THE FORM OF A

PARAPHRASE;

WITH OCCASIONAL NOTES IN THEIR PROPER PLACES
FOR FURTHER EXPLICATION,

AND

SERIOUS RECOLLECTIONS AT THE CLOSE OF EVERY CHAPTER.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF THE PRINCIPAL THINGS CONTAINED
IN THE PARAPHRASE, ESPECIALLY IN THE NOTES.*For the Use of the FAMILY and CLOSET.*

 BY JOHN GUYSE, D. D.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

VOL. IV.

CONTAINING

PAUL'S EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS,
GALATIANS, AND EPHESIANS.

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CORINTHIANS.

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A PRACTICAL
E X P O S I T I O N

OF THE

FIRST EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

TO THE

C O R I N T H I A N S,

IN THE FORM OF A

P A R A P H R A S E.

THE PREFACE TO THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE
CORINTHIANS.

CORINTH was an ancient famous city of *Achaia*, situated on an isthmus, or neck of land, between the *Ægean* and *Ionian* seas, which joined *Peloponnesus*, now called the *Morea*, to *Greece*; and so it lay peculiarly convenient for merchandize; as it had two commodious ports near it, one on the east, and the other on the west side of the isthmus. By this means it became a city of great resort, by *Jews* and *Gentiles*, for trade and learning; grew exceeding rich and populous; and abounded with merchants, orators, and philosophers; all which circumstances fed the pride and luxury of the people, who were infamous for uncleanness, to a proverb. Among these the apostle *Paul* preached, and God was with him, for about two years; in which space of time many believed, and were formed into a gospel church.

But as this church was gathered from among persons of the forementioned ill characters, and was constituted of some *Jewish*, but mostly of *Gentile* converts, as appears from *Acts* xviii. and *1 Cor.* xii. 2. So, not long after the apostle's departure from them, too much of the old leaven appeared among them; and there arose, at least, one noted false teacher, and probably others under him, of the *Jewish* faction, who set himself up, as the head of a party, against the apostle, to defame him, and run down his authority; and who fomented a spirit of pride among the rich and learned, and turbulent contentions amongst all that he could influence. These disorders were attended with other gross defections in doctrines and morals, worship and discipline; such as a contempt of the gospel of salvation by a crucified Saviour, and the apostle's plain way of preaching it; luxury, uncleanness, covetousness, and litigious lawsuits one with another; abuses of their Christian liberty; communion

with idolaters in eating of their sacrifices; great irregularities in their religious assemblies, and particularly in celebrating the Lord's supper; priding themselves in their riches, learning, and spiritual gifts; indulging an uncharitable temper; and denying the important article of the resurrection of the dead.

As there were greater disorders and corruptions in this church, than in any other, that the apostle wrote to; and as an account of some of them had been brought to him *personally*, by witnesses of undoubted credit, *chap. i. 11.*; and he had received a *letter* from his friends in that church, desiring an answer to several questions, relating to others of them; (see the note on *chap. vii. 1.*) he took occasion, about two or three years after he had left them, to send this epistle from *Ephesus*, as is generally, and I think justly, concluded from *chap. xvi. 8, 19.*; and not from *Philippi*, as the postscript, added by latter ages, would have it. See the note on *chap. xvi. 8.*

The connection and sentiments, in several parts of this epistle, are much more difficult and obscure, than I imagined, till I came closely to consider it; but this I take to be chiefly owing to our unacquaintedness with the state of things in that church, and the representation that had been made of it to the apostle, by word of mouth, and by letter, which he all along keeps in view, and replies to; and which, were it before us, would doubtless cast a clear and obvious light upon the whole: But it is plain, from many passages, that its great design was to correct irregularities, which had crept in among them. Hence the apostle sets himself, in the former part of the epistle, to the end of *chap. vi.* to take off the invidious aspersions that had been cast upon his character; to establish his apostolic authority; to expose the presumptuous pretences of the false teachers, and bring those members of the church off from them, that had espoused their party; to insist on an excommunication of the incestuous person, and on the preservation of the purity of the church; and to cure the schisms and defaults that were made in it, and unite all its members in the faith, love, and holiness of the gospel. And in the latter part, from *chap. vii.* to the end of the epistle, he answers the questions that had been sent to him; and gives such directions with reference thereunto, as he knew to be most needful for them; still carrying on his main view against his chief enemies and all their adherents: And concludes the whole with friendly admonitions, and salutations in the Lord.

C H A P. I.

The apostle Paul prefaces this Epistle with an assertion of his apostolic authority; a salutation of the church at Corinth; and a congratulation on account of their conversion, and the gifts bestowed upon them, 1,—10. Exhorts them to brotherly love, and reproves them for the divisions which he had heard were among them, 11,—16. Asserts and vindicates the doctrine of a crucified Saviour, and his own plain way of preaching it, as a fundamental article of the Christian faith, and as admirably calculated to advance the glory of God, and humble the creature before him, 17,—31.

TEXT.

PAUL called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother.

PARAPHRASE.

I PAUL, who have not thrust myself into office, but was called immediately by Jesus Christ himself* to be one of his apostles, (see the note on Rom. i. 1.) according to the mere good pleasure and eternal choice of God the Father †, even I am the inspired writer of this epistle; and Sosthenes, a dear and faithful brother in the Lord, and in the work of the ministry, though not in the apostleship, thoroughly approves of it, and joins with me in it.

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus

2 We send the most affectionate salutations to the society of believers at Corinth, the metropolis of Achaia; which being incorporated, by mutual consent, for the celebration of all divine ordinances, according to Christ's appointment, is a particular church of God's own institution, in which he dwells, as in his holy temple; I mean them who, being in church-communion, are supposed, in the judgment of charity,

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* The apostle Paul, in the inscription and preface of most of his epistles, not only mentions his own name, but asserts his apostolic office; and it was the rather needful that he should do this, in his epistle to the Corinthians; because some among them had disputed, depreciated, and denied his authority: And as, in several other epistles, he associates Timothy with himself, not as joining with him in forming those epistles, but in the salutation; and as entirely concurring with him in sentiment and design: So he here mentions Sosthenes in like manner, that he might the better recommend and enforce this epistle to the Jewish converts at Corinth, on account of his acceptable character and reputation among them; he having been formerly, as I take it, a ruler in one of their synagogues. (See the note on Acts xviii. 17.) But immediately after the salutation, and in several o-

ther parts of the epistle, the apostle speaks of himself in the singular number, to intimate that he alone composed it, under divine inspiration, as an apostle of Christ. The like may be, more or less, observed in all the epistles that begin with Paul's and Timothy's names.

† Since the apostle well knew, that all things whatsoever were either permitted and over-ruled, or effected, by the will and providence of God; we must suppose that he meant something extraordinary, when he speaks of his being called to the apostleship by the will of God, and lays so great a stress upon it, as he doth here, and 2 Epist. i. 1. Eph. i. 1. Col. i. 1. and 2 Tim. i. 1. And he therein seems to refer to what Ananias said, when he told him, (Acts xxii. 14, 15.) that the God of his father had chosen him to know his will, and see that Just One, &c.

3
 sus Christ our Lord,
 both theirs and
 ours.

to have been set apart for himself*, by his special choice of them in *Christ Jesus*, as their Head, *before the foundation of the world*; (Eph. i. 4.) and who, in consequence of this, are externally called by the gospel, and, as is to be presumed, are internally and efficaciously called, by the special operation of the Spirit, to be an holy people, both in heart and life; and so are properly denominated saints. (*κλητοις αγιοις*) And, with the members of that particular church, we include all in their neighbourhood, and in every place whatsoever, to whom these presents may come; and who, in testimony of their being real Christians, religiously invoke the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the object of their faith, worship, and obedience, and as the great and only Mediator between God and man; I say *our Lord*, because he is, for all saving purposes, as much their Lord, as he is ours, who addresses this epistle to them.

3
 Grace be unto
 you, and peace
 from God our Fa-
 ther, and from the
 Lord Jesus Christ.

3 May all the riches of divine love and favour, together with all the blessed fruits thereof in a work of grace; and may reconciliation with God, peace in your own souls, and among yourselves, together with all desirable prosperity, be abundantly multiplied to all, and every one of you, from God the Father, as the original spring of all blessings; and from Jesus Christ, as the only Peace-Maker, by the merit of his blood, and the Author and Giver of the benefits of his purchase, in an inseparable conjunction with the Father!

4
 I thank my
 God always on
 your behalf, for
 the grace of God
 which is given you
 by Jesus Christ;

4 I heartily congratulate you, and bless the God of all grace, even my God, in every remembrance of you, on account of the free favour of God toward you, as that appears in the gifts and graces of his Spirit †, which he has bestowed upon you, through Jesus

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* As *sanctified* sometimes signifies *set apart*, (see the note on *John* x. 36.) *this*, rather than being *made holy*, seems to be the sense of the word here, and in *Jude*, ver. 1. because it is spoken of in both these places, as what was done by God the Father in Christ, *before* the persons mentioned were *called to be saints*, and in distinction from it. This preserves a difference between *sanctified in Christ Jesus*, and *called to be saints*, which would otherwise be much the same thing: And this makes the ideas more consonant to the inscriptions and intimations, which this apostle preñxes to several of his other epistles; where he speaks of believers, as *beloved of God*, and *called to be saints*; (*Rom.* i. 7.) as *chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world*, that they might be holy,

(*Eph.* i. 4.) and as persons in whom there were apparent tokens of their *election of God*, from the efficacy of the gospel upon them: (*1 Thess.* i. 3, 4, 5.) And the apostle *Peter* directs his first epistle, (*chap.* i. 2.) *to the elect, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.*

† It can scarce be thought that the apostle should so abundantly bless God for the spiritual gifts bestowed on the *Corinthians*, unless there were good grounds to hope, in the judgment of charity, that great numbers of them, which gave the denomination to the whole, were also partakers of special grace, to their own salvation: And therefore, as the expressions will bear it, *The grace of God given to them*, and their being

Jesus Christ, as the great Mediator, in whom (*ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ*) he looks upon you, and deals with you, as his peculiar favourites; and by whom his love is freely manifested and communicated to you, and its happy effects are purchased for you. I cannot but hope this concerning you in general;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge:

5 Because (*οτι*) ye are not only enriched with grace, for the salvation of your own souls by Jesus Christ, the Head of the church; but many of you are also plentifully furnished with such spiritual gifts, as render you capable of speaking, with freedom and fluency, to the edification of others; and are abundantly filled with all necessary knowledge* of the fundamental doctrines of the gospel, relating to a crucified Saviour, that ye might set them forth in a just light, as the truth is in Jesus.

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you.

6 Even as the witness, which was given to him, and from him, by his apostles, was proved and established, with the highest demonstration, in your own minds and consciences, when *the gospel came to you*, at the first in your conversion, *not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; and effectually worked in you that believe.* (1 Thess. i. 5. and ii. 13.)

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

7 So that ye are not remarkably defective in any spiritual gift, that is requisite for your own and others edification; nor are ye inferior therein to any of the churches, while ye, together with them, are looking, longing, praying, preparing, and patiently waiting, with faith and hope, for the revelation (*την ἀποκαλύψιν*) of our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, *who will come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe.* (2 Thess. i. 10.)

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

8 Who will likewise, in order thereunto, establish you in the faith, hope, and holiness of the gospel, by a continual supply of all further needful aids, in the way of your duty, and in a diligent use of the means of his own appointment, all the days of your lives; that ye may be acquitted from guilt and condemnation, and

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being *enriched in every thing*, may be considered as tokens of God's peculiar favour to themselves, as well as his gifts, to qualify them to be useful to others. This might well be a great cause of the apostle's rejoicing on their behalf; and it is upon this charitable presumption that he speaks with confidence of their being *confirmed to the end*, and mentions the *fidelity of God* as the security of it, *ver. 8, 9.* (See the note on *ver. 9.*)

* That *all knowledge* does not relate

to the whole *scheme* of the gospel, is evident from the apostle's speaking of them, as *babes in Christ*, whom he *fed with milk, and not with meat*, because, says he, *ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able:* (chap. iii. 1, 2.) And therefore I take *all knowledge* to relate to the great doctrine of salvation by a crucified Christ, which he speaks of as what they had received, *ver. 18, 30.* and as the principal subject of his ministry among them, *chap. ii. 1, 2.*

and made perfect in holiness, at the great day of Christ's appearing; when he, who now *keeps you from falling, will present you faultless, before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy.* (Jude ver. 24.)

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

9 There is the surest ground of confidence concerning this, with respect to every one of you, that are in reality what ye profess to be: * For the infinitely gracious and unchangeable God is faithful and true to his covenant; to his Son; to them that trust in him; and to his own good work in you, whereby he has raised your hope in him; even that God, by whom ye were effectually called, not only to a participation of external privileges and spiritual gifts, but likewise to an holy communion with, and conformity to his Son Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour; that ye may have an internal fellowship with him in his merit and love, graces, holiness, and joys, in virtue of your union with him.

10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.

10 Now, to come to one of the chief occasions of my sending this epistle, I earnestly entreat and exhort you, my beloved brethren, by all the authority and endearments, and by the solemn profession ye make, of the Lord Jesus Christ, as our only Head and Saviour, *of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,* (Eph. iii. 15.) in opposition to all the party names which have been contentiously set up among you, (ver. 11, 12.) that every one of you would agree to talk of the doctrines of Christ, just as ye received them, pure and uncorrupted, from his apostles; (2 Cor. ii. 17.) and that there be no schisms (*σχισματᾶ*) among you, to the making of factions in the church, and alienating your hearts and affections one from another; (see the note on chap. xi. 18.) but that ye be entirely knit, and regularly framed together, (*κατασκευασιοί*) as members of the same body, in one and the same divine and holy sentiments, and in the same deliberate judgment and design; (*ἑνωμέν*) and so may *follow after righteousness, faith, charity, and peace, with them that call on the Lord, out of a pure heart.* (2 Tim. ii. 22.)

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren,

11 The reason of my so earnestly recommending this amiable unity, is not from any *ungrounded* suspicions of your defects therein; but because some of our

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* I do not see how *the faithfulness* of God can be considered as an argument to prove that these *Corinthians* should be *confirmed to the end, that they might be blameless,* &c.; unless we suppose that the apostle looked upon the persons spo-

ken of, as partakers of saving grace: For there is no promise to engage God's faithfulness, that they who have only spiritual gifts shall be confirmed to the end; but there are many promises of that nature to true believers.

brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloë, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ.

our faithful friends of *Chloë's* family have, to the grief of my soul, brought me certain information concerning you, whom I esteem and own as my brethren in the Lord, and of whom I hoped better things, that there are warm strifes, (*ερίδες*) and uncharitable dissensions among you, which have thrown you into sects and parties, under various heads and leaders, as though ye looked upon them as the lords of your consciences, that have dominion over your faith.

12 I mean, and cannot but solemnly remonstrate against it, that, as ye are generally ranged into different denominations, ye call yourselves by the name of some distinguished chief, whom ye respectively admire and extol, to the depreciating and contemning of others; as for instance, to put the case in the least invidious light I can, Some of your *Gentile* converts cry up *Paul*, as the apostle of the uncircumcision, and the instrument of their conversion; (*chap. iv. 15.*) and others are as fond of *Apollos*, as an eloquent and fervent preacher, (*Acts xviii. 24, 25.*) who watered the seed which *Paul* had sown among you; (*chap. iii. 6.*) and others of you, that are converts from *Judaism*, are all for *Peter*, as the apostle of the circumcision; and so ye severally put your own applauded ministers in the place of Christ himself, as if they were your Lords and Saviours, and at the same time reject others with scorn, as if they were not to be regarded at all: And others of you pretend to be so much for *Christ alone*, as to despise all *means* and *instruments*, even his apostles and most eminent servants themselves, together with his word and ordinances, as dispensed by them; and to be so immediately under the teachings of his Spirit, as to need no other instructor.

13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

13 But, to convince you of the unreasonableness and absurdity of all this, let me first ask those of you, that pretend to be so much for *Christ*, as to be above all gospel ministrations and ordinances, Is the person of Christ to be separated from his offices; or his offices from his way of executing them by the ministry of his servants? Is he divided from *Paul*, *Apollos*, or *Cephas*, or any other of his faithful ministers, whom he has promised to be with to the end of the world? Are they not all embarked in the same glorious cause of Christ? and do not they all preach by his authority, and according to his will, as the head and Saviour of the whole church? Or are his gracious communications, by the Spirit, to be separated from the means of his own appointment for conveying them? Is not a whole Christ, in every view of him, to be received according to the revelation he has made of himself

himself by any of his servants to you? And permit me to ask those of you, that set up one or another minister as your Head, instead of Christ, and run down all others, Is *Paul* to be extolled by one party, *Apollus* by another, and *Peter* by a third, in the least competition with Christ? I would, to prevent envy, expostulate this case a little with you, as to myself; Did *Paul* die to make atonement for your sins? Or were ye baptized by the authority, and into the faith, worship, and obedience of *Paul*, that ye should be disciples to him, and dedicated to his service? Or were ye not therein consigned over to the Lord Jesus himself, as being baptized in his name?

14 I thank God, that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius:

14 For my own part, since such factions are formed among you, to the dishonour of Christ's name, I esteem it a kind disposal of Providence, and heartily bless God for it, that though I planted the church at *Corinth*, as the instrument of their conversion; (*chap. iii. 6,—10.*) yet I administered the ordinance of baptism, with mine own hands, to none of them, except two persons of note; one was *Crispus*, the chief ruler of a *Jewish* synagogue in your city, (*Acts xviii. 8.*) which shews that I am no party-man for the *Gentiles*, in opposition to the *Jews*; and the other was the hospitable well-known *Gaius*. (See the note on *Rom. xvi. 23.*)

15 Left any should say, that I had baptized in mine own name.

15 I reflect with great pleasure, and thankfulness to God, on this circumstance of my ministrations among you; lest, had I personally baptized any considerable number of you, and particularly of those who now, full sore against my will, make me the head of their party, any should have taken occasion from thence to suggest, that I had set up myself, acted by mine own authority, and bound them by that ordinance to acknowledge me for their Master and Lord. A thought which I utterly detest, how much soever some of your new favourite teachers may aim at such a character, and glory in their dominion over your faith and consciences.

16 And I baptized

16 But, (*δε*) upon farther recollection*, I must add,

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* As the apostle was not, like our Lord, at all times, and in all cases, under infallible influence, he intimates that he mentioned these facts upon his own memory; and as it was of little moment, whether he were critically exact in the precise number of those whom he had personally baptized, there was no need of his being under immediate inspiration in reciting it. But since he gave notice that he spoke this barely upon his

own memory; and since, as many think, he (*chap. vii. 12, 25.*) carefully distinguished what he received of the Lord, from what he delivered as his own judgment, who had obtained mercy to be faithful, in letting us know when he was, and when he was not inspired, in what he wrote; we may safely conclude, that, whenever he gave no such intimation or distinction, what he said was by divine authority and inspiration, which extended

zed also the household of Stephanas : besides I know not whether I baptized any other.

add, that I did also baptize * the family of *Stephanas*, which were the first-fruits of *Achaia* : (chap. xvi. 15.) Besides these, and the two before-mentioned, I do not remember that I ever baptized, at *Corinth*, any other person whatsoever.

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel : not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

17 For though baptizing is included in the powers, with which I am intrusted, (*Matth.* xxviii. 19.) yet the principal office, for which Christ qualified and commissioned me, as an apostle, was not to spend my time in that sort of service, which might as well be performed by an ordinary minister ; but it was to publish the glad tidings of salvation, through him, as a Redeemer, in all its extent and glory, wherever I come, according to what is made known by revelation to me : And, even in discharging this most important part of my commission, I do it in such a manner, as shews that I have no aim at setting up myself ; or of recommending the gospel, by dressing it out with human eloquence, and flowers of rhetoric ; or by endeavouring to adjust it to the maxims of philosophy, or to the corrupt notions of high pretenders to reason and learning : No, I have studiously avoided every thing of that kind, lest the native majesty, simplicity, and glory of the doctrine of a crucified Saviour, should be debased, and tarnished by such pompous artificial colours, as are disagreeable to its humbling nature and design ; and lest its efficacy should be defeated, either by God's being displeas'd at this unsuitable way of preaching it, and so withholding his blessing from it ; or by a vain conceit, as though its success depends, not on its own naked undisguis'd evidence and authority, attended with a divine power in the heart and conscience, but on the oratorical and persuasive arts of him that dispenses it.

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness : but unto us which are saved,

18 For the plain preaching of salvation through that Jesus, who died an ignominious death, and bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we might live for ever, is so far from comporting with the preconceived opinions of natural men ; that, on the contrary,

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extended to all the truths of the gospel, that he was to deliver to the churches. But see the note on *chap.* vii. 10.

* This is the only place, as far as I find, in all the New Testament, that speaks of *baptizing the household*, without any notice taken of baptizing the head of the family. It therefore seems that the household of *Stephanas* were baptized, not on the foot of God's covenant with believers and their seed,

as we are naturally led to understand it, when baptizing persons and *their households*, or *all theirs*, is mentioned together ; but that the family of *Stephanas* were all adult believers, and so were baptized upon their own personal profession of faith in Christ. Accordingly this household, or house of *Stephanas*, are spoken of (*chap.* xvi. 15.) as *the first-fruits of Achaia*, and as having *dedicated themselves to the ministry of the saints*.

saved, it is the power of God.

trary, it is indeed (*μω*) all folly, absurdity, and despicable nonsense, in the account of them, that are in a lost and perishing state, in the way to endless perdition; and that, living and dying in unbelief, must perish eternally for their rejecting it: But to us, whose eyes are spiritually enlightened, and who are brought into a state of salvation through faith in the cross of Christ, and shall be effectually delivered from the wrath to come, and advanced to heavenly glory by him; this despised doctrine appears, to us, to be every way worthy of God, as the divine power was illustriously manifested in strengthening and upholding the Saviour under all his atoning sufferings, and in raising him from the dead; in attending the naked preaching of these great truths, with victorious energy upon our souls, to captivate us to the obedience of Christ; and in making them an effectual means, in the hand of the Almighty Spirit, to relieve us under all our weakneses and discouragements, and to carry us through all opposition and danger, from within and from without, to the inheritance of them that are sanctified. (*Acts xx. 32.*)

19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

19 This is a scheme far superior, and even puzzling and confounding, to all the learning of this world; according to what is recorded of the wise men among the *Jews* in former ages, and is applicable to the present dispensation, (*Isa. xxix. 14.*) where God says, I will defeat the contrivances of the most knowing and sagacious men; and will quite baffle and disappoint the inventions and notions of the most learned and rational of mankind, by rendering them all ineffectual to salvation, and by bringing in another method of obtaining it, directly contrary to what they would have imagined.

20 Where is the wife? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

20 This is so amazingly verified and demonstrated, in God's way of giving life to guilty and dead sinners by his crucified Son, that, according to the challenge made in another part of Old Testament prophecy, (*Isa. xxxiii. 18.*) we may summon all the men of pride, and of fame for wisdom and science, among both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, and say, Where is the learned philosopher among the *Greeks*, who boasts of his wisdom, as superior to all that is known in other nations? Where is the scribe, or learned man and ruler among the *Jews*, who makes the highest pretences to knowledge and judicial power, with respect to the *Mosaic* law, and the traditions of the elders? Where is the man, be he *Jew* or *Gentile*, who delights in speculation and controversy, and takes a great deal of pride in disputing, either about questions of the law, or about the nature and reasons of things?

things? Let either, or all of these, produce their schemes; and see whether there be such a sure foundation for a sinner's hope toward God in any of them, as the gospel discovers, and the believer finds, in the propitiatory death and sacrifice of Christ. And what is become of persons of these characters, who were famous in their day? Could all their darling notions save them in the eternal state they are gone to? Has not God put a disgrace upon all the wisdom of the men of this world, and shewn their schemes, for appeasing the offended Deity, and reconciling guilty rebels to him, to be vain, foolish, and ineffectual? What have they been able to fix upon, after all their attempts of this sort, that their consciences could rest in, and be satisfied with? Or could any of them ever have hit upon this wonderful discovery, which God has made in the Gospel, for the pardon and salvation of lost sinners by Jesus Christ? No, far from it:

21 For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

21 For since (*επειδη γαρ*) it was ordered, in the wise disposals of the holy God, that by the displays, which are made of his infinite wisdom, and other perfections, in the works of creation and providence*, and in the notices he gave of himself under former dispensations, the men of this world, by all their own observations and reflections upon them, or by their pretended wisdom in the exercise of their rational faculties, did not attain to such a knowledge of God, as might lead them into just and satisfying sentiments about the way of their salvation; It then pleased God, of his own mere grace, clearly to introduce another scheme, which they never thought of, and which, in the account of unbelievers, that perish, is foolishness; (*ver. 18.*) and *that* is the plain preaching of a crucified Christ, and of the way of life and happiness alone through him, which God makes effectual to the salvation of all those, who by faith receive him.

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the

22 For, to shew what contempt both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, through the depravity of nature, cast on this sort of preaching †, even the carnal *Jews* them-

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selves,

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* Since the apostle keeps his eye upon both *Jews* and *Gentiles* in the preceding and following verses, it seems most congruous to understand him, as doing so in this verse; and therefore I have brought in the notices, that God has given of himself under former dispensations, as well as in the works of creation and providence.

† As the words (*επειδη και*) may justly be rendered *For even*, or *For both*, I

have given them an answerable turn in the paraphrase, which, I think, makes a much better and easier connection of this verse with the next, than if, with Mr. *Locke* or Dr. *Whitby*, we were to translate them, *Since also*, or *Since both*: For I own that, according to this construction, I do not see the force of the apostle's reasoning, nor can scarce make sense of it, in this and the three following verses; nor understand how, *But we require*

the Greeks seek after wisdom :

elves, who have been favoured with the oracles of God, are so perversely obstinate, that, after all the divine confirmations, which have been given of the gospel, by evident accomplishments of many ancient prophecies of the Messiah in our Jesus, and, by various undoubted miracles, they unreasonably insist on having some further and more immediate sign from heaven, just in their own way, and according to their own humour, to make them believe it : (*Matth. xii. 38. and Luke xi. 16.*) And the learned among the *Gentiles*, such as their celebrated *Greek* philosophers, are so conceited of their own abilities, and great attainments in science, that they require an explication and demonstration of its grand article, relating to the way of eternal life, through a crucified Jesus, from principles of natural reason, to satisfy them about it.

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness ;

23 But we, who are intrusted with its ministry, not regarding any of these corrupt prejudices, proclaim a crucified Christ, and salvation alone through him, with great plainness of speech ; which is indeed (*μεν σκανδαλον*) an offence to the *Jews*, whose heads are so full of wrong notions about a temporal Saviour, that they cannot tell how to relish, or receive the Redeemer from sin and wrath, who appeared among them in a low state and condition, and was at length brought to the ignominious death of the cross ; but they stumble at him, and fall, to their own perdition, in rejecting him : And our doctrine concerning him is so little calculated to sooth and gratify the pride, curiosity, and carnal reasonings of the *Gentiles*, especially of the politer sort of them, such as the *Greeks*, that they think it all folly, and stupid nonsense, to imagine that a glorious life of immortality and blessedness, should ever be brought to innumerable multitudes of transgressors, through faith in the shameful death of one, who was publicly condemned and executed, as a malefactor.

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

24 But whatsoever one or the other of these sorts of people think of it, and how much soever they may be offended at, or may despise and ridicule it ; This very doctrine of salvation through a crucified Jesus appears, and approves itself, to be full of all divine wisdom and power, to them that are effectually called, whether they be *Jews* or *Gentiles* : They see the infinite power of God, in carrying the Redeemer through his terrible sufferings and death, when he made his soul an offering for sin ; and in raising him again from the dead ; yea, they see its mighty operation,

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preach Christ crucified, &c. answers to *since both*, or *since also* the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom.

ration, not only in the numerous miracles that are wrought to confirm all this ; but likewise in its happy effects upon themselves, and others, to turn them from their iniquities to God : And they behold adorable *wisdom*, in the constitution of the person of Christ God-man, and in the contrivance of God to secure and exalt the united and harmonious glory of all his attributes, together with the rights of his law and government, in full consistency with the free pardon, justification, and eternal salvation of lost sinners, through the death of his only begotten Son, in their nature, and in their room and stead.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men ; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

25 For that which, in the false, blind, and prejudiced opinion of the men of this world, is deemed the greatest folly, with respect to God's way and work, in this method of salvation, infinitely excels the utmost wisdom of all the boasted rational schemes of the most prudent, sagacious, and learned men upon earth : And that which they boldly and impiously censure, as weak and ineffectual to answer its end, especially by such mean instruments as are employed to preach the gospel, is found, by undeniable experience, to be attended with the greatest energy, for destroying the interests of sin and Satan, and making a holy change upon the heart and life, incomparably beyond all that ever was done, or can be pretended to be done, by the power of any natural principles in men, to change their own hearts ; or by the most forcible arts of persuasion, or exertions of human authority, to change the hearts of others : And this is brought to pass among such persons, and by such instruments, as may best shew, that the *excellency of the power is of God, and not of man.* (2 Cor. iv. 7.)

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many

26 For, my Christian brethren, whether ye be of *Jewish* or *Gentile* extract, ye experimentally know, and may easily observe, what sort of persons they are among you, whom God has effectually called by his grace, to be partakers of all spiritual and saving blessings, through a crucified Redeemer * ; and pray take notice

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* *Your calling* seems plainly to mean *their own effectual calling* ; for it refers back to what was said, *ver. 24.* of Christ's being *the power of God, and the wisdom of God, to them that are called* ; and, *ver. 18.* to *them that are saved*, in opposition to those to whom the preaching of Christ crucified was a *stumbling-block and foolishness*, *ver. 23.* and who are spoken of as *them that perish*, *ver. 18.* so that they were externally called by the gospel, as well as others ; and it could not be said in that respect,

that *not many wise men after the flesh, &c. are called* : And it is of the same persons, whose calling is here spoken of, that the apostle says, *ver. 30.* *Christ was made unto them wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption*, which cannot be said of any but those that are savingly called. These considerations, together with the propriety of the expression, *your calling*, and the connection in which it stands with the preceding and following verses, shew that the *calling*, here mentioned, relates

many noble are called.

notice how evidently it appears, by undeniable facts, that though there are some men of eminence for natural parts and learning, high station and figure in this world, that are brought under the saving power of gospel-grace, to shew that it is not limited to any particular ranks of people, and that the gospel-scheme of salvation, is so far from being in itself contemptible and foolish, that the wisest and greatest men on earth, may see a surpassing excellence and glory in it, to recommend it to their judgment and choice; yet, in the ordinary course of God's dispensations, he does not make this despised doctrine effectual to the conversion, and salvation of any great number of persons of superior rank in this world; not of those, who, like the *Greek* philosophers, are famous for their bright genius, and large compass of literature, and are counted the wise men of this world; nor of those, who, like the *Jewish* scribes, are men of power and influence; nor of those, who are of high birth and parentage, and, like the *Israelitish* nation, pride themselves in being the descendants of noble ancestors, and look upon all others, as the base people of the earth: Not many of either of these sorts of people are savingly called; and the like may be said of those, whom God employs, as ministers, in calling them by the gospel.

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world, to confound the things which are mighty:

27 But, on the contrary, God, in his infinitely wise, holy, and sovereign way of procedure, has more generally chosen, as appears by their calling, (2 *Pet.* i. 10.) persons* of contemptible characters, according to human ways of reckoning: He, in opposition to the *Greek* philosophers, (*ver.* 20.) has chosen men of mean abilities, as to natural parts and learned accomplishments, who are often despised as fools, especially on account of their embracing Christ and the gospel; he has chosen such as these, (*οἱ καλαίσχυροι*) to make the men of learning ashamed of their own schemes, as insufficient to produce the holy and happy effects, which are wrought upon these, by means of the doctrines of Christ: And, in opposition to the scribes, (*ver.* 20.) and other men of temporal grandeur and authority, God has chosen persons of low circum-

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relates rather to the persons that were called, than to those that were employed as instruments in calling them. However, as it is probable that the apostle might have also an oblique view to the character of those that preached the gospel, I have added that sense in the paraphrase. And as the verb (*βαπτίζε*) which is rendered *ye see*, is of the *indicative* and *imperative* mood, I have

taken in the force of both those significations.

* As in the foregoing verse the apostle spoke of *persons*; so by the *things*, which he here, and in the next verse, expresses in the neuter gender, in opposition to them, he evidently means *persons* too; and the nature of his argument obliges us so to understand him.

circumstances, and little interest and influence in the world, to make the great ones of the earth ashamed (*ὡς καταίσχυον*) of their pride, folly, and vain attempts against the gospel, while they see its power exemplified in persons, so much inferior in external advantages to themselves; and *that* in defiance of all their power to suppress them.

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

28 And God has chosen persons of mean birth, as to earthly parentage, (*αἰρεση*) and persons that are reckoned the most despicable of all others upon earth, even the *Gentiles* themselves*, who formerly were not his people, and are deemed by the proud *Jews*, as worth nothing at all; he has made choice even of these, that he might abolish (*ὡς καταργησῃ*) the church-state of the *Jews*, and their ancient prerogatives, who all along hitherto have been the peculiar people of God; and who, as they vainly boast, are the only people of true nobility, and in favour with him. He has taken this method, in the dispensations of his grace, to pour contempt upon all these;

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

29 That none who dwell in frail and mortal flesh, whether they be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, might have any pretence to glory in their natural parts, learning, and accomplishments, or external privileges of any kind; or to vaunt and extol themselves in the presence of God, whatever they do before men, as if there were any thing in themselves to render them the objects of his favour, or to make them wise to salvation, either by any methods of their own devising, or by any ability in themselves to improve the gospel for that purpose, better than others.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

30 But, on the contrary, God by a mere act of his own gracious and sovereign will, and not on account of any excellence in yourselves, has chosen and called you, (*ver. 26, 27.*) in Christ, the great Head of the church, and has united you to him, and blessed you with all spiritual blessings of an heavenly nature in him, (*Eph. i. 3, 4.*) who has brought in a complete salvation to us that are effectually called; (*ver. 24.*) a salvation every way answerable to all our wants, how foolish, weak, base, and despicable soever we be in ourselves, or in the opinion of others: Insomuch, that

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* This seems to be a description of the *Gentiles*, whom the *Jesus* always spoke of with the utmost contempt, and used to call, *them that are not*, as in the apocryphal, *Ezher* iv. 11. and *Esdra* vi. 56, 57. And the apostle, speaking of the *Gentiles*, (*Rom. iv. 17.*) says, *God calls those things which be not, as though they were.* (See Dr. *Whitby's* and Mr.

Locke's notes.) And this is an argument with me, that the apostle here speaks, not merely of God's choosing and calling persons to the ministry, but to the privileges and blessings of the gospel, which the *Gentiles* were made partakers of, to the rejection of the *Jews*.

by

by the ordination of God, and by his settlement of the gospel-plan, he has made Christ to be *Wisdom* to us, as he is the great prophet of the church, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, for enlightening and guiding us by his word and spirit : God has likewise ordained Christ to be *righteousness* to us, as he is the Lord our righteousness *, who, by his obedience and sufferings unto death, has satisfied the law and justice in our room and stead ; and as this is accepted for us, and placed to our account, through faith in him, for the remission of our sins, and discharging us from condemnation, and for justifying us in the sight of God, and giving us a right and title to eternal life ; and since it does not become the holy God to take away the guilt of our sins, and at the same time leave us under their power and dominion, he has also made Christ to be *sanctification*, as he hath purchased all renewing, quickening, and purifying grace ; and as all the springs of it are in him, to be communicated to us, for making us internally holy, by the agency of his spirit within us : And since, where iniquity is pardoned and subdued, all its dreadful consequences and effects shall in due time be removed, God has made Christ to be *redemption* to us, as he is our great and final deliverer from all that is contemptible and miserable in this world †, as well as in that to come ; and as he will raise our dead bodies, and make them like unto his own glorious body, by the working of his mighty power, and so complete our felicity, on the foot of that eternal redemption, which he has obtained for us.

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* *Righteousness* and *sanctification* are evidently distinguished from each other ; and therefore the *righteousness*, here mentioned, cannot relate to our being made internally and practically holy, which is the proper idea of *sanctification* ; but it relates to another benefit, and that is *justification* by the righteousness of Christ. To suppose otherwise, is to confound justification and sanctification, and to make a wide gap in the apostle's account of the blessings brought in by Christ, to the exclusion of pardon and justification, which are fundamental to all the rest : But the paraphrase keeps up a distinction between all the benefits ; and though Christ is made *wisdom* and *sanctification*, by the gracious working of his spirit *in us*, that is no argument against his being made *righteousness* to us by imputation ; for

his being made *redemption* to us is in a different way from that, in which he is made *wisdom* and *sanctification*, as the former is by an external work done *for us*, and *upon us*, rather than by any internal work wrought *in us*.

† Redemption, in the language of the New Testament, often signifies deliverance from sin and wrath by the price which Christ paid for it. But this sense of his being made *redemption*, falls in with his being made *righteousness* to us ; and therefore as it is here to be distinguished from *that*, we are led to understand it of *redemption by power*, in virtue of the price, from all the evils of this life, as in Luke xxi. 28. and of the *redemption of the body*, for the consummation of our happiness, at the glorious manifestation of the sons of God, which the apostle speaks of, *Rom. viii. 23.*

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorioth, let him glory in the Lord.

31 The great design of God in thus providing all salvation in Christ, is, that according to the governing view of the gospel-scheme, and according to what is recorded, (*Jer. ix. 23, 24.*) for placing God and creatures, especially sinful creatures, in their proper situations, every one that triumphs and rejoices, on account of the honours and blessings conferred upon him, should center all his glorying and rejoicing entirely, and only in the Lord Jesus, and in the free grace of God the Father through him, to whom be glory for ever. *Amen.*

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

With what intire satisfaction may we receive the apostolic writings and doctrine, as of divine authority! With what reverence of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, should we ask for grace and peace to be extended to all the churches, which consist of credibly professing saints, and to all that religiously call on the name of Christ, their Lord and ours! And with what pleasure and thankfulness to God, should we reflect on the gifts and graces that he has bestowed upon them, as being confident that they, who are effectually called into communion with Christ, shall be confirmed in their present happy state, and be presented faultless before him, at his second coming! 'Tis great pity that they, who profess to be united in these spiritual privileges and eternal interests, should not be so in all important sentiments, and in heart and affection too; and it is an exceeding reproach upon them, when animosities and contentions arise among them; some setting up one head of a party, and others another, as though these had been their redeemers, and they had been baptized in their names; and as though all Christ's faithful servants were not embarked in his common cause. But, O what a comfort is it, if we are conscious to ourselves, that we have not encouraged, nor contributed to such mischievous divisions, like persons that would set up our own, or any other name, instead of Christ's! He is certainly worthy of our highest and dearest regards, when we consider him as crucified for us; and how much soever the doctrine of salvation, through his sufferings and death, may be a stumbling-block to the *Yerous*, and the greatest folly in the esteem of learned *Gentiles*, to their own perdition; it is nevertheless in itself, and in the account of all the effectually called, who believe, and are in a state of salvation, the wisdom of God, and the power of God. And what is all the wisdom of the most learned and celebrated *rabbies* and philosophers, but very foolishness, compared with the wisdom of God, as displayed in the cross of Christ, for reconciling his mercy and justice in saving sinners, which no human schemes could ever do! How weak and ineffectual are all the contrivances and attempts of the most penetrating minds, for reformation and happiness, compared with the divine energy that accompanies the plain and faithful preaching of a crucified Saviour! But how unlike to men's ways of proceeding are the dispensations of God's grace, who, for the most part, has chosen and called persons of despicable characters, and of the lower ranks of mankind, both to preach, and to receive Christ and the gospel, and thereby pour confusion upon all the learning and authority of men, that no flesh might glory in his presence, as though their improvements of divine revelation, to saving advantage, were owing to themselves! And how readily should we fall in with the gospel scheme, which is so admirably contrived for humbling the creature, and exalting God, as he has laid up all salvation in Christ, and made him to be wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, to all that believe in him, that every one, who glories, might glory only in the Lord.

C H A P. II.

The apostle proceeds to remind the Corinthians of the plain manner in which he preached a crucified Christ to them, 1,—5. Shews the excellent wisdom contained in this doctrine, 6,—9. And that it cannot be duly known and received, but by the light and influence of the Holy Spirit, 10,—16.

TEXT.

AND I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech, or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

PARAPHRASE.

SINCE the wisdom and power of God, together with all his other perfections, are conspicuously displayed, and the whole of salvation is provided, in Christ, to the glory of God, and the humbling of sinful creatures at his footstool; (*chap. i. 24, 29, 30, 31.*) therefore, my dear brethren, when I came and preached the gospel to you, I did not address you, as your false teachers do, to gain applause to themselves, with flights of eloquence, (*καθ' ἐπιροχην λογισ*) in a fine rhetorical harangue, or with curious speculations of human wisdom and philosophy, which are of high repute with the polite part of the world; but I purposely declined every thing of this nature, as unsuitable to the dignity, simplicity, and self-humbling tendency of my message, in which I declared to you that testimony, which is originally not of men, but of God himself, and which he has given to his crucified Son, by ancient prophecy, and numerous miracles, and by the inward witness of his Spirit, to the consciences of them that believe.

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

2 For as I myself count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, and would glory above all things else, in the cross of Christ; (*Phil. iii. 8. and Gal. vi. 14.*) so, upon mature deliberation, (*επειρα*) I judged it needful, and accordingly resolved, to preach among you, as if I knew nothing of the arts and sciences, or of the Jewish, or Grecian learning, or even of the most sublime and unessential points of faith; but to employ all the talents which God has given me, to make known, and propagate among you, nothing so much as, nothing in comparison with, and nothing as the sum and substance of the gospel, but the person and offices of Jesus Christ, the complete salvation that is in him, and the strong and endearing obligations he has laid on all that by faith receive him: And I especially determined to explain and prove, recommend and inculcate, the fundamental article of his expiatory sufferings and death on the cross, in which all the lines of the gospel meet, as in their center.

3 And I was with you

3 And whilst I was dispensing these important truths,

you in weakness,
and in fear, and in
much trembling.

truths, I behaved with all meekness and modesty ; and appeared among you as a poor weak creature, whose outward circumstances were afflicted and despicable, (*chap.* iv. 10,—13.) and whose bodily presence was mean, and speech contemptible ; (*2 Cor.* x. 10.) I was also among you with great fear, lest through your strong prejudices against me, and violent opposition to me and my ministry, on these accounts, my mouth should be stopped, and my labour with you should have no good effect upon you ; (*Acts* xviii. 5.) and I was filled with a deep concern for the salvation of your souls, even unto trembling in my heart for fear, lest, through the infirmity of the instrument, the depravity of your own hearts, and the power of Satan, ye should reject and despise my message itself, to your own eternal perdition. In this manner I was *serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations*, as in other places, (*Acts* xx. 19.) so especially at my first coming among you, till the Lord Jesus appeared and spoke to me in a vision, saying, *Be not afraid ; but speak and hold not thy peace : For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee ; for I have much people in this city.* (*Acts* xviii. 9, 10.)

4 And my speech, and my preaching, was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power :

4 Upon this encouragement, *I continued with you a year and six months, teaching the word of God*, (*Acts* xviii. 11.) as being assured, that Christ's presence with me would amply make up the want of external recommendations in my person, and manner of preaching ; and that the doctrine of his cross, when duly understood, and impressed by his Spirit, would speak for itself, and not need the flourishes and ornaments of language to set it off, and make it effectual ; and therefore the manner of my private discourses, and public ministrations among you, were in a holy, free and negligent style, not with the oratorical allurements, which the art and skill of men invented to embellish their speeches, and add force to them, that they might tickle the ear, please the fancy, and captivate the mind of the hearer : But my words were attended with what is infinitely better, and more prevalent, than all this, even with the convincing light and persuasive evidence of the Holy Spirit himself in your own minds and consciences ; and with his powerful influence upon your hearts, to bring them into an obedi- ential subjection to it *, as well as that the truth of

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* As innumerable multitudes were not convinced, and brought to embrace the gospel, by the unquestionable miracles which they saw were wrought to confirm it, an internal light and energy in the souls of them that believed was, at least, included in this *demonstration of the Spirit and power* ; and without this,

what I delivered was confirmed, by the miraculous gifts and operations of the Holy Ghost. And I designedly went into this plain way of preaching,

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

5 That the faith, whereby ye assented to, and embraced the gospel, and trusted in Christ according to it, might not be supposed to be wrought in you by the dint of human motives and arguments, nor might rest upon the authority and persuasive arts of men, which they think to be the wisest methods for gaining credit to what they say; but that, like a truly divine faith, it might be built merely upon the authority of God, and might be intirely owing to his efficacious working, who makes the gospel *his power to the salvation of every one that believes*; (Rom. i. 16.) and that the glory of all might be ascribed, not in the least to man, but intirely and alone to God, who produces mighty effects by the weakest means and instruments.

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought.

6 Though we, who minister the gospel of Christ, do not dress it out with the flowers of human eloquence, (*ver. 1.*) and though it be deemed foolishness by many; (*chap. i. 23.*) yet we therein preach the grand scheme of divine contrivance, which, of all others, displays the manifold wisdom of God, (*Eph. iii. 10.*) and is suited, designed, and blessed, to make men wise unto salvation, through faith in a crucified Saviour; and so it is accounted of, by those that believe, and are effectually called, (*chap. i. 21, 24.*) and especially (*ἐν τοῖς τέλει*) among those of them *,

who,

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all miracies themselves would have been as ineffectual, for the conversion of these *Corinthians*, as they were of others, that still continued in unbelief.

* By *them that are perfect*, cannot be meant them that are intirely free from all defects in knowledge, grace, and holiness: For as the apostle owned that he himself was not, in this sense, perfect, (*Phil. iii. 12.*) it is not to be supposed, that he looked upon other Christians to be so; nay, he supposes the contrary in this epistle; *chap. xiii. 10.* where comparing the *present* with the *heavenly state*, he says, *When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.* But he that is perfect, is of much the same import with *him that is spiritual*, in *chap. iii. 1, 3.* where it stands opposed to them that are comparatively *babes in Christ*, which need to be fed with *milk*, and are in great measure carnal. Accordingly, in opposition to such babes, the Author to the *Hebrews* speaks of

them that are of full age, or perfect, (*τελειων*) and of *leaving the principles*, or first rudiments of the doctrine of Christ, and *going on to perfection*, that is, to a more thorough knowledge of the whole scheme of the gospel, like *finished* Christians; as we use to call good scholars and workmen, *finished* scholars and workmen. (*Heb. v. 13, 14.* and *vi. 1.*) Accordingly, *as many as be perfect*, (*Phil. iii. 15.*) signifies, as many as be advanced to any considerable attainments of knowledge and experience, and answerable improvements in grace and holiness, and so are arrived at a state of manhood in Christ. (*Eph. iv. 13, 14.*) Therefore, though in some senses every true believer may be said to be perfect, as he is *complete in Christ*, his Head, (*Col. ii. 10.*) and is already perfectly justified through faith in him, (*Acts xiii. 39.* and *Rom. viii. 1.*) and as he has all the parts of the new creature formed in him, (*2 Cor. v. 17.*) yet, in the apostle's use of this phrase, it seems to signify persons

who, through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, have, like finished Christians, attained any considerable degree of knowledge and grace in their acquaintance with it. Nevertheless, the doctrine we preach is neither such, as is invented, suggested, or approved of, by the philosophical, or political schemes of the men of this world, whose thoughts about a better are all trifling and vain; nor of the *Jewish* rulers and *rabbies*, any more than of heathen potentates, whose views and interests relate to this present life; all which wisdom of theirs will soon perish with themselves.

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

7 But we publish that blessed doctrine, which is the wonderful product of the infinite wisdom of God, and has been hitherto intirely concealed from the *Gentile* world, and but obscurely suggested to the *Jews* *, and is too deep and unsearchable to be fully comprehended by any creature upon earth, yea, by the angels themselves in heaven, who are continually prying into it, (1 *Pet.* i. 12.) and is too spiritual to be duly understood, and received by carnal minds. (ver. 14.) I mean that wisdom, which was a secret reserve in God's breast from everlasting, and was hid under *Jewish* types and shadows, and mysterious dawning hints of prophecy, in the Old Testament dispensations; but which God, (*πρὸ τῶν αἰώνων*) before all ages of time, or any former dispensation commenced, predetermined to reveal in our days, with transcendent light and evidence, for the honour of the gospel-state, and of its ministrations and subjects; and for the eternal happiness and glory of every one of us, that are sincere lovers of God. (ver. 9.)

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have

8 Which important scheme of salvation, none of the great men of this world, particularly not *Pontius Pilate*, the Roman governor, nor *Annas*, nor *Caiaphas*, the high priests, nor any of the *chief priests*, *rabbies*, and rulers of the *Jews* †, had any just notions

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of more grown understanding, and higher attainments in Christianity, who are enriched with all knowledge; (chap. i. 5.) and who, compared with weaker and younger believers, that do not see so far into the beauty and glory of the whole scheme of the gospel, may be said to be perfect, as a man is, when compared with a child.

* *The Wisdom of God in a mystery*, may signify the incomprehensible things contained in it, as well as former concealments of it. And I cannot think that it here relates merely to the calling of the *Gentiles*, which some suppose is the only mystery, that the apostle so fre-

quently speaks of: But it seems principally to refer to the great doctrine of salvation by a crucified Christ: For it is this, and not barely the calling of the *Gentiles*, concerning which the apostle says, (ver. 8.) *Had the princes of this world*, inclusive at least of the *Jewish* rulers, known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; whereas, had the rulers among the *Jews* known Christ's design of calling the *Gentiles*, this would rather have still more incensed them against him, than restrained them from crucifying him.

† *The princes of this world* plainly means those that were immediately concerned

have crucified the Lord of glory.

tions of; their prejudices and carnal views having blinded their minds, and hardened their hearts, against all the means of conviction that Christ afforded them; For had they really understood, and been persuaded in their own consciences, what a divine person he was, and what a wise and gracious design he came upon, they would not have dared to be so desperately wicked, as to *take counsel together against him*, (Psal. ii. 2.) and unite in putting *him* to the shameful death of the cross, who is indeed the Lord, Proprietor, and Possessor of glory *, all glorious in his original nature and perfections, and the Author, Purchaser, and Disposer of all the glory of the gospel, and of heaven itself.

7 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

9 But, notwithstanding all their low and mistaken thoughts about him, he has brought in a most glorious state of things, worthy of himself, according to what is written by the prophet *Isaiab*, (chap. lix. 4.) where he describes the blessings of the Messiah's kingdom, saying, Among all the objects of sense, the eye has never seen any thing so grand and beautiful; nor has the ear ever heard any thing so delightful and advantageous; and among all the objects of science, it never entered the thoughts of any man to contrive, or even to imagine or apprehend, much less comprehend, any thing so entertaining, beneficial, and glorious, as the blessings of salvation, which God, in the astonishing counsels and settlements of his infinite wisdom and grace, has provided, adjusted, and secured for, and, under the gospel-dispensation, will bestow upon them, who, from a sense of his matchless love herein, sincerely desire, prefer, and delight in him, above all things else, as those that are by faith and hope waiting for him.

10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit

10 But God has now made a clear revelation of these glorious things, not to me only by immediate inspiration, that I might *preach the unsearchable riches of Christ*; but likewise by the gracious internal illumination

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cerned in the crucifixion of Christ; and so take in the *Jewish* rulers, priests, and *rabbies*, who instigated and joined with *Pilate*, in putting our Lord to death.

* *The King of glory* is a magnificent and peculiar description of the great Jehovah, the Lord of hosts, *Psal. xxiv. 7.*—10. Christ therefore is here spoken of under the august title of *the Lord of glory*, to raise our thoughts of his infinite dignity, as a divine person, in like manner as God the Father is styled *the Father of glory*, (Eph. i. 17.) and the Holy

Spirit *the Spirit of glory*. (1 Pet. iv. 14.) The application of this title *glory* to all the sacred Three, intimates, that the Father, Son, and Spirit, are *the God of glory*, as the only true God is called, *Psal. xxix. 3.* and *Acts vii. 2.*; and Christ's being mentioned under this character of Deity, when he is spoken of as *crucified*, shews that the divine and human natures were personally united in him; and that his death is of infinite dignity and merit, as he was *God, who purchased the church with his own blood*. (Acts xx. 28.)

rit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

lumination of his Spirit, by means of, and together with, his word, to all those of us who love him, and for whom he has prepared them, (*ver. 9.*) that we might know the things which are freely given to us of God: (*ver. 12.*) For as the Lord is said to *search the hearts and reins of the children of men*, (1 Chron. xxviii. 9. and Rev. ii. 23.) to intimate his perfect knowledge of them; so his Spirit, who is one with him, and is given to make known the great things of the gospel to us, is infinite in understanding, and has not only an all comprehending view of every thing whatsoever out of God; but is intimately acquainted, even with the deepest counsels, and secrets, as they lie in God himself; and so he, and he only, in opposition to all creatures, can make them known in such ways, and by such means, as seem good unto him.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

11 For, to illustrate this point, as far as may be, by what we are most familiarly acquainted with, What man, in the ordinary course of human knowledge, can be acquainted with the secret thoughts and designs, that lie in any one's own heart; except his own self-conscious mind, which reflects on all that passes within him, and which only can discover it to another man? Even so it is, with respect to the still more sublime and hidden secrets of wisdom and grace, that are formed in the heart of God about those that love him: Neither angels nor men, no one whatsoever (*ἄνθρωπος*) can penetrate into them, or get any knowledge of them, as they lie in the eternal thoughts of God; except, in distinction from all finite beings, his own Spirit*, who is as essential to himself, and as conscious to all his thoughts and purposes, as any man's own soul can be to him, and to the thoughts which pass within him.

12 Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which

12 Now, in order to our being led into the knowledge of these important and concerning things, we are under the conduct and influence, not of that spirit of the boasted wisdom and learning, which the men

N O T E.

* The Spirit's *searching all things, even the deep things of God*, (*ver. 10.*) is a peculiar property of Deity; and his *knowing the things of God*, as the spirit of man knows the things of his own mind, (*ver. 11.*) intimates that he is as essential to the being of God, as the human soul is to the being of man; and both together shew, that the Spirit is included in the divine unity, and partakes of the nature and perfections of God: And yet his being *the Spirit, which is of God*, (*ver. 12.*) suggests that he has, in some unknown way, a subsistence distinct

from the Father's and Son's, in the undivided Godhead: And when it is said, that *none knows the things of God, but the Spirit of God*, it is only to exclude all *creatures*, of what rank soever, from this knowledge; but no more excludes the Father and Son from it, than our Lord excluded the Father and Spirit from equal knowledge with himself, when he said, (*Matth. xi. 27.*) *No man (ἄνθρωπος) knows the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*

which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

men of this world are animated and guided by, and pride themselves in: No, all the powers and principles of this sort of spirit, are too low, weak, and carnal, to make any discoveries of them; and they stand in opposition to them, instead of being disposed to entertain them: But we have been made partakers of that divine Spirit, and have been enlightened, taught, and animated by him, who, in his personal subsistence, proceeds by an eternal necessity, and in his operations and influence comes forth, by peculiar dispensation, from God to us, for this very end and purpose, that we might have a true and saving knowledge of those great and glorious blessings of the gospel, which God hath bestowed upon us, not for any worthiness or desert in ourselves, or any acquirements of our own, but merely by the free gift of his own rich grace to us.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

13 Which excellent things we also, who are taught to know them, and *that* for ourselves; and particularly we, the apostles of Christ, speak of, as has been said, (*ver. 4.*) not in rhetorical language, which is studied and learned by human art, and would be but like gilding a diamond, or lackering over the finest gold, to the debasing of its own lustre and value; but we express them in a plain, inartificial, though grave and majestic style, suitable to their native dignity and beauty, which the Spirit of God instructs us to clothe them with: And, in representing them, we compare what he has said about them, in former and latter revelations, in types and antitypes, and in prophecies and accomplishments of them, which cast a light one upon another; and we express them, in the Spirit's own language, as contained in the sacred oracles; *that* being best adapted to impress, as well as convey, just ideas of the things which he himself has indited.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him;

14 But though these spiritual things, which are revealed by the Holy Ghost, be set in the clearest objective light before an unregenerate man, who acts only upon principles of natural reason, in his judgment about them*, like the *Greeks* and *wise men* after

N O T E.

* After all the disputes that have been raised about what is here meant by *the natural man*, I humbly think a close attention to the apostle's own discourse may be sufficient to determine it; for *they are foolishness to him*, seems plainly to answer to the polite *Greeks*, to whom *the preaching of Christ crucified was foolishness*; (see the note on *chap. i. 23.*) and *he cannot know them*, seems to answer to *the princes of this*

world, inclusive of the *Jewish* rulers, *not knowing the Lord of glory*: (see the note on *ver. 8.*) And so *the natural man* is one, who, though the doctrines of the gospel be ever so clearly published, and proposed to his examination, as they now were to *Jews* and *Greeks*; and though he have all the learning of the *Greeks*, and all the advantages of *Jewish* rabbies, who made great professions of religion, and whose business it

him; neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

after the flesh, before-mentioned; (*chap. i. 23, 26.*) yet he does not embrace and approve of them; because, through the darkness, pride, sensuality, and depravity of his mind, he cannot adjust them to his own reasonings about them, and thinks them a mere heap of inconsistencies, weakness, folly, and enthusiasm, beneath the notice of a man of sense and learning: And though he has heard them with the hearing of the ear, like the *Scribes* and *Rabbies*, and other chiefs of this world, that joined in crucifying the Lord of glory, (*ver. 8.*) yet, through the corruption of nature, he is under a moral incapacity of understanding them, in a truly spiritual and affecting manner, suitable to their high worth and importance, for want of a renewed faculty, or supernatural principle within him, to discern them; because they are perceived in their divine truth and spirituality, excellence and glory, only by an understanding that is illuminated and rectified by the Spirit of God.

15 But he that is spiritual, judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

15 But a real Christian, who is renewed in the spirit of his mind *, and led into an acquaintance with divine things by the Holy Spirit, (*ανακρίνει*) searches into, discerns, and is capable of forming a right judgment about all things that are necessary to be known, relating to God's way of salvation by Jesus Christ: He can distinguish truth from error in such important points, sees a glory, and feels a transforming power in them: But (*δὲ*) he himself, as to his spiritual knowledge and sense of the things of the gospel, and satisfaction in them, (*ὑπ' ἑδῶνος ἀνακρίνεται*)

13

N O T E S.

was to study the Holy Scriptures; yet having only natural principles of reason, with its utmost improvements by external means, to guide and influence him in his enquiries into divine revelation, he can neither know its doctrines aright, in their amiable glories, nor be suitably affected with them.

* *He that is spiritual* (*ο πνευματικός*) being opposed to one, who, in the next preceding verse, is called (*ψυχικός ἀνθρώπος*;) the *natural* man, (who has no higher principle than his own *unrenewed soul*, to guide him, and to whom the things of the Spirit of God are foolishness) seems to answer to them that are effectually called, and to whom Christ crucified is the wisdom of God, and the power of God, in opposition to those to whom he is a *stumbling block*, and *foolishness*; (*chap. i. 23, 24.*) and so he that is spiritual is here the *regenerate* man;

though, perhaps, it may also point to one of superior knowledge and grace, as it more apparently doth in *chap. iii. 1.* where the apostle tells these *Corinthians*, he could not speak unto them, as unto spiritual, (*ὡς πνευματικός*) but as unto carnal (*ὡς σαρκικός*) and as unto babes in Christ: He there seems to mean by them that are spiritual, such as had attained to some considerable degrees of light, faith, and holiness, according to the gospel revelation, in opposition, not to those whom he here had called *natural* men, (*ver. 14*) but to those that were comparatively carnal, as being too much influenced by worldly interests and corrupt affections, in their regard to the doctrines of the gospel: (see the note on *chap. iii. 1.*) And as, in that place, he manifestly speaks of *private* Christians; so here, *he that is spiritual*, is not to be understood as relating only to *ministers*, but likewise to *common believers*.

is not discerned, or certainly judged of, nor can be confuted, by any man whatsoever, much less by those that are destitute of the Spirit, and have no experience of these things; nor are capable of determining the truth or falshood of what the believer knows and says, according to the scripture, about them.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

16 For what natural man, by all his reason, though improved to the highest pitch imaginable, has ever penetrated into the secret thoughts and counsels of God's heart, which are merely matters of divine revelation, so as to be able to shew the spiritual man * any of those supernatural truths, that he is not already acquainted with, or to convince him of any mistakes about those, that God has made known to him? Who of them all shall undertake to demonstrate (συμμελοῦσθε) any thing for, or against, what he affirms concerning them? But we apostles, and all of us, who are now *light in the Lord*, (Eph. v. 8.) are fully satisfied, that we are led into the true knowledge of the mind of Christ, concerning the great things that relate to the glory of God, and our own eternal salvation, through his crucified Son: And therefore no schemes of other men, that are contrary to this, ought to be entertained by any of you, with whatever high pretences of authority, or of natural reason, they may be recommended by men of name and figure among you.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

Behold the native beauties of the gospel, which is indeed God's own testimony, and appears best in its own light and language! All its lines center in a crucified Christ, whose sacrifice is of infinite value, as he is the Lord of glory; and the gaudy false paint of human oratory is so far from setting off this important doctrine with advantage, that it obscures the illustrious simplicity, and divine wisdom and grace, which are its highest recommendation. But so great is its spirituality and sublimity, and so far is it from comporting with the most refined schemes of the men of this world, that it exceeds all human thought; it can neither be found out by natural reason, nor spiritually understood and relished by unrenewed minds, which, instead of cordially embracing it, count it foolishness. How necessary then is, not only an external revelation, but also an internal illumination of the Holy Spirit, who, being a divine person, is as intimately acquainted with the deep things of God, as a man's soul is with the thoughts of his own mind; and who alone can give us just and impressive conceptions of spiritual things! But blessed be God, that true believers, whose faith is produced and maintained, not by the wisdom of men, but by the power of God, and who sincerely love him, are partakers of his Spirit, to lead them into all necessary truth, and to give them a right discerning of it in a spiritual manner, that they may savingly know those great and inexpressibly glorious things which God has prepared for them, and freely given to them; and may be capable of distinguishing gospel-truths from the errors that lie in opposition to them.

N O T E.

* *Him*, as several learned commentators observe, refers not to *the Lord*, but to *the spiritual man*, mentioned in the foregoing verse: For the apostle is here speaking, not of a natural man's instruct-

ing *the Lord*, but of his judging, confuting, and better informing *the spiritual man*, with respect to the things which he knows by divine revelation, in such a manner as to be *judged of no man*.

them. And, O what admirable contrivance, for the glory of God, and their own salvation, do finished Christians discern in it, who have a more complete view of the gospel scheme! While they have the greatest satisfaction, experience, and hope in themselves, relating to it, no natural man is able to correct or confute them.

C H A P. III.

The apostle reproves the Corinthians for their carnality and contentions about ministers, 1,—4. Shows that all the true servants of Christ can indeed do nothing effectually without him, that they preach him as the only foundation, and every one should take heed to what he builds on this foundation, 5,—15. That the churches of Christ ought to be kept pure, as they are the temple of the Holy Ghost, 16, 17. That it becomes them to be humble in their opinion of themselves, 18,—20. And that they should not glory in men; because, through Christ, ministers and all things else are theirs, 21,—23.

TEXT.

AND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

PARAPHRASE.

AND truly, my brethren, even whilst I was with you, I perceived such appearances of soundness for secular interests, and for philosophical learning; and so much of an opinionated and disputatious temper, that though many of you are *enriched in all utterance, and in all necessary knowledge*, (see the note on *chap. i. 5.*) yet I could not look upon the generality of you, or treat you in my ministry, as persons advanced very far, but rather as weak and low in spiritual light and experience; and though I esteem you as real believers, and so own and love you as brethren in the Lord *, yet I could judge no higher of you, nor accommodate my discourses any otherwise to you, than as to babes in Christ, who, for spiritual strength

E 2

and

N O T E.

* The apostle's calling these *Corinthians brethren*, and *babes in Christ*, shews that when he spoke of them, as *not being spiritual, but carnal*, he did not mean it *absolutely*, as if he thought them to be unregenerate persons, but only *comparatively*, as they were Christians of lower attainments in experimental knowledge and grace, and more influenced by fleshly principles, than some other believers were, and than they themselves might reasonably have been expected to be, considering what means they had enjoyed. (See the note on *chap. ii. 15.*) And as he had before spoke of them under the character of *the sanctified in Christ Jesus*, and of

those, whom *God would confirm to the end, that they might be blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus*, and to whom *Christ was made wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption*, (*chap. i. 2, 8, 30.*) we must conclude that, in the judgment of charity, he accounted the bulk of them to be real Christians, notwithstanding all their defects, which he expressed by their being *carnal*, and *babes*, and which seemed to lie chiefly in their paying too much regard to men, and to principles of human policy and literature, to the obstructing of their proficiency in the most sublime, refined, and practical knowledge of spiritual things.

and understanding, were but like young children compared with men of full age.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

2 Accordingly, I made it my chief care to lead you into the first principles of the oracles of God, relating to Jesus Christ, and him crucified, which, like milk for children, were best suited to your spiritual edification, instead of entertaining you with the more abstruse and sublime points of the Christian faith, which might have fed your pride and vanity, and are like *strong meat*, that is properest for *men of full age, who, by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*: (Heb. v. 12,—14.) For ye were not then in fit case to receive, and make a good improvement of such spiritual and lofty themes; nor indeed have ye as yet, after all the advantages ye have enjoyed, made such proficiency in divine knowledge, and in victory over remaining corruptions, as to embrace such doctrines without turning them to a wrong use, any more than the weak stomach of an infant can digest strong meat.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for where as *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

3 For, as I find by your present conduct, there is still a great deal of carnality of temper, and childish ways of thinking about the doctrines of the gospel, as though they were not to be received, merely as matters of divine revelation, but upon the authority and credit of one or another man of note and fame, that recommends them to you: Since (*οτις γαρ*) there are among you vain emulations and envyings, on account of the spiritual gifts, which some are apprehended to be endued with, more than others; and these inward ferments of the passions break out into open quarrels and litigious contentions, and are carried on to factions and parties for, and against certain doctrines and ministers; Are not these *the works of the flesh*? (Gal. v. 19, 20, 21.) Are not these manifest proofs, that ye are not so spiritual and disinterested in your regards to gospel-truths, as ye ought to be; and that ye behave too much under the influence of a carnal disposition of mind, like the men of this world, who have no better than natural principles to govern them?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul, and another I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal?

4 For, as I have observed already, (*chap. i. 12.*) one sort of you set up for one minister, and others for another, as though they were to be the heads of parties, and Lords of your faith. One, for instance, saying, I am all for *Paul*, as thinking him to be the most solid and profound preacher; and another, I am all for *Apollos*, as admiring him for the most lively and florid orator. Is not this a plain evidence of great remains of carnality among you?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos,

5 To cure you of this, permit me to ask you, Who do you take *Paul* to be? And what do ye make of *Apollos*?

Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

Apollos? Or what in reality is one, or the other of these? Are they more or less than the servants of Christ, by whose preaching, one and the same doctrine, ye were brought to believe, and depend by faith upon him; not by any skill or power in them, but merely as the Lord Christ himself wrought effectually, by their ministry, in the hearts of every one of you, that doth indeed believe in him? Why then should either of them, or any other minister, be set up one against another, or be looked upon as any thing more, than subordinate instruments of your spiritual benefit?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase.

6 I *Paul*, the apostle of Jesus Christ, (*chap. i. 1.*) to speak under the figure of a labourer in a *vineyard*, which both the Old and New Testament church is compared to, (*Isa. v. 1, &c.* and *Matth. xx. 1. &c.* and *xxi. 33, &c.*) I was the first that preached the gospel to you, which I did with assiduous care, for a year and a half together; and, blessed be God, I was an instrument of converting many of you to the faith of Christ; (*Acts xviii. 1,—11.*) and so, as an under-agent to him, I planted, not only his gospel, but likewise trees of righteousness, in your conversion, that he might be glorified. (*Isa. lxi. 3.*) When Providence called me away from you, my companion in labour, who came after me, even *Apollos*, a lively, zealous, and eloquent young man, took great pains in *helping them much, which had believed through grace*; (*Acts xviii. 27. and xix. 1.*) and so was like one, who watered the plantation. But as a tree's taking root, thriving, and bringing forth fruit, depends intirely on the operation of the God of nature, both in forming the plant, and the soil in which it is set, and in adding the influence of the heavens: So the success of the gospel absolutely depends on the special operation of the God of grace, who is the Author of the gospel itself, and attends the ministrations of it with the power of his Spirit, to make new hearts, and cause them to abound in fruits of holiness; insomuch that the whole increase, which is produced by our labour, whether it be of converts, or of their gifts and graces, and fruits of righteousness, is derived only from him.

7 So then, neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth: but God that giveth the increase.

7 So then, as in the world of nature, neither the husbandman, that plants, and waters, has any power in himself, or by virtue of what he can do, to accomplish the desired end; but all is owing to the supreme agency of that God, who at first formed the earth, and made it bring forth its various kinds of plants, and who, in the way of his providence, cherishes and improves them, by causing the sun to shine, and the rain and dew to fall upon them; After the like

like manner, in the world of grace, neither he who, like *Paul*, laid the foundation of Christianity, is of any consideration, as to the power and efficacy of his ministry; nor is he who, like *Apollos*, went on in preaching the gospel to cultivate the good work, which was begun in you, of any account, as to the happy fruit of his labours, how skilful, fervent, and diligent soever, either of them were therein: But God alone, who authorized and qualified both for their work, and assisted, owned, and blessed them in it, is the supreme efficient cause of all the good produced by it, in virtue of the enlivening and cherishing beams of the Sun of righteousness, (*Mal. iv. 2.*) and of the renewing and sanctifying influences of his spirit: (*Tit. iii. 5, 6.*) The glory therefore of all is to be ascribed to him, and not in the least to any of us, who are what we are by the grace of God, and are to be looked upon, as barely ministers, and not Authors of either the gospel, or of its efficacy upon you.

7 Now he that planteth, and he that watereth, are one: and every man shall receive his own reward, according to his own labour.

8 One servant of the Lord, who takes pains in first publishing the word of his grace, and bringing souls to him; and another fellow-labourer, who afterwards comes, and lays himself out in further ministrations, are all one, in their doctrine and main design, in the authority of their commission from Christ, and instrumentality in his hand for conversion and edification; and are all one, in their nothingness, as to saving events; so that, with respect to these things, one of them is not to be esteemed and magnified above the other, much less in opposition to the other: And, as to the difference there may be in their gifts and diligence, every one of them, who is faithful in either of these services, shall receive from his great Lord and Master at last, not the retribution which belongs to another man's labours, and which, though altogether a free and undeserved gift, may be stiled a reward, because it is bestowed, not for the work, but after it is done, and will make a rich amends for all the toil and difficulty of doing it; but he shall receive the reward, which is suitable to the nature and proportion of his own ministerial labours, and of his fidelity, zeal, and diligence in it: Such an one therefore may be thoroughly satisfied with this final reward, which will be as happy and glorious, as he can wish for; and he need not be ambitious, as some among you are, of the praise and honour, that come from men only.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

9 For as to us, who are engaged in these important services, we are to be equally considered as those, who, by divine assistance, labour jointly, and with the same noble view, as God's workmen, in a subordinate concurrence with him, who will neither leave us

in his work, nor be unmindful of us after it ; this is honour enough for us : And as to you, who are his church and people, ye are not ours, but God's own vineyard, field, or garden, (*Θεοῦ κτηνη*) the work of his own hand, and his peculiar property, on which much cost and pains have been spent for its cultivation : And, to use another metaphor taken from a *house*, which is also an apt representation of the church of God, (*1 Tim. iii. 15.*) ye are his structure, not of our own erecting, nor for our use, but which he himself has built for his own habitation through the spirit, (*Eph. ii. 22.*) instead of that material temple, in which he was formerly wont to dwell ; and so in each of these views, whoever were the means and instruments, *ye are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works ;* (*Eph. ii. 10.*) and therefore ye ought to be as a dedicated thing, not at all to us, but intirely and alone to him.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

10 In this spiritual building, which God has set up among you, I had the honour of being first employed ; and as a skilful and prudent architect looks well to the foundation he lays, and takes care that it be firm and solid, and sufficient to bear the edifice, which is designed to be raised upon it ; so according to the nature of my office, and the measure of gifts and graces bestowed upon me, I have made use of all the wisdom, with which God inspired me, in carefully laying the ground work of your faith and hope, and of all your safety and comfort, in the great doctrine of a crucified Jesus, and salvation alone by him ; and succeeding ministers, like *Apollas*, have taken pains for your further instruction and edification upon this foundation. But let every one, that would be employed in raising a good superstructure, take special care what sort of doctrines and practices he builds upon it, and see that they be indeed placed upon this, as their foundation, and be thoroughly consistent with it, and worthy of it ; that the whole building may be all of a piece, for the glory of God, and the good of others, as well as of his own soul.

11 For other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

11 For as to the *foundation* itself, on which the whole church, and all its doctrines and duties, ministrations and hopes, preservation, privileges and blessings here, and everlasting glory hereafter, are to be built ; no man whatsoever has any right to attempt the laying, nor can he ever, with all his wit and learning, lay any other, that will answer his end, besides that which is already laid in the eternal counsels of divine wisdom and grace, in the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, in the incarnation, obedience, and sufferings of the Redeemer, and in the

plain doctrines and ministry of the gospel, and particularly in my own preaching it ; which foundation is indeed no other than Jesus Christ, who in his person and offices is a firm, abiding, and immoveable rock of ages, every way sufficient to bear all the weight, that God himself, or the believing sinner, can lay upon him ; *neither is there salvation in any other.* (Acts iv. 12.)

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble :

12 And, (ðs) as to the *superstructure* on this foundation ; if any one in his preaching, like *Apollos* on one hand, build upon it such spiritual, true, and holy doctrines and practices, as for their purity, excellence, and usefulness, are like gold and silver and precious stones, which are lasting in their nature, and will bear the severest trial, and are of great value among men ; or if, like *judaisizing* teachers, on the contrary, he build upon this foundation, such false doctrines, and irregular practices, as in their own nature are worthless, contemptible, and perishing, and of as little account, as wood, hay, and stubble, which cannot endure the fire :

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest. For the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire ; and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is.

13 The time is coming, when the nature and tendencies of the doctrine, which every one preaches and holds, whether it be sound and right, or corrupt and wrong, or leading to pious and moral, or to irreligious and immoral courses, shall be clearly distinguished, and shall appear to be what it really is, both to him that taught it, and to them that imbibed it : For, whatever men may think of it now, the day of judgment, that all-revealing and impartial day of account, will thoroughly try and discover it ; because as the refiner's fire tries metals, and separates the dross from gold and silver, and distinguishes such things, as will endure its heat, from those that will be consumed by it ; so the penetrating light, and strict process of the judgment of the great day *, will try and prove every one's

N O T E.

* By the day and the fire here spoken of, some understand the *gospel-day*, and the clear and searching light of its doctrines ; others, the day of *Jerusalem's destruction*, when consumed by fire. But it seems evident to me, that the apostle meant the *day of judgment*, and the all-searching discoveries, with their different events, that will then be made : For in the two next verses he speaks of it, as the day of trial and retribution, when every man shall receive his reward, and they that are built upon Christ, as their foundation, shall be saved : And he speaks of this, (chap. iv. 5.) as the time of the *Lord's coming*,

when he will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and every man shall have praise of God ; and this is what he often calls, by way of eminence, *that day*, and *the day of Christ*. It is likewise as plain, that the imaginary *fire of purgatory* cannot be the fire here intended : For this fire is not for *punishment*, by way of satisfaction for venial sins, as the *papists* speak of their purgatory ; but it is, principally at least, for *trial of doctrines*, inclusive of correspondent practices, as the whole context shews, to prove whether they be good, like *gold, silver, and precious stones* ; or be bad like *wood, hay, and stubble* ;

one's opinions and correspondent practices, of what kind soever they be; and will shew whether they come up to the scripture standard of divine truth; and whether they rest upon, and be agreeable to the fundamental doctrine of salvation alone by Jesus Christ, or not.

14 If any man's work abide, which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

14 If, in this awful day of scrutiny, any man's doctrines, and his behaviour answerable to them, which he has erected upon this foundation, shall appear to harmonize with it, and stand proof, he shall receive a gracious and ample retribution, with peculiar marks of honour *, in proportion to his eminent degree of faithfulness, labour, and usefulness in the work of the gospel.

15 If any man's work shall be burnt, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so, as by fire.

15 If, on the contrary, the doctrines which any one has espoused, and put into practice, through ignorance and mistake, shall prove to be unscriptural and false, though not fundamentally erroneous; and so shall be rejected and nullified, like contemptible and combustible materials, which are burnt up, instead of being preserved and refined, by fire; That man, how fond soever he were of them before, shall lose all the advantage, which he vainly expected from them: But he himself being founded upon Christ, as his rock, and only ground of his faith and hope toward God for eternal life; and not carried into licentiousness, by his other mistaken notions, shall be saved from the wrath to come; though it be with apparent difficulty and danger, which may be illustrated by a man's escaping with his life, through the fire that burns down his house, and consumes his goods. (See the note on *ver.* 13.)

16 Know ye not that

16 But, to shew that there are other errors of still more

N O T E S.

stubble; and the doctrine of *Paul* and *Apollos*, as well as of false teachers, must be tried by it; but it cannot be pretended, that *Paul* and *Apollos* themselves, were to pass through the fire of *purgatory*. And though here seems to be a reference to the flaming light, and consuming heat of the final conflagration, yet the expression must be considered as metaphorical, when applied to the trying and discovering, proving and disproving the truth of *doctrines*, including answerable practices, and to the consuming of those that are false and wrong; because no material fire can have such an operation upon what is merely of a moral nature; and therefore it is added, (*ver.* 15.) that he, who builds wood, hay, and stubble, on the

foundation, shall be saved *as by fire*, or in like manner as a man narrowly escapes through the fire, when his house is all in flames about him; and none can doubt but that *wood*, *hay*, and *stubble*, and *gold*, *silver*, and *precious stones*, must be taken in a metaphorical sense.

* *This reward* seems to point out some higher degrees of glory, than other real Christians and gospel ministers, of lower attainments in light and grace, purity, labour, and usefulness, will receive; because, as appears from the next *verse*, every true believer, and faithful servant of Christ, who holds the head, *shall be saved*; though he may suffer a loss, that lies in opposition to receiving *this reward*.

that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.

more pernicious consequence, let me remind you of what has been hinted, (*ver. 9.*) about your being *God's own building*. Do not ye understand and consider, that ye who are his true church, erected on Christ as your foundation, are set apart for God by his own appointment, sanctified and devoted to him as his temple, in a much higher and nobler sense, than the *Jewish* temple ever was of old; and that he who manifested himself by visible tokens of his gracious presence in that sacred house, and so was said to dwell there, doth now, in a more spiritual, excellent, and effectual manner, reside by special relation and possession, operation and favour, in you, as his own habitation, through the Spirit? (See the note on *chap. vi. 19.*)

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

17 If therefore any man shall maintain and propagate such errors, as are subversive of the foundation itself, and so shall corrupt, and doctrinally destroy (*φθειρει*) this spiritual temple of God's own erection on a crucified Jesus; the case of that man, be his pretences and figure in the church ever so great, is abundantly worse, than that of suffering loss, and being saved as by fire; (*ver. 15.*) he shall not be saved at all; but the holy and jealous God will punish him with everlasting destruction: For this Spiritual temple of the living God, which ye his church are, is purified and set apart for himself; and the corrupting of this in fundamental points of principle and practice, is a much more heinous crime, than it was to profane the courts of the *Jewish* temple, and will be more severely animadverted upon in the great day.

18 Let no man deceive himself: if any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

18 Let every one then take heed, whether he be a preacher or hearer, that he do not cheat, and impose upon himself to his own confusion, by propagating or entertaining any pernicious error, through a vain conceit of his own superior understanding: If there be any among you, who, like the Philosophers, Politicians, and *Rabbies* of the age, seems to himself, or others, to be wise in earthly things, and according to the false judgment that the men of this world make of wisdom; let him renounce all this, as far as it opposes, or interferes with the doctrines of the gospel, and be humble under a sense of the insufficiency of all his parts and learning, ever to attain to just and spiritual apprehensions of them; and let him be contented to be ridiculed as a fool, by the high pretenders to reason, for embracing the doctrine of the cross, which they esteem foolishness, (*chap. i. 18.*) that he may become truly wise toward God, and to the salvation of his own soul, through faith, in Jesus Christ.

19 For the wisdom

19 For all the policy and prudence, wit and learning

dom of this world is foolishness with God: for it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

learning of the men of this world, which give them a reputation for wisdom, are no better than folly in God's account, and in comparison with his glorious scheme of salvation through a crucified Redeemer; and he will prove it to be so, how much soever they pride themselves in it, and think to carry their point by it: For we may apply, to our present purpose, what is said of the most sagacious of mankind, (*Job v. 13.*) where it is written to this effect, He entangles and catches the worldly wise in their own cunning contrivances, and turns their most prudent and best concerted measures to their own ruin; or, as it is further explained in that context, (*ver. 12, 14.*) *He disappointeth the devices of the crafty; so that their hands cannot perform their enterprize;—and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong; they meet with darkness in the day-time, and grope in the noon-day, as in the night.*

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wife, that they are vain.

20 And still further, to shew that the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, (*ver. 19.*) It is written in another place, (*Psal. xciv. 9,—11.*) The great Jehovah is intimately acquainted with the thoughts, projects, and reasonings, (*διαλογισμους*) of the wisest of men, and perfectly knows, that, compared with his own counsels, they are all empty and insignificant, foolish and ineffectual; and that none of their ways of thinking are any farther right and useful, than *he teaches men knowledge.*

21 Therefore let no man glory in men: for all things are yours:

21 Since therefore all the ingenuity and learning in the world, especially with respect to spiritual and eternal things, is mere folly, when compared with the wisdom of God; and since no man can lead you into the way of salvation, but as he himself is taught of God; let none of you boast of, and call yourselves the disciples of any man whatsoever, to the rejecting and despising of others, that preach the same evangelical doctrines with themselves: This would be to forget that they are but men, and to exclude yourselves from the benefit, which ye might receive from one, as well as another of them. For all things, of what nature or kind soever, and particularly those that relate to the dispensation of the gospel, are given; in a covenant-way, to you that believe in Jesus; and they are designed and ordered of God, for your spiritual advantage:

22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours:

22 All the faithful ministers and apostles of the Lord, such as *Paul, Apollus, and Peter*, under whom respectively different parties among you have ranged themselves; (*chap. i. 12.*) all these, together with their gifts, graces, and ministrations, are appointed and given for your sakes, that ye may be

built up in faith and holiness, to complete salvation : (*Eph.* iv. 11,—16.) All the affairs of this world are in the hands of Christ, not to give you a civil right to its ample possessions, as if temporal property and dominion were founded in grace * ; but to give you *Gentile*, as well as *Jewish* believers, a covenant-claim to, and a sanctified use of, as much of them as he sees to be best for you ; and to dispose of them, and overrule them for your good, as the *government is upon his shoulders, and he is head over all things to the church* : (*Isa.* ix. 6. and *Eph.* i. 22.) † Your own lives are also given you for a blessing ; and shall be continued just so long, and in such circumstances, whether prosperous or adverse, as, upon the whole, is best for you † ; and the lives of his ministering servants are preserved *for your furtherance and joy of faith* : (*Phil.* i. 25.) Death itself, that greatest terror to human nature, has lost its sting ; and in whatever way it comes to you, whether in the more, or less lingering and painful, by the course of nature, or the hand of violence, it shall be your eternal gain ; and even when your ministers seal their testimony with their blood, *and Christ is magnified in their bodies* dying, as well as living, (*Phil.* i. 20.) it is for the confirmation of your faith in that gospel, for which they bravely suffer unto death : All present things, whether of a spiritual or temporal nature, or of the comfortable or afflictive kind, *work together for your good* ; (*Rom.* viii. 28.) And every further occurrence to you, or us, on this side the grave, is wisely adjusted beforehand, in God's counsels and covenant, for your advantage : And, to crown all, the glory and blessedness of the future state after death and judgment, and for ever, is *an inheritance reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.* (1 *Pet.* i. 4, 5.) In a word, all things whatsoever, whether we take them in one or another of these views, are put into the inventory of the covenant-settlement, which is made upon you, to be used and enjoyed by you, or improved and over-ruled for you, to subserve, or make up your spiritual and eternal felicity.

23 And

N O T E S.

* The apostle probably brings in the world, among those things, which, speaking of *Gentile*-believers, he says are theirs, in opposition to the fond notion of the *Yews*, who despised the *Gentiles*, counting them as *nothing*, and *like unto spittle* ; and who thought that God made the world only for the sake of their own nation. See 2 *Esd.* vi. 55,—59.

† It seems much too narrow, to confine *life, death, things present, and things to come*, to what held the apostles in this life, for the sake of the church ; and yet as such things may be well comprehended in this extensive account of the *all things*, which are the believers, I have given them a place in the paraphrase.

23 And ye are
Christ's; and Christ
is God's.

25 And that which secures all this, and, is indeed the completion of it, is, that ye are not any *man's*, but *Christ's* peculiar people, property, and subjects, spouse and members, whom his Father has given to him, and he has purchased with his own blood; and who have yielded yourselves up by faith to him, to be saved and governed by him, as your Head, Lord, and King, and to be filled with all the blessings of grace and glory, which are treasured up in him for you: And there is no doubt to be made of his being able and willing, to answer all your dependencies on him, and to complete your happiness; since, in his divine nature, he is the eternal Son of God; and in his human nature, and office-capacity, he is the Mediator and Saviour, of God the Father's own providing, that he may take effectual care of you, till he perfects all that concerns you, in such a way and manner, as shall leave no room for glorying in men; but as shall be entirely to his own praise, and his Father's glory through him, and to your own utmost satisfaction, as all that is in God and Christ is yours.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

With what faithfulness and prudence should ministers accommodate their discourses to the circumstances of their people! But, how unchristian-like and injurious are carnal party contentions about religion, and setting up one servant of Christ, in opposition to another, while both are united in the same spirit and design! They are all useful to subserve his work; and he so far honours them, as to make them, in an inferior, instrumental sense, workers together with him. But the glory and success, of all their wisdom and labour, is to be ascribed to the grace of God, which is given to them, and is with them: They are only ministers, by whom any believe, as the Lord freely grants it to them. Alas! What can the most eminent preachers do to saving purposes, unless God give the increase, both as to conversion and edification! And an increase is not to be expected from him, unless they preach Christ as the foundation which God has laid, and besides which, no other can be laid. O how careful should both ministers and people be, to keep to this foundation, and build all other religious doctrines and duties upon it! Since God will destroy them that go off from it, and by their pernicious errors corrupt the church, which is his husbandry and building, and his temple consecrated to him. And how concerned should all, who are called by Christ's name, be, that the doctrines they espouse, and their practice answerable to it, be set upon, and be agreeable to this foundation! For, if they are not so, they will be but like wood, hay, and stubble, in the great day, which will try and consume them; though he, who, through ignorance, and undesigned mistake, went into them, may himself be saved. But, if they are consonant to the fundamental truths of the gospel, they, like gold, silver, and precious stones, will endure the grand trial, and be found unto praise, honour, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Among them therefore that shall be saved, some will receive higher rewards of grace than others, according to the different degrees of faithful services, which, by the same grace, they were enabled to perform.—How infinitely superior is the wisdom of God, in the scheme of salvation by a crucified Redeemer, to all the wisdom of men, which is mere foolishness in his account, who is thoroughly acquainted with all their thoughts and reasonings, and knows them to be vain! And how much better is it to resign our own wisdom, though ever so highly esteemed by the men of this world, to the unerring and adorable wisdom of God, than to oppose our own measures to his, which is only to deceive ourselves in matters of everlasting consequence! But how great is the honour and happiness of true believers! since all things

things are theirs, whether ministers or ordinances, this world, life or death, things present, or things to come, as they are Christ's, who has an interest in them, and can effectually secure all blessings to them, as he is the eternal Son of God, and the only Saviour of the Father's appointment; and as all in him, and in God, is engaged for their happiness.

C H A P. IV.

The apostle states the true character, and the esteem that ought to be had of gospel ministers, who must stand or fall, not by man's, but by God's own judgment concerning them, 1,—6. Cautions the Corinthians against priding themselves in what they had received, and against despising him, and his fellow-servants, on account of their ignominious treatment from the world, 7,—13. Claims their regards to himself, as their spiritual father in Christ, 14,—16. And shows his great concern for them, in that he had sent Timothy to them, and intended himself to come, and rectify disorders among them, 17,—21.

TEXT.

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

PARAPHRASE.

AS to the character, under which I and my dear fellow-labourers would be regarded among you; let none exalt us too high, as though we had dominion over their faith; (2 Cor. i. 24.) nor make so little account of our office, as though it were contemptible, insignificant, or unnecessary: Nor let them be influenced, by any external or personal considerations whatsoever, to depreciate some, and idolize others, that are faithful: But let every one, laying aside a party-spirit, judge concerning us all, as neither more nor less than * the servants of Christ, whom he has commissioned and commanded, qualified and assists, to labour under him, and in subordination to him, who is our Lord and Master, and the great subject of our ministry, and on whom all its success depends: And let them consider us as persons, whom he has advanced to an honourable and important, though laborious, station in his house and family, as stewards in trust, for dispensing, both to *Jews* and *Gentiles*, the great and unsearchable doctrines of the gospel of the grace of God †.

2 Furthermore,

N O T E S.

* The word, (*υπηρται*) rendered *ministers*, is commonly used for *servants*, and primarily signifies such servants, as laboured in *rowing vessels*; and so intimates that ministers are to take great pains in their Lord's work, like under-rowers to him.

† By the *mysteries of God*, some understand the *word* and *sacraments*. But

though the last, as well as the first of these, are to be dispensed by the ministers of Christ, and *Baptism* and the *Lord's Supper*, were often styled *mysteries* by the ancients; yet I don't find that the scripture ever uses the word in the last of these senses; and the apostle had said of himself, *chap. i. 17.* that the principal work, for which Christ had sent

sent

2 Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2 Furthermore, to let you know what sort of ministers I mean, that are to be esteemed for their work's sake, I would add, that it is indispensibly requisite in such a servant of Christ, as is worthy of the character of a *steward*, that he by no means neglect, pervert, or betray his trust, or deal partially in it; but that, in discharging it, he be faithful to his Lord; to his own conscience; to the truth and importance of the gospel, committed to him; and to the souls he ministers to, as *not shunning to declare the whole counsel of God*, but *giving to every one his portion in due season.* (Acts xx. 27. and Luke xii. 42.)

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine ownself.

3 And (δε) as to myself, though some among you may invidiously suggest, as though I were false to my trust, *that* is no great matter of uneasiness to me, so far as I am personally affected by it. I would indeed be duly concerned to support the integrity of my character, for the honour of Christ and religion, and for my greater usefulness in the church: But, with respect to the state of the case between God and my own soul, it is a mere trifling inconsiderable thing, of the least moment and consequence imaginable, in my account, that I should be judged and censured by any of you, or rashly condemned, as an unfaithful steward, in the opinion of any man whatsoever: These things do not move me; since I am not to stand or fall at the bar of men, who assume to themselves a power of judging me in their day, (*υπο ανθρωπων ημερας*) which can reach no farther than the present life; nor am I to be dealt with, in the great day of the Lord, according to their fallible, partial, and prejudiced sentiments about me: Nay, though I know my own heart better than any other man can, I will not pretend to be absolutely sure, that I am thoroughly right in my own judgment about my intirely disinterested faithfulness in the discharge of every duty incumbent upon me, according to my sincere aims and endeavours, as a minister, and as a Christian.

4 For

N O T E.

sent him, was *not to baptize, but to preach the gospel*; and this is what he immediately refers to here: For this best agrees with the foregoing context, and with his own use of the word in other places, where, by *mysteries*, he commonly means the *doctrines* of Christ, in one view or other, and often with respect to the calling of the *Gentiles*. And these may be called the *mysteries* of God, as they were secrets in his own breast, till he revealed them, first more obscurely under the Old Testament, and

now more clearly under the New; (*Rom. xvi. 25, 26.*) and as, after all the discoveries God has made of them in the gospel, many things contained in them are incomprehensible to our narrow understandings; (*1 Tim. iii. 16.*) and they are still so myterious to carnal minds, that they have no spiritual discerning of their truth and importance, excellence and glory; it not being *given to them to know these mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.* (*Chap. ii. 14.* and *Matth. xiii. 11.*)

4 For I know nothing by myself, yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

4 For though I can honestly declare, that I am not conscious of any designed or allowed unfaithfulness in myself; and my *rejoicing is this, the testimony of my conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not by fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, I have had my conversation in the world; and more abundantly to you-wards*; (2 Cor. i. 12.) yet alas! Such is the remaining inadvertence and treachery of my own heart, and in so many things we all offend, (Jam. iii. 2.) that I dare not depend on what I have done, as a sufficient justification of myself, and my conduct, in God's account*: But I humbly appeal for my integrity to the final decision of the Lord Jesus himself; the omniscient judge of all, by whose sentence alone my cause must be determined, when I appear at his awful tribunal; and though he knows me to be sincere, I look for gracious acceptance of my person and services, not on that account, but through his merit and righteousness.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

5 Let none of you therefore anticipate the great decisive day of trial, by taking upon yourselves to pass sentence before-hand upon me, or others of my brethren: Take heed of judging our hearts, which God only can know; (1 Kings viii. 39.) and of going into uncharitable censures upon us, lest ye yourselves be judged; (Matth. vii. 1, 2.) but wait till the Lord Jesus himself shall *come to judge the quick and the dead, at his appearing and his kingdom*: (2 Tim. iv. 1.) Then he, who *searches the reins and hearts*, (Rev. ii. 23.) will bring forth, and lay open the scenes, that are now covered with the thickest darkness,* and will set those things in the clearest light, which at present are concealed from human view, and yet are necessary to be known, in order to a just estimate of persons and causes; and he will then make plain discoveries of the most secret principles and dispositions, thoughts, contrivances, and designs of every one's mind and heart, both of theirs that give themselves the liberty of sitting in judgment upon others, and of theirs that are censured by them: And as many may possibly be acquitted in that day, whom ye now condemn and vilify; and many may be condemned then, whom ye now admire and applaud; so every one of those, and those only, who shall then
be

N O T E.

* Though *justified* here refers immediately to the charge of unfaithfulness, or neglect, in the apostle's fulfilling the duty of his office: yet it shews how careful he was to renounce all pretences

to justification before God, on the foot of his own sincere obedience, when he spoke of *that*; and therefore I have added a hint of this sort.

be approved of God, will be publicly owned and honoured by him, how unrighteously soever they may have been arraigned and cast, at the bar of man's judgment here.

6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself, and to Apollos, for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of *men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

6 These things, my dear brethren, I have represented in a figurative strain, as personating myself and the eloquent *Apollos*, by substituting our own names, instead of others which are intended, under this borrowed form of speech; and I have chosen to refer the application to your own thoughts, for avoiding envy and offence, and out of mere tenderness to you; that from your own reflections on what has been said, about our disclaiming all authority over your faith and consciences, and about our being only *servants of Christ*, (ver. 1.) and *ministers, by whom ye believed*, (chap. iii. 5.) ye might be instructed to take heed of entertaining a higher opinion of any mere man whatsoever, than appears to be his due, according to what I have now wrote on this head, agreeable to the whole tenor of the word of God: And my design in all this is, to adjust your sentiments about *Men*, that none of you, from a factious spirit, may over-value, or vainly boast of, and pride himself in, any one of your admired leaders, to the contemning and running down of another, who, on the contrary, may be as much cried up by his own party, while neither of them are any thing more, than God makes them to be to you; and therefore all your glorying should be in him, and not at all in them, or in yourselves, on account of what benefit ye may have received by their means. (*Chap. i. 29,—31.*)

7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive

7 For to hide pride from your own eyes*, as well as to prevent your idolizing of one minister, to the depreciating of another, consider how the matter stands with respect to your own attainments. I would say to any one of you, that thinks too highly of himself, or of instruments, Who is it that has made *yourself* to differ

N O T E.

* When I reflect, that all along in the preceding and following verses, the apostle is speaking, not to the leaders, but to the members of the church, as distinguished from them, I cannot tell how to think, with the general stream of expositors, that this verse relates most immediately, much less *only*, to these leaders; nor, on that supposition, can I make out the propriety and force of the connection and argument, with any tolerable satisfaction to myself: For this verse is brought in, to repress the pride, not of those for whom the brethren (ver. 6.) were puffed up, but of the brethren

themselves, that they might lay aside all glorying in them, as considering that all spiritual endowments, which distinguish any persons whatsoever, are entirely owing to the free gift of God; and to the argument against boasting, on account of what they themselves had received, by means of their minister's labours, is much of the same strain with that, which is used against glorying in God's presence, *chap. i. 29,—32.* where it undoubtedly relates to saving benefits: And that it is not to be *entirely restrained* here to spiritual gifts. (See the note on ver. 8.)

ceive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

differ in your spiritual advantages, from what you once was, and from what multitudes of others still are? Who has distinguished you from them, by the gifts and graces of the Spirit, which you are partakers of? Or whence is it that one of you excels another in them? It is not from any power or worthiness of your own, who was *dead in trespasses and sins*, and *by nature a child of wrath, even as others*; (Eph. ii. 1, 3.) nor is it from any skill or virtue in him that planted, or him that watered, who are only *ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave unto you*: (chap. iii. 5, 6, 7.) All is therefore entirely and alone of his free favour, who gives the increase, and distributes his blessings, in a sovereign manner, to whom, and in what degree, he pleases. Now if you received all your supernatural and distinguishing benefits only as his free gift, and from his gracious and powerful operation upon you, how insolent, preposterous, and ungrateful is it? how dishonourable to God, and unworthy of your Christian character, and of your absolute dependence upon him, and obligations to him, for you to vaunt and pride yourself in them, or in the instruments of conveying them, as if these excellent blessings were the product of your own study, diligence, or merit, or of their art, and not a mere vouchsafement of free favour from the God of all grace?

8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

8 And yet there seems to be too much of this unbecoming, and self-sufficient temper in some of you; ye are now satisfied in your present condition, under the conduct of your new teachers, who fill you with over-weaning thoughts of your own accomplishments, as well as of theirs; ye now imagine yourselves to abound greatly in spiritual wisdom and grace, as well as in human knowledge and learning, and in the good things of this life; and ye pride yourselves in your religious, as well as other acquisitions, as though, like princes, ye were arrived at the height of prosperity of every kind, apart from us, who first planted and watered the gospel among you; without our concurrence; and while we are absent from you; and as though ye never had received, and now no further need, any assistance from us: And I heartily wish, (*οὐδεὶς*) that ye did indeed flourish in every thing that is great, excellent, and glorious, and most highly worthy the Christian character*, as much

N O T E.

* The apostles saying, *I wish ye did reign, that we also might reign with you*, intimates, that they arrogated to themselves what they really were not

possessed of, and what he would have been glad to have gloried in with them. But it is certain that they did remarkably excel in *spiritual gifts*, as is evident from

much as ye fancy yourselves to do; that so we might rejoice in your mercy, and share in your happiness and glory, as ministers that were really instrumental, in the hand of the Lord, towards your enjoying them, whatever ye think to the contrary; and that we might be no longer slighted and despised by you, to the increasing of our many tribulations, which are so great already.

9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death. For we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

9 For as to myself, who was called last of all to the apostleship; (*chap. xv. 8.*) and as to other apostles of Christ, who, as well as I, are his last witnesses and extraordinary messengers to the church, as coming after his former servants, the Prophets; It seems to me, by the operations of divine providence, that God, for the manifestation of his own power and glory in, and by us, has exposed us to the extremest perils, as those condemned criminals among the *Romans* were, that used to be brought last upon the theatre, and made a public show of, as persons devoted to cruel combats, which, at all events, must end in their death*: For by the severity, the ignominy, and strange variety of our conflicts with all sorts of miseries and deaths, we are brought upon the stage of this world to be made a public gazing-flock, and a sign to be wondered at by every spectator; by holy angels, with applauding wonder, and all good men, with pity and compassion; and by the fallen angels, and all the wicked upon earth, with barbarous insult and triumph.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ: we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable,

10 In this situation, which is so very different from yours, we are thought to be weak and foolish creatures by the men of this world, and, perhaps, by some of yourselves, for preaching the plain doctrines of a crucified Saviour, and *that* in their full extent to

G 2

Gentiles,

N O T E S.

from *chap. i. 5, 7.*; and *Corinth* being a rich and flourishing city, it appears from what the apostle wrote to them about their collections for the poor saints, 2 *Epist.* chap. viii. and ix. that their *worldly circumstances* were sufficiently affluent to have relieved his, and his fellow-labourers necessities, that they, in this respect, *might reign with them*: And therefore, when he *wisbed that they did reign*, he surely meant something more than all these; and what could that be? but their abounding attainments in *grace and holiness*, which they, no doubt, falsely assumed to themselves, and gloried in, as well as in their spiritual gifts, and temporal wealth; and which he would have rejoiced to find in them.

* I have given various senses of *last of all*, and one among the rest, which carries a strong allusion to the *criminals*, that in the public games were brought *last* upon the stage, and might be called (*πρωταρτια*) *men devoted to death*; because after the morning combatants (who were allowed armour to defend themselves against the wild beasts) had played their part in the theatre, these were brought forth at noon, without any covering to protect them against the dangers they were exposed to; and if they escaped with their lives one day, they were reserved for the next, and so on, till they were slain. See *Dr. Hammond* and *Wetley*.

nourable, but we
are despised.

Gentiles, as well as *Jews*, and for running so many hazards thereby; but ye are wonderful wise and prudent men in your own opinion, and in the esteem of many others, because ye have so much worldly policy, as to run no risks for Christ, and to varnish over the doctrines of his gospel with human eloquence, that ye may accommodate them, and recommend yourselves, to the taste of men of corrupt minds: We are oppressed with numerous sufferings in his cause, to the enfeebling of our bodily strength*; but your corporal strength and comforts are not impaired by any tribulations for his name's sake; your worldly wisdom having carried you into measures to escape them, in your profession of Christ and the gospel: Ye likewise stand in high reputation with the men of this world, and with carnal temporizing professors, on all these accounts; but we are looked upon, and treated with the utmost contempt for our faithful adherence to him, and his pure gospel, under these disadvantageous circumstances.

11 Even unto
this present hour
we both hunger,
and thirst, and are
naked, and are buffe-
ted, and have
no certain dwell-
ing-place;

11 Ye live in the midst of all outward ease and affluence, in a rich city, and in commodious houses of your own; but we, ever since we gave up our names to the Lord Jesus, and entered upon his service, even to this very day, are exposed to all the hardships of hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, as being often so destitute of the conveniencies and comforts of life, that we scarce have necessary food to eat, or decent apparel to put on: And not only so; but, in one place and another, we are likewise exercised with the sharp and ignominious discipline of being smitten on the face with the hand, scourged with thongs, and beaten with rods; (*Acts* xxiii. 2. and *2 Cor.* xi. 23,—25.) and, like our great Lord and Master, (*Luke* ix. 58.) we are harassed and driven from one city, town, and country, to another, and forced to wander about, like vagabonds, that have no house or home, or certain habitation, that can be called our own.

12 And labour,
working with our
own hands: being
reviled, we bless:
being persecuted,
we suffer it:

12 And, while ye are liberal to your new teachers, and might easily have spared a competent supply for us, we have earned our bread with the sweat of our brows, and the labour of our hands; and have chose to do so, when circumstances called for it, rather than seem burdensome to you, or other churches, or than prejudice any against us, as mercenary creatures, and against the gospel, on that account: (*Acts* xviii. 3. and

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* *Weak* (*σθενος*) sometimes signifies *enfeebled*, and loaded with sufferings, as in *comp.* ii. 3. and *2 Cor.* xii. 10. and

xiii. 9.; and I have taken it in that sense here, to keep the ideas distinct in this, and the foregoing passage.

and xx. 34. 1 *Theff.* 2. 9. and 2 *Epist.* iii. 8.) While we are loaded with curses and reproaches by our enemies for the sake of Christ, who also suffered the like himself; we, according to his command and example, (*Matth.* v. 44. and *Luke* xxiii. 34.) heartily wish and pray for blessings to come down upon them, that they may repent and be saved: While we are injured in our liberty, ease, and property, for conscience sake, we patiently bear it; and, instead of *rendering evil for evil*, we endeavour to *overcome evil with good.* (Rom. xii. 17, 21.)

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the off-scouring of all things unto this day.

13 While we are maliciously slandered and stigmatized with odious imputations, and our *name is cast out, as evil, for Christ's sake*, (*Luke* vi. 22.) we make no returns of opprobrious language to those that abuse us; but exhort and beseech them, in a gentle, kind, and tender manner, for their own sakes, as well as ours, to entertain more just and favourable thoughts of us: But, notwithstanding all this inoffensive, meek, and winning behaviour, we all along have been, and to this very day continue to be accounted, treated, and trampled upon, as the vilest of wretches that are not fit to live; as the very sink of all that is loathsome and abominable in the world; and the refuse of all things*; yea, we are deemed to be proper victims for averting the Divine anger, as if we were the cause of all public calamities, and to be every way as despicable, and as much to be abhorred, as the very worst of men, whom *the Heathens* used to offer in sacrifice, for the purgation of their cities, in a time of pestilence, or other public calamities.

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

14 I do not draw out this particular detail of contemptuous and injurious treatment, which we have met with, and to which even some of you have not a little contributed, by neglecting, slighting, and grieving us; nor do I speak of your proud and vain boastings, and of our meek, patient, and benevolent carriage under our sufferings, with a design of degrading and defaming you, or of exposing you to contempt and disgrace among other churches, though it must be owned that ye have too much reason to be ashamed in your own minds†; but I mention these things in

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* The critics have generally observed, that the words (*πικισαδαγρα* and *πικισυμα*) here rendered *the filth and off-scouring*, allude to a known custom among the heathens, who were wont to choose human victims, out of the dregs of the people, to sacrifice yearly to their gods, by way of expiation; and when visited with the plague, or other public

calamity, used to offer one of the meanest, the vilest, and the most sordid of the people, for the lustration of the city, to cleanse it from the guilt, which might be supposed to have brought the judgment upon it.

† It is with admirable prudence, and sweetness of insinuation, that the apostle apologizes for his mentioning the foregoing

in a tender manner, and in great kindness and faithfulness to you, that, like an affectionate father, I may caution and admonish you, as my dear children, to take heed of pride and self-conceit, and of a sinful, unbecoming behaviour towards us, the apostles of Christ; and to attend to your own duty, with all humility and circumspection, for time to come.

15 For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

15 For though ye may have ever so many, even were they myriads (*μυριας παιδογωγους*) of the most famous teachers, to help you forward, like school-masters, in the ways of religion; and how useful soever ye may suppose them to have been, for assisting your growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ; yet ye have not many spiritual fathers, that have a paternal care and affection for you, as having been the instruments, as I was, of first forming Christ in you; and so there is none, to whom ye ought to pay a greater regard, than to me: For it cannot be denied, but that I was the first who planted the gospel among you, unto which God gave a happy increase; (*chap. iii. 6.*) or that I had the honour of begetting you to Christ, not indeed efficiently, as though I were the author of the new birth; but ministerially and instrumentally, by means of my preaching the gospel to you.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

16 Though I might therefore well speak with the high tone of a father's authority, to charge and command you; yet I rather choose, in the most endearing and condescending manner, to beseech and exhort you, with the bowels of a kind and loving parent, that, instead of turning aside after those, who aim at corrupting the simplicity of your faith and manners, ye would follow my directions, which I delivered to you, as I received them from the Lord himself; (*chap. xi. 23. and xv. 3.*) and would be imitators (*μιμηται*) of my example, in humility, faith, and conversation, as far as I therein follow him. (*Chap. xi. 1.*)

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance

17 To excite you to this, and assist you in it; as I cannot immediately come myself, I have, in the tenderness of my concern and affection for you, sent the lovely young evangelist *Timothy*, who, having been also converted by my ministry, is as dear to me, as the son of a father's own likeness can be to him,

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ing things, to take off offence, and establish his own authority, by telling them that it was not designed to upbraid and expose them; but only, in his parental affection, to caution them against sins, which they too plainly were guilty of;

but which it might have been too exasperating for him to have so expressly mentioned, and directly charged upon them, as may be proper to represent in a paraphrase.

membrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

him, and as an excellent brother in Christ ought to be to you; and he is a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus, heartily embarked in his cause and interest, and may be depended upon, for his integrity, in all that he shall say from me, and about me: He, who has accompanied me in my travels and labours, (*Acts* xx. 4. and *Rom.* xvi. 21.) and *has fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience, persecutions and afflictions, &c.*; (*2 Tim.* iii. 10, 11.) he will not only remind you (if need be) of what I preached, and how I behaved, when I was with you; but will also further inform you, what has been the course and tenor of my life and doctrine, by the grace and assistance of Christ, and to his glory, according to what I have always preached, not in one place and another only; but uniformly and constantly in all the churches, wheresoever I have been, as well as when I was with you.

18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

18 I understand that your false teachers, and their party, persist in their evil practices, with great haughtiness and insolence; and make their boast, with a sort of insulting triumph, as though I were loth, and afraid to come, and talk with them face to face; and perhaps they may strengthen their confidences of this sort, from my sending *Timothy*, instead of coming in person to you.

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

19 But, whatever they may think, I fully intend, and am very desirous, and if it be the will of God, and he, in whose hands are all my ways, shall give me opportunity for it, I will certainly, ere long, make you a visit; and will then enquire into, try, and take an exact account of those, that behave in such a proud and imperious manner: Not that I shall examine into their philosophy and learning, eloquence and oratory, high swelling words of vanity and specious professions of religion, upon which they so much value themselves, and are applauded by their faction; but the main point, that I shall consider, and search into, is, What authority they have to preach; and what there appears to be of the power of God, and of the gifts and graces of his spirit in them, and in their ministrations; as also what efficacy attends them upon their own, and others hearts and lives.

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

20 For, let men imagine what they will to the contrary, the excellencies and blessings of the gospel-state, in which God has erected his kingdom of grace here, to be consummated in the kingdom of glory hereafter, do not consist in human learning, or in outward professions; but in an experience of what is wrought by the power of God: Nor is the gospel propagated,

propagated, or a work of grace begun and carried on in the soul, by fine words and philosophical reasoning; but by the miraculous operations of the Spirit, for confirming the truth of one; and by a divine energy, which attends the plain preaching of a crucified Jesus, for affecting the other.

21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

21 Upon the whole then, in what manner would ye wish and choose, that I should come among you? Is it, that it should be, as with a rod in my hand, to chastize you for your faults; and with all the severity of my apostolic authority, to correct offenders, and inflict both spiritual and * corporal punishments upon them, according to their due deserts? This would be very irksome work to me, and no less grievous to you; and yet I shall be forced in faithfulness to proceed to this extremity, if I should find them obstinately persisting in their evil practices, and connived at by the church. (*Chap. v. 2.*) Or would ye not rather, that I should come with a heart full of the most affectionate fatherly love, and in a spirit of meekness, gentleness, and kindness, to encourage, commend, and comfort you? This I shall rejoice to do, in case what has been so much amiss be reformed, before I come among you; and this would be every way as agreeable and profitable to yourselves, as delightful to me.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

What an important trust has Christ committed to his ministering servants, as stewards of the great things of God, which are now revealed in the gospel, and yet surpass our comprehension! And how should they be concerned to be found faithful in discharging it! They are indeed to be esteemed highly for their works sake; but it is a small matter with them, how they stand in the opinion of men, since he, whose judgment they must abide by, is the Lord: To him therefore they refer themselves, to be cleared of all false accusations, as not being conscious to themselves of any wilful, or allowed defaults; and yet, as they know that they are not perfect, they do not depend upon their own integrity, for acceptance with God to eternal life, in the great day of account—How cautious should we be of rashly censuring others, before that time comes, which will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of all hearts! How humble should we be under a sense of our manifold defects! And how far from boasting in ourselves, or others, since all the good, that we, or they are partakers of, is really no more than what is received as the gift of God's free favour, which makes the difference between them that have it, and that have it not! And yet, alas, how proud, vain,

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* *Coming to them with a rod*, seems to signify, more than barely coming with the rod of discipline, to pass spiritual censures, which the apostle directs the church itself to do, throughout the following chapter; and by their doing of which, they would prevent his coming with a rod to them. It may therefore include, at least, his coming to exercise that power, which the apostles had to

inflict corporal punishments upon notorious offenders, as in the cases of *Ananias* and *Sapphira*, *Elymas* the sorcerer, and *Hymeneus* and *Alexander*, for vindicating the truth and purity of the gospel, and striking every mind with awe and terror, that should dare to corrupt or oppose it. (*Acts v. 5, 10. and xiii. 11. and 1 Tim. i. 20.*) See Dr. *Whitby's* notes on this place, and on *chap. v. 3, 4.*

vain, and self-confident are we prone to be, as if we were full and rich, and reigned like kings, and were wise, and strong, and honourable, because of the gifts and favours of a spiritual and temporal nature, which God bestows upon us! And, at the same time, how often do the best of his servants seem to be set forth, as spectacles to angels, men, and devils! How are they looked upon as weak men and fools! How are they despised, defamed, reviled, and persecuted, and exposed to hunger, thirst, and nakedness, and to wandering about like vagabonds! And how are they treated as the filth of the world, and the off-scouring of all things, while they are indeed the excellent of the earth, meek and patient, and return blessings, and kind entreaties and prayers, in favour of the worst of their enemies! But great wisdom is necessary to manage faithful reproofs of others, as occasions require, in such an inoffensive manner, as not to provoke and expose, instead of reclaiming them; and sometimes to transfer them in a figure to one's self, rather than seem to bear too hard upon them: And yet Christians themselves need to be reminded of the admonitions that have been given them; and to be excited to follow the doctrine and example of the apostles, and of their faithful pastors, who follow Christ, and lead the same holy lives, and preach the same pure gospel, wherever they come; as knowing that the kingdom of God is promoted, not by fine words and fair speeches, but by the power of the Holy Ghost, to make a thorough change in men's hearts and lives. And, O how great is the affliction of good ministers to their people, and especially to such as they have been instrumental, in the hand of the Spirit, to bring home to Christ! And what veneration and esteem should such have for their spiritual fathers, who had much rather come to them, on all occasions, in the spirit of love and meekness, for their comfort, than with a rod for their correction; and have nothing more at heart than their edification and salvation.

C H A P. V.

The apostle blames the Corinthian church for their connivance as an incestuous person, and orders them to excommunicate him, 1,—6. Exhorts them to purge out this, and every other offence, 7, 8. and directs their behaviour towards church members, in distinction from the men of this world, that are guilty of scandalous crimes, 9,—13.

TEXT.

IT is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named amongst the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

PARAPHRASE.

IT is credibly and publicly talked abroad, as an undoubted fact, to the great scandal of Christianity, that a certain person among you, is well known to live in the sin of whoredom*; and that not barely of simple fornication, as committed between unmarried persons, but of such unnatural, incestuous uncleanness, as is shocking to all human modesty; and is more criminal, than any that is practised, or tolerated, by the laws of civilized nations, among the heathens themselves, or is ever so much as mentioned by them, without the utmost detestation; namely, that a man, as

N O T E.

* The word (*πρῆμια*) here used, is frequently, unless when distinguished from adultery, taken in a larger sense, than what we commonly mean by *fornication*, as committed between single

persons; and here it includes *incest*, or criminal conversation between persons of near a-kin; and, if the husband of the mother-in-law were living, it includes *adultery* too.

is the case with one of your number, should have criminal conversation with his mother-in-law, as if she were his own wife *, though his father himself be alive.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed, might be taken away from among you.

2 And yet, flagrant as this iniquity is, which one of your members is chargeable with, the factious part of the church, seem to encourage and glory in him †; and ye are, too generally, so puffed up with your spiritual gifts and affluent circumstances, and with a vain conceit of your being in a prosperous state on these accounts, as to over-look that foul abomination, which is so dishonourable to Christ, and such a tarnish upon your glory; and ye have not rather, as in duty bound, been tenderly concerned for the delinquent himself, and for the disgrace he has brought upon the church, and upon the blessed name and ways of the Lord; nor have ye been deeply humbled and afflicted in your own souls, with lamentation before God, that any thing so vile in itself, and so provoking to him, should break out in your religious community: Ye have not seriously and touchingly laid this matter to heart, to the end that he, who lives in such an infamous sin, might be removed from your holy communion, by your passing a solemn church-censure upon him. This, though ye have rather chose a contrary course, ought certainly to have been done.

3 For I verily as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath

3 For though I am not corporally present, to influence and conduct your proceedings against him; yet, my heart and soul being with you, as one solicitously careful about, and earnestly desirous of your eternal welfare; and the Spirit of God having given me a view of the true state of your case ‡, be assured

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* It is not to be thought, that this was the man's own mother; for then the apostle would doubtless have called her so, rather than *his father's wife*, the more to aggravate the crime: But it seems as if the father were still living, because the apostle speaks of *his suffering wrong*, on this account, 2 Cor. vii. 12. Whether the son had married her, or only used her as his concubine, is uncertain; but, which ever were the case, it was so abominable, that though impurities of this nature were found among some of the most barbarous nations; yet they were disallowed of, and abhorred, by the politer civilized heathens, such as the *Greeks and Romans*. See Dr. Hammond.

† Perhaps this incestuous person was some famous leader of the factious par-

ty, that had him in high admiration for his gifts and other qualifications; and so they were for screening him from public censure, and for extolling him, notwithstanding his sin.

‡ Some suppose that by the apostle's being present in spirit, is meant his being present with them, by a miraculous gift of the Spirit, to discern, at a distance, how things stood with them, and what was fit to be done in that case; as *Elisba* discerned, by a prophetic spirit, what his servant did with *Nauman the Syrian*, (2 Kings v. 26.) and as *Ezekiel*, in *Babylon*, saw what was done in secret at *Jerusalem*: (*Ezek. viii. and xl.*) And it is highly probable that, as the apostle *Paul* had the care of all the churches upon him, (2 Cor. xi. 28.) so on the present, and some other important occasions,

hath so done this deed;

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

red that, under his inspiration, I have as fully and clearly considered, judged, and determined already, as though I were in person among you, concerning what is right and proper, and unquestionable matter of duty, for you, as a church of Christ, to do, in your process against the man, that has been guilty of this scandalous fact, which is so monstrously indecent, as not to be fit to be named again.

4 Ye, as a religious community, incorporated into a church-state, according to the order of the gospel, having, by the institution of Christ, agreeable to the natural rights of all voluntary societies, full power lodged within yourselves for dealing with disorderly members, and preserving your own purity, according to his laws as King of the church; (*Matth.* xviii. 17.) I have judged, (*ver.* 3.) that ye ought to exert your power, on this sad occasion, in the following solemn and public manner, that all may hear, and fear, and take caution: When ye, as a church, shall be assembled together for religious purposes, then, with invocation on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his guidance, assistance, and blessing, with an eye to his glory, and by his authority; as also, with full satisfaction in yourselves, as to the concurrence of my mind, under superior influence, and of my heart, which will be as much with you, in a way of approbation and consent, as if I were corporally present among you; and with an humble dependence on the power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, to animate your proceedings, and to ratify in heaven what ye shall do, according to his will and command, on earth; (*Mat.* xviii. 18.)

5 It is, I say, then your duty, by this divine warrant, and in this solemn manner, the majority, at least, consenting and approving, to cast such a scandalous and infectious offender out of the church, that he may no longer continue a member of your holy body; to expel him from all the external privileges and ordinances of special communion with you, as though he were *a beaten and publican*; (*Matth.* xviii. 17.) and to deliver him back into the visible kingdom of the devil*, from whence ye took him, as one that

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sions, as in *Col.* ii. 5. he was favoured with such a sort of extraordinary discerning: But this by no means excludes his being present also in heart, affection, and approbation, with the *Corinthians* in the ordinary way; which may be very well meant, by his being *present in spirit* with them, as that is opposed to his being *absent in body* from them.

* Many learned commentators have thought, that this *delivering unto Satan*, refers to an extraordinary miraculous act, by which the incestuous person was delivered up to the power of the devil, to inflict diseases and torments upon his body, as a means of bringing him to repentance. But it seems pretty strange, and not very agreeable to the mild

has no claim to the promises of the covenant of grace. And this ye ought to do, not for the injuring of his person, or of his civil rights and property; but merely for spiritual ends, that, by the blessing of Christ on his own ordinance, the prevailing corruptions of that man's heart and life may be mortified and subdued; and he, through fear, grief, and shame, may be brought to a thorough humiliation, repentance, and reformation, in order to the saving of his soul from deserved wrath and ruin, in the great day of account, when the Lord Jesus will sit on the throne of his glory, to pass a final sentence of condemnation, or absolution upon the whole world.

6 Your glorying is not good: Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

6 Your priding yourselves in your spiritual gifts; in your leaders; in such an infamous offender; and in the imaginary flourishing state of your church, is far from being right and justifiable; it is exceeding preposterous and unbecoming, injurious and unseasonable, while the church itself is defiled, and exposed to the judgments of God, and other members are in danger of being infected, by your tolerating such a heinous criminal among you. What! amidst all your boasting of knowledge and understanding, Do not ye easily perceive that, as a little leaven diffuses itself through, and sours the whole mass of dough, with which it is mixed; so this single instance, if neglected, and not purged out, will soon corrupt the minds and manners of fellow-members, and one way or other taint and defile the whole church?

7 Be

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mid genius of the gospel, that, by an ordinance of Christ, a person should, in this manner, be delivered over to Satan, as the instrument of saving his soul: And it is to be observed, that what the apostle here speaks of was to be the act of *the church*, whom he had blamed for not exerting it before, *ver. 2.*; for whatever might be the meaning of their doing it *with his spirit*, not *he*, but *they* were to *deliver the man to Satan*, and to *purge out the old leaven*, *ver. 7.* But, as is generally allowed, miraculous powers of this sort were peculiarly *apostolical*, and they seem to belong to *the rod*, which the apostle threatened to come with, in case they continued to neglect their duty in proceeding to an excommunication: (see the note on *chap. iv. 21.*) And therefore it is not to be supposed, that he should order them, who had it not, to exercise this miraculous power, or should blame them for not having done it before. Upon the

whole then, I am inclined to think, that nothing more was intended by *their delivering* this notorious delinquent *to Satan*, than is suggested in the paraphrase; though it is expressed in these strong terms, to strike the mind with the more awful thoughts of the dreadful condition of those, that are recommitted to the power of such a tyrannical master, and are shut out from the preservation and blessing, which God has promised to his church. But, be this as it will, since no miraculous powers are now lodged in any hands whatsoever, all that churches, in our days, are to aim at in excommunications, ought to be purely of a spiritual nature for the glory of God, and the preservation of the order and peace, purity and reputation of the church; and for the good of the offender's own soul, without the least design of injuring him in his person, or in his temporal concerns.

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

7 Be as diligent and careful then, to cleanse the church from this, and all other scandalous persons and sins, as the *Jews* are wont to be to clear their houses from all leaven, before they eat the passover, that ye may be a society of new creatures, in whom *old things are passed away, and all things are become new*; (2 Cor. v. 17.) even as ye are by *profession* and *obligation*, and as, it is charitably to be believed of the generality of you, ye are in *sincerity* and *truth*, through communion with Christ your head: For he, who in his crucifixion was typified by the paschal lamb, a bone of which was not broken. (*John* xix. 36.) offered himself up as a propitiatory sacrifice to God, for this very purpose, that we, who believe in him, might be cleansed from all iniquity, and purified to himself, as a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (*Tit* ii. 14.)

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

8 Let us therefore see to it, that we celebrate the New Testament festival of the Lord's supper, (which he instituted, as a memorial of his death *, in the room of the passover) not with a mixture of notorious offenders in our church societies; nor with an allowance of any sin in ourselves, which may be compared to old leaven; because it springs from the original corruption of our nature, and diffuses its infection, more or less, through the whole human race; and because it worked with great prevalence in us formerly, during the days of our unregeneracy, and is every way more offensive to God, disallowable in itself, and pernicious to us, than any leaven in bread, or houses, at the paschal feast, ever could be to the *Jews*, in Old Testament times: Nor let us approach this evangelical ordinance, with spirits soured, like leavened bread, with a party and wrathful, contentious and mischievous temper, but with integrity and godly simplicity, (of which unleavened bread may be considered as an emblem) and with a sincere love to the brethren, according to the truth of the gospel.

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle. not

9 I have thought proper, for want of personal conversation, to caution you † in the epistolary way, against

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* *Keeping the feast*, seems most directly to refer to *the Lord's Supper*, which may be called *the feast*, in allusion to the passover; and was very properly instituted instead of that ordinance, which was both commemorative of *Israel's* deliverance from the destroying angel, and prefigurative of the death of Christ; but is now superseded by the *Lord's Supper*, as a commemoration of the more glorious antitypical redemp-

tion through his blood. And perhaps the apostle went the rather into this allusion, because, as is probable from *chap.* xvi. 8. compared with this verse, the time of the passover was then near at hand.

† It is apprehended by some, that the apostle here refers to *another* epistle, which he had wrote before to the *Corinthians*, though it be now lost, as some other of his writing may be supposed to be;

not to company with fornicators:

10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

gainst associating yourselves, in a free and familiar manner*, with people that are addicted to whoredom, lest ye be thought to countenance them in their sin; and lest ye yourselves be brought by degrees to think lightly of it, and be tempted to follow their detestable example.

10 Yet my meaning in such a caution is not, that ye should absolutely refuse all manner of civil conversation with the men of this world, who are guilty of whoredom; nor that ye should break off common acquaintance and correspondence with all such, as are of an avaricious temper, over eager and insatiable in their thirst and pursuit after riches, and loth to apply any suitable proportions of them to religious and charitable uses; or with such, as transgress the rules of justice and equity, by fraudulent or forcible gains from those, that they have got into their power; or with such as pay any kind of respect, in a way of religious worship to idols, which is due to none but the only living and true God: For were ye to shun all social conversation with such sort of men as these, which abound among the unconverted *Gentiles*, and especially among your neighbours at *Corinth*, who are so remarkably addicted to all these abominations, it would be, in a manner, impossible for you to have any society,

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be; they never having been placed in the canon of the New Testament, which contains all that is necessary to the perfection of our rule of faith and practice, and that infinite wisdom designed and has taken care should be preserved to posterity, for the standing use of the church. Others think that he refers to a letter, which he had begun to write before, but, upon the arrival of messengers to him from the church, he laid that aside, and wrote *this*; or that he refers to what he had already said in the epistle which he was now writing, and particularly in the former part of this chapter. See Dr. *Hammond's* and *Whitby's* notes. I have formed the paraphrase in a way, that may be applicable to either of these senses; leaving it to the reader to choose which he pleases.

* It is plain from *ver.* 10. that the apostle here forbids such *companying*, as was allowable for them to have with the *fornicators of this world*; and therefore it cannot be meant either of *church communion* on one hand, or of having fellowship with them in their *evil works* on the other; for both of these were, without doubt, unlawful to be held with infidels and heathens, as well as

with scandalous professors of Christ's name: Nor doth he forbid conversing in the religious way to *admonish and reclaim* them, that had fallen into sin, and were under church dealings, or censures, on that account; for the law of charity, and the spiritual ends of such procedures might be best answered by this sort of conversation with them: Nor doth he forbid such converses, as were *antecedently* necessary by *natural and civil* relations, and engagements in *secular* business, and by the common ties of *humanity*; for that would be to dissolve natural obligations, and the laws of civil society; and would be utterly unsuitable to the benevolent spirit of the gospel, as well as to the proper ends of excommunication itself. (See the note on *ver.* 5.) But the converses forbidden by the apostle, were those that are ordinary, and *out of choice*, or in such a *free, intimate, and sociable* manner with them, as might, in some circumstances, be lawful to be held with the people of the world, when Providence casts Christians into their company, though they be guilty of the sins mentioned in the two following verses.

ty, or common commerce, in such a sinful world as this.

11 But now I have written unto you, not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such an one, no not to eat.

11 But, to explain myself now more clearly, the drift of my admonition is, that ye avoid cultivating unnecessary conversation with any one that is guilty of these crimes, and bears the name of a Christian brother, as being joined in church-fellowship with other professing believers: If any one of this character be found chargeable with fornication, or any kind of uncleanness, or if he be an inordinate lover of money; or if he dishonour God, by joining in idolatrous worship; or be given to wrathful, abusive, and opprobrious language; or be a lover of much drinking, and customarily overtaken and intoxicated with strong liquor; or be an oppressor of others in a way of extortion, by rapacious usury, or other methods of taking an advantage of their dependance upon him: As these iniquities, when practised by those that make a solemn profession of Christ, are most highly aggravated, and bring the greatest reproach upon his blessed name, and the foulest scandal upon the church, ye ought to be shy and reserved in your ordinary behaviour towards such an one, and not so much as, unnecessarily, and out of choice, sit down with familiarity at common meals, much less at the Lord's table, with him; that while he observes your distant carriage towards him, he may see how infamous he has rendered himself, and may be ashamed of his evil ways.

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

12 For as to those that are out of the pale of the church, what concern have I, when speaking of ecclesiastical discipline, to forbid such converses with them, as the civil offices, secular affairs, and relations of life may call you to? Is it not your proper business, as a church, to judge of, and pass sentence against, only those offenders, that are of your own spiritual body? It is of them therefore, and of them only, that I now speak.

13 But them that are without, God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

13 But as for those flagitious sinners, that are not church members, and have no visible standing or communion with them in the kingdom of Christ, they must be left to the judgment of God; who, in case they continue impenitent, will not suffer them to escape his righteous vengeance, though ye have nothing to do to pass spiritual censures upon them, or to refuse an affable and friendly behaviour toward them. What I therefore immediately aim at in all this is, that ye not only exclude from your religious community, but likewise from your familiar and chosen conversation, the vile incestuous person, as ye ought to do any brother, that is scandalous in his life.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How melancholy is it to see, and hear of, such scandalous enormities among members of the churches of Christ, as even the heathens themselves would be ashamed of! And how unbecoming is it for any that belong to such churches, to be pulled up with pride, and filled with party zeal, instead of mourning before the Lord, under such humbling circumstances! It is their unquestionable duty to concur in excluding flagrant sinners from their holy communion, not to injure them in any of their temporal affairs; but for their spiritual good, and for the vindication of the honour of Christ, and the preservation of the purity of the church, that they may be as a new and unleavened lump, in all religious services, and holy conversation, according to the design of the Redeemer's death who was sacrificed for them. And as the excommunicating sentence, which is pronounced upon such offenders in the name of the Lord Jesus, is exceeding awful; and its consequences are very happy, or terrible, according as its genuine design takes proper effect upon them, or not. How concerned should they be, who were once in fellowship with them, to behave towards them at such a rate, as, by the blessing of God, may be subservient to the making them sensible, and ashamed of their sin, by keeping at a becoming distance from them, and not conversing in so free and familiar a manner with them, unless for bringing them to repentance, as may be allowable with the men of this world, that are guilty of the like crimes; such as fornication, adultery, covetousness, idolatry, railing, drunkenness, and extortion! But, as to those wicked persons that are *without*, and never were in communion with the saints; churches have no right to take cognizance of them; but must leave them to the righteous judgment of God, who will call them to a severe account, if they live and die in impenitence and unbelief.

C H A P. VI.

The apostle cautions the Corinthians against going to law one with another, especially in heathen courts, 1,—8. Specifies several gross sins, which they were cleansed from, but which, lived and died in, exclude from the kingdom of God, 9,—11. Repeats his caution against uncleanness, as it is a defilement and an abuse of their bodies, which are the members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Ghost, and are purchased for God, that, with the whole man, they might glorify him, 12,—20.

TEXT.

DARE any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

PARAPHRASE.

SINCE then it belongs to you to take cognizance of your own members, and pass proper censures on their immoralities; (*chap. v. 12.*) Is it not a rash, unnecessary, and unwarrantable venture, beyond the rules of prudence, love, and duty, for any of you, who have a matter of controversy with a Christian brother about civil affairs, to enter immediately into a law-suit against him, and try it in a litigious way before heathen magistrates, who are avowed enemies to Christianity, and would rejoice at your quarrelling among yourselves; and from whom impartial justice to its professors is not ordinarily to be expected *?

Should

N O T E.

* Mr. Locke, who has been followed by some others, supposes that this relates to

Should ye not rather refer such a cause to the decision of some among yourselves, that are persons of a religious and holy character, and may reasonably be supposed to understand things of that nature, and to give righteous judgment about them?

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

2 Do ye not apprehend and consider, that, as our blessed Lord told his disciples, *they should sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*; (Matth. xix. 28.) so those, whom he has renewed and sanctified by his Spirit, shall have the honour and privilege, at the last day, of being seated in dignity near him, and of concurring with him in his final judicary-sentence upon the ungodly world of mankind? And if the wicked of the earth, great and small, shall be brought before you, as assessors with Christ, when *he shall come with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all*; (Jude ver. 14, 15.) Are ye not to be deemed fit, or worthy, to judge and determine about little controversies of a civil nature, that are of the most trivial consequence, especially when compared with the infinitely more important causes and their issues which will be decided, and *that with your consent, in the last day of judgment*?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

3 Do ye not know that, in the manner but now mentioned, ye shall sit as favourites and approvers, with Christ, in judgment, even upon the fallen angels themselves, when he shall pass a solemn sentence upon them in the great day, to consign them over to the complete and everlasting torments, for which they are

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to the case of the incestuous person, which his party, to stop a church-censure, pretended was to be tried by the civil magistrate, and which possibly they had brought before a heathen judge, or at least pleaded, that what he had done was lawful, and might be justified before the magistrate.—But what the apostle here speaks of, is reckoned among *the smallest matters, and things that pertain to this life*; (ver. 2, 3, 4.) and he reproves the *Corinthians* for *not taking*, or putting up *wrongs* of that nature, and *not suffering themselves to be defrauded* in them, rather than *go to law* about them; (ver. 7.) which surely he would not have said, with respect to a crime so notoriously infamous, *as was not so much as named among the Gentiles*, chap. v. 1. See my paraphrase and notes there, which may be sufficient to take off the force of what that learned expositor has offered to get over the objection, which lies in those words against his supposition. I therefore take

the apostle to refer to *civil cases* of little moment, between man and man, which some of that church had carried into heathen courts: And as he had been discoursing about the church's power and duty, to judge their own members in *ecclesiastical* concerns, chap. v. 12. he passes on to warn them against the scandalous practice of litigious lawsuits, which some of them had gone in to against their brethren, about *worldly* things of a trifling nature, and *that* in heathen courts of judicature. But it cannot be concluded from hence, that all going to law about matters of considerable importance, is absolutely unlawful; provided it be with a Christian temper, and merely for the maintaining or defending of civil rights and properties, after all other fair and prudent methods have been tried, without effect; and yet this ought to be avoided, as much as possible, among fellow Christians; and especially members of the same church.

are now reserved? (2 Pet. ii. 4. and Jude ver. 6.) Are ye then not sufficient, and proper persons, to settle matters of common right and wrong, between one brother and another, in things relating to this present state and world?

4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

4 If therefore at any time ye have differences one with another, about the temporal affairs of this life, which the parties themselves cannot agree upon; appoint some of the secular brethren to be arbitrators, and umpires between them, even such as are of little account in the church, not indeed with respect to their natural and acquired parts, or their eminence in piety and holiness; but with respect to the spiritual functions of pastors and teachers, who, for the sake of their office, ought not to intermeddle, like judges and dividers, in secular affairs: (Luke xii. 14.) Nay, let such trifling causes, as some of you may have been concerned in, be referred to two or three of the meanest honest Christians, of plain sense among you, rather than be brought to Pagan courts of judicature*. However, it is every way wrong for you to be fond of appealing to such magistrates, as, under the notion of their being *Heathens*, are so far to be disesteemed by the church of Christ, as not to be applied to without necessity.

I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man amongst you? no not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

5 I expostulate in this earnest manner with you, to shame you out of such an unbecoming conduct, which, I am sorry to say, has been found among you, and is matter of great reproach to you. What! under all your mighty boasts of wisdom and learning, Is there really no man of sagacity, or of common prudence among you? No, not so much as one of all your number, that is capable of adjusting debates about *meum* and *tuum*, which arise between your Christian brethren, and of compromising things between them?

6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

6 But, as though there were none of such a character among you, I perceive that one brother commences a law-suit against another, of the same common faith, and of the same church and communion with himself; and prosecutes him with the utmost rigour, and *that* in the courts of *infidels*, to the great scandal of Christianity, and of its holy professors.

7 Now therefore there is utterly

7 There is therefore (*ολως κτηνια*) most certainly a very blameable defect in your management; for as much

N O T E.

* Some read this interrogatively, *Do ye set them to judge, who are of no esteem, or who are set at nought?* (*τους εξουδεμευτους*) meaning the heathen magistrates; the apostle having spoke before, (chap. i. 25.) of the heathens, as things of nought: (*εξουδεμευτα*) And

so he blames the *Corinthians* for bringing their causes to such sort of persons as these, whom they rather ought to have the meanest thoughts of, though not as civil magistrates, yet as blind idolatrous heathens.

If a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another: why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

8 Nay, you do wrong and defraud, and that *your* brethren.

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

much as one takes the advantage of law against another, and the rest connive at it, without a due regard to any proper rules of Christian prudence, and forbearance, or of brotherly love and friendship, and highly to the dishonour of our great Lord and Master, who is the Prince of Peace, and in the days of his flesh was meek and lowly in heart. Why do ye not rather put up injuries, and suffer yourselves to be deprived of what, in strictness, might be your due, than expose one another, and the name of Christ himself, to contempt and insult in the open courts of the unbelieving and prophane? This would be every way better, and more agreeable to your spiritual relation to him, and to each other.

8 But, instead of bearing injuries with meekness and patience, I find many of you yourselves are guilty, even of injustice and frauds, and *that* in your dealings with your brethren in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, and without controul from those, that should interpose to prevent it. How contrary is this to your Christian character and profession, and to what your temper ought to be!

9, 10 What! are ye not fully convinced of, and do ye never reflect upon, so plain and awful a truth as this, that, whatever peoples professions be, the impenitent and unbelieving, who live under the guilt and dominion of any sin, are utterly unfit for, have no title to, and shall not be admitted to an enjoyment of, the blessings and privileges of that kingdom of grace, which God has erected in this world, nor of that glorious kingdom, which he has prepared in the heavens, to be *the inheritance of the saints in light?* (Col. i. 12.) Pray take heed that none of you deceive your own souls with imaginary notions, hypocritical pretences, or presumptuous confidences. It is certain that neither single men or women, who unlawfully cohabit together; nor the worshippers of images, or of false gods; nor defilers of the marriage-bed, by impure conversation with any other, whether single person, husband, or wife; nor males or females of lascivious tempers and practices; nor those that are guilty of the most unnatural and detestable sin, for which the men of *Sodom* were destroyed by fire from heaven; nor such as invade other peoples property by open force, or private stealth and frauds; nor persons of a covetous temper, that are never satisfied with what they have of the riches of this world, nor willing to part with so much of them, as are requisite for promoting the glory of God, the interest of religion, and the good of others; nor the lovers, and excessive drinkers, or bilblers of strong liquor,

to the intoxicating of their brains, or impairing their health, or unfitting them for business and solid devotion; nor such as injuriously blast the reputation of their neighbours; nor unjust oppressors of those that are under their power by exacting from them more than is legally due*: Do ye not know, as ye ought, and surely must, that none of these sorts of sinners, living and dying such, without repentance toward God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, shall ever be admitted to the blessings of grace, in this world, or to the inheritance of eternal life in the next, which consists of riches and grandeur, honours and delights, incomparably superior to all that pertain to the most flourishing kingdoms upon earth.

11. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

11. And permit me to remind you, for your humbling and caution, and for exciting your admiration and praise of free, sovereign, and distinguishing grace, that in the days of your unregeneracy, and estrangement from Christ, one or other, and perhaps most, if not all of these black and odious crimes, were predominant in yourselves; such monsters of wickedness were, at least, some of you. But, O rich and astonishing mercy! blessed be God for it; ye, who sincerely believe, are now happily cleaned, or purged from the guilt of your sins; ye are now delivered from their defiling and domineering power, and made partakers of God's holiness; and ye are now brought into a state of favour and acceptance with him, as righteous unto eternal life†: Ye are, I say, now washed from

N O T E S.

* Here is a recital of sins, for which Corinth was infamous, and which are notorious transgressions of both tables of the moral law. *Idolatry* is a sin against the first and second commandments: *Fornication*, *Adultery*, and *Effeminacy*, and the *unnatural sin*, are forbidden by the seventh: *Theft* and *Extortion*, by the eighth: *Reveling*, by the ninth: *And Covetousness*, *Drunkenness*, *Uncleanness*, and all inordinate desires, by the tenth.

† As justification is more than a bare pardon, which consists only in a discharge from guilt and condemnation, without a title to the blessedness of eternal life, I have considered believers being washed in a distinct view from their being justified, as well as from their being sanctified, because the most usual interpretation of their being washed, as relating to their being cleaned from the filth of sin, seems to be more coincident with their being sanctified: But, perhaps,

their being washed may be of a more general signification, inclusive both of their being sanctified and justified, which may be taken as explanatory of the senses, in which they were washed: And though their being sanctified is spoken of, in the middle of the verse, before their being justified; yet in the name of the Lord Jesus, by whom they were justified, is mentioned, in the close of the verse, before the Spirit of our God, by whom they were sanctified; which shews that we cannot always depend merely upon the order of expressions, to determine the order, in which these benefits are bestowed: And as washing is supposed by many to have a reference to baptism, I have given a turn to the paraphrase, which may be applied to all, that is signified and sealed by that ordinance, with relation to our being washed by the blood and Spirit of Christ, in our pardon and sanctification, and being made partakers of the righteousness of faith.

from your sins, and justified in God's sight, through faith in the name of the only Lord and Saviour, in virtue of his atoning blood, and meritorious righteousness; (*Rev.* i. 5. and *Act.* xiii. 38, 39.) and ye are sanctified by the renewing, purifying, and quickening influence of the Spirit of our gracious God, (*2 Theff.* ii. 13.) even your God and mine, who, for this very purpose, has shed the Holy Ghost upon you abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour; (*Tit.* iii. 5, 6.) and who signified all these benefits, and sealed the promises of them, in your Christian baptism.

12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

12 But to insist a little more particularly on the sin of simple fornication, which I have ranked among the most enormous crimes; (*ver.* 9.) but which some of you may have too light thoughts of, as if it were as allowable, as eating every kind of meat without distinction; because abstaining from both is alike enjoined to the *Gentile* converts, by the famous decree at *Jerusalem.* (*Acts* xv. 29.) As to meats *, which that decree restrained the use of, only for a season, and with relation to such circumstances, as might make eating them offensive to the *Jews*, (see the note on *Acts* xv. 29.) I would say, All things, which, in themselves considered, are neither directly, nor by just consequence, enjoined, or forbidden, either by the nature of things, or by the authority of Christ, are lawful for me to use, or not, as occasions require; but in some circumstances, as particularly when it would give offence to others, it is not advisable, profitable, (*ε συμφερεσι*) or conducive to any valuable purpose, but may be very injurious, to indulge myself in the use of them, without considering the consequence: All things, of such an indifferent nature in themselves, are allowable for me to do, or not, as I please, according to my apprehensions of the good or bad ends, that might be promoted by it; but I would not suffer myself to be enslaved by an ungovernable passion for them; nor, were they to be imposed upon me, as necessary things, in point of conscience, by any merely human injunction, would

I submit

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faith, which circumcision was said to be the seal of, in justification. (*Rom.* iv. 11.)

* It appears from *ver.* 13. that the apostle reckoned the eating of any kind of meats, whether such as were offered to idols, or such as were forbidden in the *Levitical* law, among the things, which, under the gospel-state, were in themselves lawful, according to what he declared on other occasions concerning

them both: (*chap.* viii. and *Rom.* xiv. 14.—18.) And the partisans of the incestuous perion might probably pretend, that, on his side, he was only guilty of simple fornication, and that this was no more unlawful, than the eating of those meats. This, in my apprehension, lets the reasoning and connection of this part of the apostle's discourse, in a juster light, than any other way, that I have met with of accounting for it.

I submit to the arbitrary authority of any man whatsoever; (*οκ εγω εξουσιωθησομαι υπο τινος*) but would practise them, or not, just as the reasons of things require.

13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

13 In this view, we are to consider meats that are offered to idols; and all those that were forbidden in the *Levitical* law; for the original design of all wholesome food was to nourish the body, by filling and refreshing the stomach and bowels with it; and the belly, in the animal frame, was formed for receiving and digesting it, and separating nutritious juices from it: But these are things of so perishing a nature, and of so little consequence to a man's truest happiness, that God will soon put an end to both, and to their mutual relation one to the other; so that we shall neither hunger nor thirst in the heavenly world, (*Rev. vii. 16.*) nor have any occasion for meat or drink there. But now as to fornication, *that* is a sin of a quite different nature: For in forming the human body, which will subsist in another state after the belly and food, and their relation to each other, shall be destroyed, God's design was not, that it should be prostituted in this world to impure and promiscuous embraces; but that it should be used for himself, and for the honour of the Lord Jesus, who died to redeem and save it, as well as the soul; and that he, as the Head and Saviour of the church, might have the body, as well as soul, under his dominion and disposal, in order to its glorifying him here, and being glorified with him hereafter.

14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

14 And, as the pledge, earnest, and security of its glorious state in the world to come, God the Father raised up the dead body of the Lord Jesus, as the Head of the church, and the first-fruits of them that sleep in him; and we may assuredly conclude from thence, that, by the working of the same almighty power, he will raise up the dead bodies of every one of us, who are the living members of Christ, to a blessed and glorious immortality, after his likeness. (*Phil. iii. 21.*)

15 Know ye not, that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

15 Do ye not know that your bodies themselves, being a constituent part of your persons, are united to Christ as members, of which he is the vital head, and which will sleep in Jesus, and be raised up to glory with him? (*1 Thess. iv. 14, 17.*) Would it then be fit, or decent; nay, would it not be monstrously shameful for me, or any one who is vitally united to Christ, like the members of the natural body to their head, to make such a vile use of the members of his mystical body, as to alienate them from his service and honour, and, as it were, rend them

them off from him, and turn them into the members of a lewd woman, by committing whoredom with her? Far be it (*μη γενοίτο*) from any that bear the Christian name, to be guilty of fuch a flagitious crime; fo difhonourable to the holy Jefus, and to the law of marriage, which is fanctified and confirmed by him. (*Matth. xix. 5, 6.*)

16 What, know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot, is one body? for two (faith he) fhall be one flefh.

16 Strange! that ye, who make fuch high pretences to knowledge, fhould not underftand and confider, that the man who is united, in criminal affections and converfation, with an harlot, degrades himfelf fo far as to be, as it were, but one body with her? For, as our Lord has faid of a husband and his wife, (*Matth. xix. 6.*) that *they are no more two, but one flefh*; fo a man who unlawfully cohabits with a woman, becomes, though in an exceeding vile and difhonourable fenfe, one flefh with her.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord, is one fpirit.

17 But, on the contrary, the believer, who is vitally united to the Lord Jefus, as his head and husband, fo clofely adheres, and is, as it were, fo compactly cemented to him, (*ο κολληόμενος τω Κυρίω*) as to be partaker of, and animated and actuated by, the fame divine fpirit, which dwelt, with a fulnefs of gifts and graces above meafure, in Chrift himfelf, (*John iii. 34.*) and is communicated to all his members, according to the meafure of his gift; (*Eph. iv. 7, &c.*) and fo they are, though not essentially, yet myftically, one fpirit with him, which throws the indignity, offered to the body, upon him, with whom they are one fpirit.

18 Flee fornication. Every fin that a man doth, is without the body: but he that committeth fornication, finneth againft his own body.

18 Whatever therefore ye do, flee from the fin of uncleanness, in all its forms, with dread and abhorrence, with the utmoft fpeed, and with all your might, as a bird would flee from the snare of the fowler; do not fo much as parley with it; but refolutely abandon it, and keep at the remoteft diftance from it; watch and pray againft all inclinations, enticements, and tendencies to it, and all appearances and occafions of it: For every other fin, which a man commits only againft God and his neighbour, terminates upon an object out of himfelf*, and does not immediately pollute his own body, though it doth his foul; but he, who is guilty of whoredom, not only defiles his
foul,

N O T E.

* Every fin here oppofed to Fornication, muft, I think, be underftood with a reftriction to fuch fort of fins as are committed merely againft God and others: For though expositors commonly take notice of *Gluttony* and *Drunkennefs*, as included in thofe other fins, becaufe they are an abufe of food and

drink; yet fince they are likewise an abufe of a man's own body, it can fcarce be faid of them, that they are *without the body*, or are not fins *againft a man's own body*; and even fornication itfelf is an abufe of other's, as well as of one's own body.

foul, and sins against God and his neighbour, but against his own body too, as that is thereby debased, and unworthily sacrificed to the most brutish and abominable lusts.

19 What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

19 What shall I say further? Do ye not know and consider, according to what has been before hinted, (*chap. iii. 16.*) that your body, as an essential part of the human person, which is united to Christ, is a sacred, dedicated, and appropriated habitation of God the Holy Ghost *, which he has taken possession of, and dwells in, by peculiar relation and operation, diffusing light and grace within it, and adorning it with his special presence, and with much more excellent tokens and manifestations of it, than ever *Solomon's* temple had of God's residence there: This divine indwelling spirit, who proceeds from the Father and Son, but is undivided from them, ye have and hold by the free gift of God, for the glory of his own great name, as the fountain of all grace, through Jesus Christ; as well as that ye have the body itself from him, as its Creator: And being thus not only formed by, and for him, as the God of nature, but also consecrated to him, as the God of grace, and so his *habitation through the Spirit*, (*Eph. ii. 22.*) ye are no longer your own property, or at your own disposal, to use your bodies according to your own brutal inclinations, in contradiction to his holy nature and will.

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods.

20 For, to add one consideration more, ye are redeemed from the curse of the law, and the wrath to come, from sin and Satan, from infamy, slavery, and ruin, and are purchased for the service and enjoyment of the holy and blessed God, by the precious blood of his Son; (*1 Pet. i. 19.* and *Rev. v. 9.*) and so ye are bought at the dearest rate for himself, and for a glorious resurrection of the body to eternal life: Let it therefore be your diligent care and concern, through divine grace, to yield your bodies, and all their members, as well as your souls, and all their faculties, as instruments of righteousness to God, which is your reasonable service; (*Rom. vi. 13.* and *xii. 1.*) that ye may never alienate and debase his peculiar right and property, by impurity in the thoughts and inclinations of the heart, or in the acts of the body; but may in all things glorify him with both †, which he has

N O T E S.

* What the apostle calls *the temple of living God*; and a *temple* always supposes, and is relative to, an inhabiting deity.

† As Christ is the Redeemer, who paid the price for us, we are certainly *his*,

has now a peculiar and endearing title to, by redeeming love, added to that of creation and providence; and which ought to be devoted, employed, and improved entirely, unreservedly, and for ever, to his glory, and according to his will.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

What an honour has Christ put upon the saints, in making their bodies, as well as souls, his members, and the temples of the Holy Ghost, which he will raise to immortal blessedness! And what dignity and glory will they appear in, when they shall sit, like justices on the bench, with the great Judge of all; and the rest of mankind, yea, the fallen angels themselves, shall be arraigned, tried, and cast at his bar; and the attending court shall say, with solemn acclamation, *Thou art righteous, O Lord, because thou hast judged thus!* (Rev. xvi. 5.) How highly therefore doth it become them now to adjust controversies about civil affairs among themselves, by referring them to the arbitration of their own honest friends, rather than give way to a litigious temper, and expose religion to its enemies, by going to law one with another before them! What a shame is it to a church of Christ, if there be none among their lay-brethren, that are wise and prudent enough to engage in making up such differences! And, O how exceedingly are such church members to blame, who are so far from putting up wrongs, as to be themselves guilty of cheating and injuring others, and *that* their Christian brethren! Whatever such persons professions and pretences be, they do but deceive their own souls, if they imagine that they shall be admitted to the kingdom of heaven, while they allow themselves in this, or any other kind of wickedness, such as uncleanness, idolatry, covetousness, drunkenness, delamation, and extortion. But, O how great is the difference between what true believers once were, in the days of their unregeneracy, and now are, through the riches of surprising, sovereign, and distinguishing grace! They were under the power of damning sin, and some of them notoriously vile; but now they are pardoned and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of their God. And when they are brought into this happy state, how easy may they be about all things of an indifferent nature, like *Jewish* meats! They are lawful to them, and may be used without scruple by them; only Christian prudence should direct the expediency of them; and they should take heed that their consciences be never enslaved, by human impositions, to make them necessary, and that they never go into an immoderate indulgence of sensitive appetites for meat and drink, which will perish with the animal frame of the body, and be entirely useless in another world. But with what detestation should they fly from the sin of fornication, and from every thing that has the least tendency towards it! This, how slightly soever some may think of it, is a sin directly contrary to the law of nature and of marriage, and to the noble purposes for which their bodies were originally designed, and to which those of the saints shall be raised, in conformity to Christ's glorious body: It is contrary to their relation to him, as his members, dishonourable to his name, and debasing to themselves, to join their bodies to an harlot, and make them one flesh with her's: It is contrary to that intimate union, into which they are taken to their holy Head and Husband, as one spirit with him; and contrary to the dignity of their bodies, and to the inhabitation of the Holy Ghost in them, as his temple: And it is contrary to the right of purchase by Jesus Christ, who hath bought both their bodies and souls with the price of his precious blood, that they might not be their own lords and masters; but might glorify God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, with their bodies and spirits, which are his.

N O T E.

his, as well as God the Father's peculiar property; and as it is on the foot of *his* redemption, that we are said to be *God's*, it naturally follows, that Christ is included in *the God*, whose we are, and whom we should *glorify with our bodies and spirits, which are his*; and as, in

the preceding *verse*, believers were said to be *the temple of the Holy Ghost*, he also is to be considered, together with the Father and Son, as the God, who has a peculiar property in us, and is to be glorified by us. See the note on that *verse*.

C H A P. VII.

The apostle proceeds to answer several questions, that had been sent to him; and, beginning with what had been proposed about marriage, he shews, that though in some cases it might be best not to enter into that state; yet, as it is God's ordinance to be a remedy against fornication, it is to be chosen by such as have strong propensions to that sin, 1,—9. That married Christians should not seek to part with their unbelieving consorts, one being sanctified by the other, for preserving the federal holiness of their children, 10,—16. That persons, in any civil station, should ordinarily be satisfied to abide in that, in which they were first called to the faith of Christ, 17,—24. That it was most desirable, on account of the then perilous days, for single people to continue so, unless there were any pressing reasons to the contrary; and that persons of all stations ought to fit loose from every thing of this transitory world, as far as it would be an hinderance to them in the service of God, 25,—35. That great prudence should be used in the disposal of virgins, 36,—38. And that widows should be very careful how they marry again, and especially that it be only in the Lord, 39,—40.

TEXT.

NOW concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 New converts, to avoid fornication, let every man have

PARAPHRASE.

NOW, to speak to the questions proposed to me in the letter, which I received from you *, and to begin with those, that relate to matrimony; I say, in general, that the unmarried state, considered as free from incumbrances, and attended with the fewest inconveniences and troubles, (*ver.* 28, 35.) especially in times of persecution, (*ver.* 26.) is, in that view of it, to be preferred to a state of wedlock.

2 But yet, as *marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled*, (*Heb.* xiii. 4.) and as it is appointed of God, among other reasons, for preventing the

N O T E.

* It appears from the manner of the apostle's introducing this part of his epistle, that he had received a letter from such members of the church at Corinth, as adhered to him, about several points of conscience in debate among them, of which they desired a solution, as what they would abide by: Accordingly he set himself to answer them, in this and the following chapters, beginning with their questions about *marriage*, in an agreeable connection with what he had hitherto been saying against *fornication*. Had we the letter before us, which they wrote to him, we might form a better judgment of the beauty and propriety of his thoughts on all those points, than we now can, for want of knowing

its contents, any further than may be gathered from his reply, and from the very scanty remains of the history of those times. As to the article of marriage, which he considers in this chapter, it is probable that there were some of the *Gentile* converts, who inclined to the *Pythagorean* notion against that ordinance, as though it were an enemy to the intellectual life; (see *Dr. Whitby* on the place) and that there were others among the *Jewish* converts, who sided with the doctrine of their schools, which taught, that every man at the age of twenty was bound to marry, and delivered various opinions about restraints from the marriage-bed. See *Dr. Lightfoot's* works, Vol. II. p. 757, 758.

his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

the abominable sin of fornication, together with all sorts of uncleanness, which I have been but now so particularly remonstrating against, (*chap. v. and chap. vi. 13,—20.*) I would advise every man, whose natural constitution, and the temptations of his situation may be too strong inducements to that iniquity, (*ver. 9.*) to take, and keep to a wife of his own, (*την ἑαυτου γυναικα εχητω*) who shall be his peculiar property; and every woman, in like circumstances, to accept, and cleave to a husband, who shall be hers only, (*τον ιδιον ανδρα*) and not anothers.

3 And when they are joined together in lawful wedlock, the husband, to prevent irregular desires in himself after other women, and in his wife after other men, should take proper opportunities of testifying his peculiar affection to her, in a due performance of the conjugal duty, which he owes to her, and her only, as may be most agreeable to her inclinations: And the wife, on her part, should be ready to do the like towards her husband.

4 For as they have given themselves one to the other, the wife has no longer a right, or authority, (*εκ εχουασης*) to dispose of her own body, by withholding it, in fit seasons, from her husband; much less by prostituting it to any other man; it being a property sacred to her husband: And, on the other side, the husband, in like manner, has no right, or authority, (*εκ εχουασης*) to withhold his own body from his wife; much less to gratify any other woman, or his own pleasure, in impure embraces of her; it being the inviolable property of his wife.

5 Whosoever of you therefore are in the matrimonial state, see that ye be just and kind one to the other, and that ye do not unnecessarily deprive one another of the duty of that relation *; (*ου απορριψετε*) unless it be by mutual agreement on some special solemn occasions, to the end that ye may abstain from all gratifications of nature, in order to your being the more suitably and intently engaged in the religious exercises of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; and, when such seasons are over, ye may discretionally return to a sober and temperate use of each other

K 2

again;

N O T E.

* The apostle's reasoning in this and the preceding verses evidently makes against *Polygamy*, and against *words of celibacy*, or of *perpetual virginity*: And the chastity of his style is very remarkable, to teach us to be as modest as possible in expressing things, that might tend to raise indecent motions in the heart, when we are obliged to

speake of them, as I am forced to do, though with great reluctance, in this paraphrase, and hope have done in the chastest manner; in which it likewise ought to be read, without *scollish jesting*, as such parts of the sacred scripture too often are, by persons of *vain minds*.

again; lest the devil should take an opportunity, during too long and disagreeable an abstinence, to tempt you to some criminal conversation with other persons, through the workings of an unchaste disposition in yourselves.

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

6 But what I say in these cases, is by way of confession and advice, which I am allowed to offer, as an inspired apostle, with respect to what, in different circumstances, may be lawfully done, and may be most agreeable to your holy profession; and not by any express command of Christ, (see the note on *ver.* 10.) as to what is absolutely necessary for this, or that particular person.

7 For I would that all men were even as I myself: but every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

7 For I could indeed heartily wish, that all my unmarried Christian friends were as easy and contented, as I myself am, in a single state of life*: But they must be left to consult their own tempers, dispositions, and situations; since every one of them has the peculiar frame of his natural constitution, and proper measures of assistance for the government of it; by the gift of God, as the author of both, some in one way, and others in another, for their different trial and improvement, and for displaying the power of religion in its various forms of working in them respectively, whether they alter their condition, or not.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I.

8 I therefore only say to bachelors and maidens, widowers and widows, that, in these perilous times, it is really most eligible for them, if they, like me, can do it with safety, to keep themselves unmarried †, as I do myself, for prudential reasons, while I find no inconveniences, but manifold advantages for the service of God in it.

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

9 But if their animal inclinations are too strong and fervent to be restrained, and kept within due bounds, by all the grace they have received, without great uneasiness and disturbance to themselves; let them prudently marry some suitable person, lest temptations should, one time or other, prove too hard for them: For it is certainly far better, in point of wisdom,

N O T E S.

* I take this to be the apostle's sense, rather than, as the stream of commentators carries it, that he wished all men were *unmarried* as he himself was: For that would have been inconsistent both with God's ordinance of marriage, and with the continuance of the church, and of the world, for time to come; and as far as he found any benefit in a single life, for which he wished it to others, that is sufficiently expressed in the next *verse*.

† Some have thought that the apostle himself was a *widower*; because, speaking of such, he here puts himself in, saying, *it is good for them, if they abide even as I*; and because he, having been a conscientious, strict, and zealous *Pharisee*, had probably married in his younger days, according to the doctrine of the *Jewish* schools, which made it a sin to continue single after twenty years old. (See the note on *ver.* 1.)

dom, duty, and comfort, for any one to marry, than to be under the power of tormenting, inflaming, and impure desires after unlawful enjoyments.

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from *her* husband:

10 And as to another of your questions about married people, both of which are believers; though some of them may be too ready to fall in with what they have been wont to hear from the *Jewish* rabbies, about the allowableness of divorces on trivial occasions, (see Dr. *Lightfoot* on *Matth.* v. 31.) I declare, (*παρρηγγελω*) not as from myself, nor yet as what I have received by *immediate* inspiration, which in this case there was no need of *; but as what our Lord himself has expressly commanded, (*Matth.* v. 32. and xix. 6, 9.) and has fixed as a binding law upon all his disciples, that no wife should voluntarily separate herself, or be divorced from her husband, for any differences that may rise between them; unless it be on account of adultery:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

11 But if upon some pet, dislike, or quarrel, she should go away from her husband, or he should dismiss her for any other cause than Christ has allowed of, she ought, by all means, to resolve against, and keep herself from marrying another man, which would be utterly unlawful; (*Matth.* xix. 9.) or rather, it is her duty to do all that in her lies, to get the breach made up between her husband and herself, to regain his favour, and lay aside her own resentments, that they may live amicably together again, as becometh saints: And it is the incumbent duty of the husband not to divorce his wife, while she is willing to live with him, and is faithful to his bed.

12 But to the rest I speak, I, not the Lord, if any brother

12 But as to others among you, that were married to heathens, or unbelievers, before they themselves were converted; and may now be in doubt, whether they

N O T E.

* There was no need of immediate inspiration as to this point, which Christ had so clearly and expressly determined, as there was with respect to others, which he had said nothing about; there having been no occasion for it then, and he having left them to be settled by his apostles, as circumstances might arise: Nor is there any necessity of understanding the apostle to mean merely his own private opinion, when he said, *ver. 6. I speak by permission*, and *ver. 12. I speak, not the Lord*; and *ver. 25. I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give my judgment as one that has obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful*: For all this may very well be taken to signify, that what he delivered, under these forms of speech, was by inspiration, in

distinction from, and by way of addition to, what our Lord himself had mentioned, in the days of his ministry; accordingly he speaks of himself, with a reference to these things, as *having the Spirit of God.* *ver. 40.* But if, as some would have it, his meaning was, that he spoke those things, as his own private sentiments, and not by divine suggestion; this shews his great honesty and faithfulness, in giving such plain notice of what he delivered only as his private thoughts, and carries strong evidence, that, when he gave no intimations of that kind, he is to be understood, as speaking by inspiration of the Spirit, according to what he says in opposition to false teachers, *ver. 40.* See the note there.

brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth, not and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

they ought still to continue in the conjugal relation with them, because under the *Mosaic* law, the *Jews* were obliged, at a time of general reformation, to put away their idolatrous wives* ; (*Ezra* x. 3, &c.) I declare, by revelation of the Spirit, our Lord himself having left no express commandment by word of mouth about this point, that if any Christian brother be wedded to a wife, who, after his conversion, continues an idolatress, or unbeliever, and she be nevertheless willing to cohabit with him in a friendly and peaceable manner, as before, he ought not to abandon her, merely on account of religion.

13 And if any converted woman was before married to an husband, who remains in unbelief, and yet is still willing to live in an honest, decent, and loving manner with her, as man and wife, she ought not to go away from him, as if the bonds of matrimony were broke between them, only because, through his want of religion, they cannot walk together, as heirs of the grace of life.

14 For as, unto the pure, all relations and enjoyments of this life are pure, (*Tit.* i. 15.) the husband who continues an infidel, is so far sanctified, or separated to a holy use, (*ἐν τῇ γυναικί*) in or by his believing wife, and by means of her credibly professed faith and holiness, (they being one flesh, *Matth.* xix. 5.) as not to deprive her of the covenant-privileges, which belong to the visible people of God, and their seed ; (*Gen.* xvii. 7.) and the unconverted wife is in like manner sanctified for covenant use, (*ἐν τῷ ἀνδρὶ*) in or by her believing husband, and by means of his regularly professed faith and holiness, and of her conjugal relation to him : Otherwise those of your children, which descend from a father and mother, one of which is a Christian, and the other not, would be in the same condition, as to the privileges and blessings that belong to the visible church, and to the external administration of the covenant with the children of parents, both of which are heathens, and so out of the pale of the church, and strangers to the covenants

N O T E.

* The *Israelites* marrying the daughters of idolatrous nations, was in direct contradiction to the well known, express, and severe prohibition of God's law, *Duet.* vii. 3, 4. But the believer, and unbeliever (spoken of by the apostle, are supposed to have been married, while they were both in a state of heathenism, or of unbelief. *That case* therefore, was very different from *this*, on the *religious* foot; and it was so, furthermore, on a *political*

account, as the *Jews*, nationally considered, were under God's immediate government, as their king, and were to be kept entirely distinct from all the idolatrous nations round about them: And though it would be contrary to the duty, comfort, and edification of Christians to marry unbelievers; (*ver.* 39.) yet it would not make the marriage itself null and void. (See also the note on *ver.* 10.)

covenants of promise, and by no means to be owned as a holy seed * : But now, since the unbelieving parent is thus sanctified in and by the other, who believes, their offspring are externally, relatively, and fœderally holy, as a seed visibly separated and appropriated to the Lord, and so entitled to all the privileges of the covenant, that they are capable of in their

N O T E.

* The terms (*ακαθαρος*) *unclean*, and (*αγιος*) *holy*, occur almost numberless times in the *seventy*, and in the New Testament; but I do not find that they are ever once used to signify *illegitimate* and *legitimate*, which is the sense that some would here put upon them: And as the apostle was speaking of persons already married, and marriage is a civil ordinance of the God of nature, there was no room to doubt, whether the children of such unbelieving and believing parents were *legitimate*, or not, since *that* depends entirely on the legitimacy of the *marriage*, and not at all on the *religious* character of the husband and wife, whether one, or both, or neither of them, were Christians or no. Nor is it to be supposed, that *unclean* and *holy*, in this passage, is to be understood of *real, personal, and internal* uncleanness and holiness: For the children of believers are in a moral sense, as unclean by nature, as the children of other people, (see *Job* xiv. 1.—4. and xxv. 4. *Psal.* li. 5. and *Eph.* ii. 3.) and it cannot be said of *all* the children of believers, any more than of adult baptized professors, that they are renewed and sanctified by the Holy Ghost; since the event in both shews, that they are not all circumcised in heart, or that all are *not Israel*, which are of *Israel*. (*Rom.* ii. 28, 29. and ix. 6.) But *unclean* and *holy* are manifestly to be taken here, in that well known, and familiar sense, in which the church of *Israel*, and their seed, by virtue of their visible relation to God, as his covenant people, were called *an holy people*, and *an holy seed*, in distinction from the heathen nations, which were styled *unclean*, as being out of the pale of the church, and excluded from the privileges and blessings of God's covenant. See *Duet.* vii. 6. *Exra* ix. 2. *Isa.* vi. 13. and lii. 1. and lxii. 12. And thus the parents and children of the visible church are called *holy*, *Rom.* xi. 16. and the unconverted *Gentiles* are represented as *unclean*, in *Peter's* vision of the sheet, *Acts* x. 14. compared

with *ver.* 28. When therefore the infants of visible believers are baptized, it is no more setting a seal to a blank, than when that ordinance is administered to persons, who never were baptized before, upon their own profession of faith and repentance, but were not really partakers of those graces: For the proper ground of baptizing one, or the other, does not lie in a *certainty*, which no minister can have, that they are really endued with the grace of God, and so *internally* in covenant with him; but in their *visible* covenant-relation to him, as that is manifested by a credible profession of faith in adult persons, and by God's promise to them and their seed; for which reason, I think, the faith and holiness of parents are to be considered, as *credibly professed* by them, in order to the entailing of a relative, fœderal holiness on their children, and entitling them to baptism. And as we have a reasonable ground of hope for the salvation of such professing believers, as continue, living and dying, to be visibly in covenant with God; so we have, that their seed, dying in infancy, shall be saved: For since they did not live so long, as to be capable of renouncing the gracious covenant, which God made with their parents, and with them, we may comfortably consider them, as in the hands of a *covenant-God*, whose faithfulness engages him to continue to be so to them, that were not suffered to reject him by unbelief; and so, not to mention the great encouragement they would have to lay hold on God's covenant, were they to grow up to years of maturity, there is a vast difference between them, and the dying infants of unbelievers and heathens, which must be left to the *uncovenanted* mercy of God; and what ground of hope there is in this, let those Christians consider, who would set aside God's promise of being *a God to his people and their seed*, as having no relation to *spiritual* privileges and benefits, nor *any place* under the gospel-dispensation.

their infancy, as much as if both father and mother were professing believers.

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

15 But if the unbelieving husband, or wife, is so offended at the other's embracing Christ and the gospel, as for that reason only to go away, and absolutely resolve against living together any more, as man and wife; let such take their own course, at their peril, after all prudent, kind, and proper methods have been tried, in vain, to prevent it. A Christian brother, or sister, in such a case, is not tied down to the hardship of continuing the conjugal relation with one, who, in effect, irreclaimably breaks the matrimonial bond, and defeats all its ends, much less to enslave his, or her own conscience to the perverse humour of the unbelieving relative, for the sake of preventing a separation between them: Only it is to be remembered, that God has directed and obliged us, Christians, to follow after peace in every natural and civil, as well as religious relation; and therefore such ought to do their utmost, consistent with truth and holiness, to engage even infidel consorts, to live in an amicable manner with them.

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

16 For, still further to enforce this duty, How do you know, O believing wife, whether by still continuing to dwell in love, meekness, and chastity, with your unbelieving husband, you may not be an instrument in the Spirit's hand, of winning him over to the faith of Christ, and so saving his soul? (1 Pet. iii. 1, 2.) Or how do you know, O believing husband, whether you may not be a like happy instrument, in due time, of converting your wife? Do not despair of this, since that God, who has changed one of your hearts, and had brought you into so near a relation to each other, while ye were both in a state of infidelity, can sanctify it so far, as to turn it into an effectual means of salvation to your, as yet, unbelieving mate.

17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk: and to ordain I in all churches.

17 But whether the event, as to that, may answer your desire, or not; Let *me* take this occasion to exhort all among you to consider, that as God, in his providence, has dealt out various states, conditions, and relations of life, to every one of you respectively; and as, while each of you was situated in one or another of them, the Lord Jesus called him to the faith and fellowship of the gospel; so he should labour, by divine grace, to behave in a becoming manner, suitable to his station, without imagining that, by his religion, he is excused from any of the duties which belong to it: And this is what I lay down as a general rule, for order's sake, in all the churches of the saints, with

with respect to other cases, as well as that, which I have been now insinuating upon.

18 Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised: is any called in uncircumcision? let him not become circumcised.

18 Thus, with regard to *religious* circumstances of an external nature, was any of you a circumcised *Jew*, when God called him by his grace to the knowledge of Christ? Let him not regret it, or wish that he had never been circumcised, as though he were the worse for *that*: On the contrary, was any of you called to the faith and hope of the gospel, while he was an uncircumcised *Gentile*? Let him not be uneasy about *that*, or think the worse of his state, because he has not this mark of distinction in his flesh, which, under a former dispensation of the covenant, was put upon God's professing people; nor let him now want to be circumcised, how much soever some *Jewish* zealots would press it upon him: Neither of these circumstances make any alteration, with respect to the privileges and benefits of true believers, under the gospel dispensation.

19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

19 As to circumcision in the flesh, on one hand, which the *Jews* received before conversion; and as to not being circumcised, on the other, which was the case of the *Gentiles*; neither of these are of any avail in Christianity; no man is either the more, or the less accepted of God for either of them: But the main thing is to see to it, that your faith work by love; (*Gal. v. 6.*) and so prove itself to be genuine and sincere, in a conscientious and cheerful obedience to the moral commandments of the law of God, as becomes new creatures. (*Gal. vi. 15.*)

20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

20 So again, with respect to the *civil* stations and relations of this world, let every one be satisfied to continue in that state in which God had placed him in the kingdom of providence, before he called him into his kingdom of grace, which is designed to make no alteration, with regard to the duties that result from the several situations of secular life; but to enforce the practice of them in such a way, as may be most to the glory of God.

21 Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

21 As particularly, was you in the capacity or quality of a servant, or even of a slave, to some master according to the flesh, who had bought, or otherwise acquired you to be his property? Do not trouble yourself about *that*, as if you were ever a whit the less acceptable to God on its account, or as if your Christianity were blemished by it, or it were inconsistent with your duty toward your great Lord and Master in heaven, or with your holy profession of his name, and your spiritual privileges in communion with him: Only if Providence favour you with an opportunity of getting your freedom by any fair

means, thankfully accept of it, and faithfully improve it, as the more desirable condition, in which you may have time at your own command, and better advantages for religious exercises: But, be this as it will, do not discourage, or distress yourself about it.

22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

22 For, in opposition to the higher degrees of secular callings, he who, while in a state of vassalage to men, was called, by the power and grace of the Lord Jesus, to a participation of the spiritual and eternal blessings, that are enjoyed in union with him, is (to allude to slaves that obtain their liberty) as much a freed man (*απελευθερος*) of the Lord Redeemer's own making, and *that* in the most excellent and honourable sense of freedom and deliverance from the bondage he was under to sin, Satan, and all the severe exactions of the covenant of works, (*John* viii. 36. *Rom.* vi. 18. and vii. 3, 4. and *Gal.* v. 13.) as if he were not under any bond of civil servitude to men: And, on the contrary *, he who was called out of darkness into marvellous light, (*1 Pet.* ii. 9.) while he was in a state of civil freedom as a master, or as a denison of *Rome*, is by his conversion become as much a servant, under the strongest bonds to Christ, his great Lord and Master, who redeemed and called him, that he might be so, as if he had been in the lowest state of subjection to men.

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

23 So that, with respect to *religious* liberties and privileges, both are upon a level; and one as well as the other of you are redeemed from the worst of bondage and slavery, for the most honourable enjoyments and employments to the glory of God, (*chap.* vi. 20.) *not with silver and gold*, the price which men used to pay for a property in slaves, or for their ransom; *but with the precious blood of Christ.* (*1 Pet.* i. 18, 19.) In correspondence therefore to this high and peculiar right which the Lord, who bought you, has to all your services, take heed of parting with that spiritual liberty, wherewith Christ has made you free; or of serving the lusts and sinful commandments of men; or of being so subject to them, in discharging the duties of your civil relations, as to interfere with your superior obligations to him.

24 Brethren, let every man wherein he

24 Upon the whole then, my dear brethren, whatever be the external circumstances, and civil stations,

N O T E.

* *Christ and the Lord*, in this verse, evidently mean the same person, who is spoken of absolutely, as *the Lord*, as the *Lord who calls us*, as the *Lord who makes us free*, and has a peculiar property in us, as his *free men*, and as *the Lord*,

who is both the author and the object of our obedience, as we are *his servants*; all which can surely agree to none but that God, *whose we are, and whom we serve.* (*Acts* xxvii. 23.)

he is called, therein abide with God.

in which any were converted, whether it were in either of those but now mentioned, (*ver.* 16,—22.) or in any other; Let every one endeavour to be easy and contented with it, as what Providence has ordered for him; and to fulfil the duties belonging to it, by walking with God therein, as under his eye, in obedience and devotedness to him, by assistance from him, and in communion with him, who is graciously present with his people in all conditions of life, and gives a sanctified use of them for his own glory and their good.

25 Now concerning virgins, I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

25 Now, as to your queries about single persons that never were married *, I cannot say that our blessed Lord, while on earth, left any direction or command, to forbid changing their condition, as he did against a wife's departing from her husband: (*ver.* 10.) But (*δὲ*) as he intended, and promised a further revelation of his mind and will, by his inspired apostles, relating to several doctrines and duties, which pertain to the gospel-state, (*John* xvi. 12,—15.) I give my determination (*προμην*) and advice in this case, as one who has found favour with the Lord, to be put into the apostleship, and to be assisted, and made faithful in it; and so what I deliver, by virtue of my office, is to be received, not as my own private opinion, but as an authentic rule of faith and practice. (See the note on *ver.* 10.)

26 I suppose therefore, that this is good for the present distress, *I say*, that *it is* good for a man so to be.

26 My sentiments then, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, are, that, considering the present days of violent persecution for the sake of Christ, and how much easier it may be, either to escape or bear their terrors, in the single, than in the married life; it is most convenient and desirable for every one that is unmarried, to continue so; provided he can do it with the preservation of his chastity. (*ver.* 8, 9.)

27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed

27 Is one man among you joined to a wife, whom he took, and by the law of marriage is bound to hold during life, for better and for worse? Let him be satisfied with, and so contented in that state, as not to want

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N O T E.

* It seems from this verse, and *ver.* 36. that among the questions sent to the apostle about marriage, there were some relating particularly to young persons; and though *virgins* properly signify only undefiled maidens; yet the nature of his argument requires our understanding him, as including young people of both sexes: Accordingly in the next verse he says, *It is good for a man*, (*τῷ ἀνδρῶπι*) which includes the male, to continue single; upon which he adds, (*ver.* 27.) *Art thou bound to a wife? Seek*

not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife; and in *ver.* 28. he prosecutes his point, with relation both to men and women. And Mr. Locke, and Dr. Whitby have offered several reasons, with great probability, to shew, that the words, (*τῷ ἁυτοῦ παρδῆνον*) which are rendered *his virgin*, *ver.* 37. signify rather the *virgin-state*, or a state of celibacy, whether it be of a man or woman, than *the person* of a virgin, in the strict acceptation of the word. See their notes on that verse.

is'd from a wife?
reck not a wife.

25 But and if
thou marry, thou
hast not sinned;
and if a virgin
marry, she hath not
sinned: neverthe-
less, such shall have
trouble in the flesh;
but I spare you.

26 But this I say,
brethren, the time
is short. It remain-
eth, that both they
that have wives, be
as though they had
none;

want to be released, much less to go into any sinful measures of freeing himself from it, by a divorce, or otherwise, on account of the difficulties and incumbrances that may attend it, even in the worst of times. On the contrary, Is another of you in the single state, free from all engagements, by promise or contract, to a wife? Let him be so well pleased and satisfied with his present condition, as not rashly to change it, or be forward to marry, without some urgent necessity for it; since it is by far the best for him to suffer alone, without the additional grief of having a wife and family involved in troubles with him.

28 But if any man, upon a due consideration of all circumstances, shall find it most advisable for him to enter into a state of wedlock, he may warrantably do it without transgressing any law of God; and the same holds equally true, with respect to a young woman, who, on like consideration, is minded to take to herself an husband: There certainly is no sin in marriage itself; only let such remember, that they will thereby expose themselves to greater anxiety and troubles in their temporal concerns, which will be very grievous to the flesh, especially in these days of sore tribulation for the gospel's sake. But I forbear urging this matter so far as I might; lest it should too much discourage any of you, that are married; or should prove a snare to some others, who may be desirous of that state: And so, having laid these cautions before you, without binding any to a celibate or single life, I leave them to continue in it, or not, as their own prudence and conscience shall direct.

29 But whatever, my beloved brethren, any of you may do as to this; what I am going to add, is of the utmost importance for every one of you to observe, and reflect upon, with the greatest seriousness; namely, that as all time is in a manner nothing, compared with eternity, and the whole duration of any of your abode, whatever your circumstances be in this world, is absolutely, and in itself, exceeding short and uncertain, and will soon have an end, none knows how soon; it may be before another day, hour, or moment: Hence it plainly follows, that they who have husbands or wives, or other near and dear relations, should consider them, as transitory dying comforts; and therefore should moderate their affections to them, and especially take heed of setting their hearts so much upon them, as to hinder their pursuit after spiritual and eternal things; yea, they should fit as loose from them, as if they had no such relatives in the world, when
they

they come into competition with Christ and heaven, or would obstruct their duty toward God.

30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

30 And they that mourn the loss of near relations, friends, or other enjoyments, and the various afflictions that befall them, in the ordinary course of providence, or for the gospel's sake, should restrain the excess of grieving passions, manage them with decency, and possess their own souls in religious peace and patience, as if nothing troubled them; since all present calamities will soon be over-past, and the day is hastening apace, when God will wipe away all tears from their eyes: And they, that are pleasing themselves with any enjoyments of this world, should consider that they are all uncertain, unsatisfying, and perishing, and so take heed of being elevated with them, as if their chief happiness lay in them; and should learn to behave with a holy indifference toward them, as if they had no affection for them: And they, that are busy in the affairs of this life, gathering riches by traffic, and purchasing estates with their gains, should remember how precarious all these things are; and sit as loose in heart from them, as if they had no possession of earthly treasures, which in a little time will make themselves wings and flee away; and especially should take care, that they be no hindrance to them in their journey heaven-ward.

31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

31 And they that are making use of the worldly accommodations, which God has given them, for the necessities, conveniences, comforts, and services of life, should see to it, that their hearts be not swallowed up in them; that they do not make an idol of them; nor misapply and abuse them, to the dishonour of God, and the pampering of their own pride and luxury: For (*σχῆμα*) the figure, form, and image of this world in its whole scheme, as to its present state and relations, and our way of enjoying it, conversing, trading, and living in it, is flying off like a shadow, and will soon vanish away.

32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

32 And (*δε*) the reason, why I have said so much, (*ver. 1, 7, 8, 26, 28.*) in preference of the single to the married life is, because I would fain have you as free as possible, from the anxious cares and perplexing incumbrances of this sorry world, especially in these perilous days, in order to your attending the service of God, and pursuing the salvation of your own souls, with the less hindrances and distractions: For it is obvious, that the unmarried Christian, is, generally speaking, most at liberty for laying out his thoughts, time, and labour, about things, that relate to the cause and interest of Christ, and to his own communion with him, and enjoyment of him; and

for

for consulting how he may be best employed in such things as are most pleasing and acceptable to his Lord and Saviour.

33 But he that is married, careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

33 But the married, as particularly the believing husband, who acts with a conscience toward God, is necessarily engaged by the duties of his relation, to take more care and pains about the concerns of this present life, for the maintenance of his family, and ordering its affairs to advantage, than he would otherwise be obliged to; and he is bound to study, and do all that he lawfully can, to interest himself in the affections of his wife, to make her easy and comfortable, and to supply her with a sufficiency, according to his station, for the support of herself, and of all that are committed to her charge. (1 Tim. v. 8.)

34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy, both in body and in spirit; but she that is married, careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

34 There is also a like difference between a married woman and a maiden, that have received the faith of Christ: She, who is single, has ordinarily none of the cares and incumbrances of this life to trouble her, or to break in upon her liberty, and leisure, for attending to those things which relate to the knowledge, service, and glory of the Lord Christ, and to her own interest in him, and salvation by him; her disentangled circumstances give her the greater advantage for making religion her business, that she may exercise herself unto godliness, both in the course of her life and conversation, and in the holy thoughts and dispositions of her heart; and so may glorify God in her body and spirit, which are his: But she, who is married, is obliged, by the duty of her place, to concern herself the more about the things of this world, and employ more of her time, thoughts, and pains, in contriving and managing the affairs of her family in the best manner; (1 Tim. v. 14.) and she ought to study and endeavour, by all Christian, kind and prudent, sober and modest methods, to ingratiate herself with her husband, and industriously subserve his secular, as well as spiritual interest and happiness.

35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that you may attend upon the Lord, without distraction.

35 And my real design, in thus giving the preference to a single life, is only with a view to the benefit of your own souls, that ye may pass through this troublesome world, especially in persecuting times, the freer from entanglements and hindrances in your way, and may be the more fully and undisturbedly engaged in your regards to the things of a better; Not that I would ensnare any of your consciences, by putting you upon such an absolute refusal of marriage, as might endanger your sinning against God, through the power of unchaste inclinations; only I would direct you, if ye are able to receive it, (Mat. xix. 11, 12.) to do what may be most expedient, and

and becoming Christian prudence, in the present difficult circumstances of things; and may set you most at liberty for waiting upon, adhering, and keeping close to, and serving the Lord Jesus, and God the Father through him, in all religious duties, with undivided hearts, without disquietude, perplexity, and wanderings of thought, by reason of the cares and incumbrances of this world.

36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need to require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

36 But if any parent (and the same may be said of a guardian) apprehends that he does not duly consult the advantage and reputation of his virgin-daughter, or does not treat her in a becoming manner, by restraining her from marriage, after she has discovered inclinations to it, and is arrived at the age, beyond which it is commonly thought a reproach to remain single *; or if any bachelor, who is at his own disposal, thinks that he has put too great a force upon his own temper, and disgraces himself, by continuing in a state of celibacy, after he has passed the usual reputable time for marrying; and if, in either of these cases, the parent, or the single person who has the disposal of himself, be under a conviction of duty about a change of condition, which ever way either of them thereupon takes, according to what he deliberately concludes, upon the whole may be best, he is guilty of no sin against God, who has left this matter

N O T E.

* In paraphrasing this and the two next verses, I have included a regard to Mr. Locke's and Dr. Whitby's sense of the words, translated *his virgin*, (την παρθενον αυτου, and ver. 27. την αυτου παρθενον) as signifying his virginity, or state of celibacy; and the Doctor tells us from Phavorinus, that he is called a virgin, who freely gives up himself to the Lord, renouncing matrimony, and preferring a life spent in continency. Accordingly, if she pass the flower of her age, may be rendered if it, that is, the state of virginity or of celibacy, be over aged, (σαν υπεραχμως) referring to the opinion of the Jews, and other civilized nations in those days, as though it were a reproach for a man or woman to continue single beyond a certain term of years: To what an extravagant height the Jews carried this point, see *Univ. Hist.* Vol. I. pag. 677. Note L. And to the verb, (εγγαμιζαν, or as the Alexandrian, Clarmont, and other copies read it, γαμιζεν) which is rendered, *he that gives her in marriage*, ver. 38. will signify *he that marries*. These constructions best comport with what is said about *his standing sted-*

fast in his heart, and *having power over his own will*, and *having no necessity*, (ver. 37.) which seems most apparently to relate to the person that should marry, or not, rather than to any one, whether father or guardian, that may be supposed to have the disposal of a virgin; since the necessity of marrying depends on the inclination which she feels in herself, to determine her, rather than on the father's or guardian's judgment about it. But then it is, and must be owned, that the words are more naturally rendered *his virgin*, as in our translation, than in the way which those learned critics have chosen; and it is highly probable that some questions had been sent to the apostle, about what *parents* and *guardians* should do with the young women that were under their care: And therefore I have taken both senses into the paraphrase; it being extremely difficult to say which of them may be most agreeable to the apostle's meaning. For the first of these interpretations, the reader may consult Mr. Locke and Dr. Whitby; and for the second, *Paræus*, *Beza*, *Crotius*, and others.

ter to be determined by circumstances : Accordingly a father may lawfully consent to the marriage of his daughter, when he sees it needful ; and a young man, who is his own master, may lawfully take to himself a wife.

37 Nevertheless, he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath sodecreed in his heart, that he will keep his virgin, doth well.

37 Nevertheless, whoever he be, that is fixed in the purpose of his heart, not to encourage his daughter's marrying, especially in these days of great tribulation, and finds by her temper and behaviour, that, on her part, there is no necessity for it, but that he is fully at liberty to act according to his own will about it, without any danger to her, and therefore persists in his resolution of keeping her single ; that man is to be commended for his prudent care and management of her : So likewise the bachelor, who, being pretty far advanced in life, has stedfastly resolved in his own mind, that he will not marry, and is under no necessity from over-bearing inclinations, or other circumstances, to alter his condition, but can master his affections, and therefore abides by his resolution to keep single ; this man doth what is most advisable and commendable, considering how much difficulty and danger, in these persecuting times, he might otherwise expose himself to.

38 So then, he that giveth *her* in marriage, doth well : but he that giveth *her* not in marriage doth better.

38 So then, the sum of what I say with respect to such persons is this, The father who, as occasions require, gives his daughter in marriage, with her own free choice and full consent and liking, acts a lawful, wife, and becoming part ; but he who, when there is no necessity on her side, refrains from disposing of her in marriage, still better consults her comfort and advantage, both for this world and the next : And the bachelor, who finds it needful for him to enter into the state of wedlock, acts very prudently in so doing ; but he that can be well satisfied to continue single, and accordingly doth so, still better provides against inconveniences and troubles in these suffering days, and for his own ease, and liberty of serving God to greater advantage.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth : but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will ; only in the Lord.

39 Finally, as to a woman that has been married *, it may easily be gathered from what has been already said, (*ver.* 10,—14.) that she, instead of wanting to be released from her husband, on account of the present difficult state of the church, should consider herself as bound, by the law of God and nature, to cleave to him, till death parts them ; unless he voluntarily and resolutely leave her, (*ver.* 15.) or be guilty of adultery : (*Matth.* v. 32.) But if it please God that

N O T E.

* This seems to be an answer to some question that had been sent to the apostle about widows.

that he die *first*, it is then, in itself, a lawful thing for her to marry some other man; only she being a Christian should remember, that it ought to be to none, but a man, who also makes a credible profession of Christ, as a believer in union with him, that they may have the approbation, presence, and blessing of God, in their conjugal relation; may help one another forward, as *heirs together of the grace of life*, (1 Pet. iii. 7.) in their way to heaven; may carry on the worship of God with sweet harmony in their family; and may heartily unite in training up those that are under their care, whether children or servants, *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* (Eph. vi. 4.)

40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

40 But, according to my judgment, it is ordinarily most desirable in these evil days, and best on religious accounts, (*ver. 35.*) for the widow never to alter her condition by marrying again, without some pressing necessity for it: And I, who well know when I am, or am not, under divine inspiration, do declare, that *, whatever your new teachers may suggest to the contrary, (*chap. ix. 1, 2, 3. and 2 Cor. x. 10. and xiii. 3.*) I account myself to have the mind of God, in this and all the forementioned cases, as being under the special direction of his Spirit about them. (See the note on *ver. 10.*)

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How satisfied should Christians be; and with what care and conscience should they behave, in every relation of life, in which God found them, when he called them by his grace, whether they were masters or servants, in a single or married state! Though the believing servant should thankfully embrace civil freedom, if Providence favour him with a fair opportunity for it; yet how little reason has he to be dejected, or to envy his master; or the believing matter, to despise his servant; since they both are equally the free men and servants of Christ, and are bought with his precious blood, that neither of them may be the servants of men, in violation of their superior obligations to him? As to single people of both sexes, how happy may they think themselves in their liberty and leisure for the service of God, and in their freedom from the cares and incumbrances of this world, and from the additional

N O T E.

* As the apostle was so well acquainted with God's way of revealing his mind and will to him, by the Spirit, he must needs have known wherein he was, or was not inspired; otherwise there would be the greatest uncertainty, as to his own, and our dependence on what he wrote: But it cannot be supposed that he would intimate any thing, that looked like the least doubt in himself, whether he were under the guidance of the Spirit, in his decisions of cases put to him; since that would have been to have given his adversaries the greatest advantage against him, whilst he was labouring,

all along, to assert his apostolic authority, in opposition to them: And therefore when he says, I THINK (*δοκῶ*) that I have the Spirit of God, he is to be understood, as speaking, not with hesitation, but with entire confidence; in which sense the word here used is sometimes to be taken, as in *Luke xvii. 9. Acts xv. 25, 28. and xxvi. 9.* And he herein seems to refer, not merely to the last mentioned case; but to all that he had been saying, by way of addition, to what our Lord himself had settled in his personal ministry.

additional trouble of having a family to suffer with them in perilous times! It is therefore most prudent for them, at such seasons, not to marry, if they can be as well contented, and maintain a becoming chastity without it. But as marriage is lawful and honourable, and has its peculiar advantages and comforts, and is an appointed remedy against fornication, no parents ought absolutely to restrain their children, of due age, from it; and none ought to lay themselves under the snare of a vow of perpetual celibacy. If any single persons, that are at their own disposal, or otherwise have the consent of their parents, or guardians, shall, upon mature deliberation, as in the fear of God, think it most expedient to change their state for once, or oftener, if need require, they may do it without sin: But what care should believers take, that it be only with such, as make a credible profession of faith, and only with one person at once? And how should they study and labour, by divine grace, to live together with conjugal affection, fidelity, and peace; to please one another, and promote each other's salvation; and to do every thing they can, with a good conscience, for preventing a separation between them! If indeed (as often was the case in the apostle's days, when the husband or wife was converted after marriage) one of them is an unbeliever, and will be actually divorced from the other, merely for being a Christian, that other is not still bound by the marriage-contract, which the parting person has broke, and obstinately refuses to abide by; but if the believer can prevail with the unbeliever to continue their cohabitation, this is most desirable: For how doth the believing party know, whether God may not make him, or her, instrumental to the conversion of the other consort? However, in case only one of them be a believer, and it please God to bless them with children, what a comfort is it to think, that the unbelieving mate is so far sanctified in and by the believing one, as to preserve the covenant entail of privileges to their offspring, that they may be accounted, treated, and devoted to God, as an holy seed; though baptism be of no more avail now, than circumcision was of old, without a new creature! But, after all, what a high point of wisdom is it, for every one to choose such a condition of life, and order his affairs in such a manner, as he thinks may, by the blessing of God, be most likely to admit of the best helps, and the least hindrances, to solemn fasting and prayer, on proper occasions; to doing those things that are most pleasing to God; and to attending on the Lord without distractions! For whatever the station be, which the providence of God has distributed to us, we ought continually to bear in mind, that our lives themselves are very short and transitory, and all things here exceeding precarious, like a shadow that flies away. And how should this thought wean our hearts from the present world, that, whether we be in comfortable or afflicted circumstances, we may indulge to no excess, either in our joys or griefs, on their account; and may use all the accommodations of this life, without any way abusing them! To conclude, how should a sense of divine authority bind all this upon our consciences; since it is recommended to us by a faithful, benevolent, and inspired apostle, who wished others might be as happy as himself, and gave his directions about it, under the unerring conduct of the Spirit of God.

C H A P. VIII.

The apostle, in answer to another proposed case, about meats offered to idols, shews the danger of people's having a high conceit of their own knowledge, 1,—3. The vanity of idols, and the unity of the God-head, in opposition to a multiplicity of gods, 4,—7. And the mischief of offending weak brethren, by eating things offered to idols, even supposing that, in the civil view, it might be lawful, 8,—13.

TEXT.

PARAPHRASE.

NOW as touching things offered

NOW to proceed to your queries about feasting upon such things, as have been dedicated to false gods,

ferred unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge, knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

gods*, which some suppose they may lawfully do, without any manner of scruple, because they know that an idol is nothing: (*ver. 4.*) It is allowed, that the generality of us, Christians, have some notion of the vanity of idols; nor is it denied, but that you, who boast so much of your knowledge, are enlightned in this point, which all of us, the apostles of Christ, are as clearly and fully assured of, as any of you can be †; But if some hereupon imagine, that there is no harm, in any circumstances, or on any account whatsoever, in eating what has been offered up to those fictitious deities; let such remember, for their caution, that mere notions in the head, and a fond conceit of their own superior understanding, puff up the pride of their hearts, and indispose them to receive further instruction, or to condescend to others of lower attainments: But true love to God, and to our brethren for his sake, makes our knowledge practical, and engages us to use, and improve it, for the promoting of holiness, peace, and comfort in others, as well as in our own souls.

2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

2 And if any one be opinionated of his own knowledge, as though he were wiser than others, and so despises them, and is above either attending to their sentiments, or consulting their edification, he does not know any thing, as yet, in such an humble and beneficial manner, and to such spiritual purposes and advantages, as he ought to know it, and as is pleasing in the sight of God; he really is a vain boaster, and deceives himself. (*Gal. vi. 3.*)

3 But if any man

3 But if any one heartily loves God, and from that

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N O T E S.

* It was customary among Pagan idolaters to offer oxen, sheep, and other animals, that were fit for food, in sacrifice to their gods. Part of these sacrifices were consumed on the altar, and the remainder was divided, in various shares, between the priest and the offerers, who feasted on them, and invited their friends to the entertainment, sometimes in the *Idol temple*, and at others in their own houses; and what was not thus disposed of, was often sold in the market. *Chap. x. 25.* (Vid. *Spencer de Rit. Hebr. p. 500, 501.* and *Jurieu's Hist. Crit. des Dogmes & des Cultes, &c. Part. iii. Chap. x.* and *Part. iv. Chap. xi.*) Now, as appears from *ver. 4, 10.* some of the *Corinthians* pleaded, that, since an idol is nothing, it could not defile the meats which were offered to it; and that therefore it was not unlawful, but rather shewed a contempt of the imaginary god, to eat of them in the

Heathen temples, as well as in the private families of their friends, or when they had been sold in the market: But as they carried that matter too far, the apostle, in this chapter, sets himself to oppose such an unguarded use of their liberty therein, as, even though supposed to be lawful in itself, would be injurious and misleading to others, who could not distinguish, as they themselves might, between a civil act, and a veneration of the idol, as may be gathered from *ver. 7.—12.* And he more fully states the point itself, and shews how far it was, or was not lawful, in *chap. x. 19. &c.*

† *We all know*, taken in either of the ways put in the paraphrase, may very well comport with the apostle's design, as well as with the restrictive sense, in which the scripture often uses the term *all*; and stands clear of any inconsistency with his saying, *ver. 7. There is not in every man that knowledge.*

man love God, the same is known of him.

4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth; (as there be gods many, and lords many)

6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord

that principle is influenced to make such a use of his knowledge, as may be most to the divine glory, and the welfare of his Christian brethren; that man is approved and owned of God, as a sincere believer, whom he loves, and who employs his talents for his master's service.

4 As to your question then about the lawfulness of eating things, which have been offered as sacrifices, and so consecrated to idols; we, who are thoroughly instructed in the nature and design of Christian liberty, are well satisfied, that the gods of the heathen nations, and the images which represent them, are all *lying vanities*, merely nominal gods, which have no divinity, no virtue, or power in them, and can do nothing to change the nature of meats, or make them either better, or worse in themselves; and that there is only one living and true God, in opposition to all that *by nature are no gods*. (Gal. iv. 8.)

5 For though, among the *Pagan* idolaters, there be great multitudes that are falsely esteemed and called gods, and many objects of their worship, some of which are their celestial, and others their terrestrial deities, as in their theology they have many superior gods, and many dæmons, who, in their account, are gods of a lower rank, and a sort of mediators, by whom they make their addressees to their imagined divine powers of the higher order:

6 Yet in reality, and in our esteem who believe, there is, in opposition to all heathen deities*, but one true God, or one Divine Being, that is the object of religious worship, and, in one manner of subsistence and operation, is by gospel revelation, represented under

N O T E.

* *One God* is exclusive, not of the *one Lord*, as though he were an inferior Deity, but only of the *idols*, to which the *one God* is opposed: To think otherwise would be to destroy the apostle's own argument for the *Unity* of God, and make him talk as inconsistently, as if he would prove, that there is none other God but one, because, instead of many, there are only two, one supreme and the other subordinate; and then would give such a reason of this, as overturns the distinction itself, by adding that all those things, which are of the Father, are in their utmost latitude by the Son, as one in operation with him, just as at other times, speaking of the Father, all things are said to be by him, (1st *cor.* and 8th *cap.*) *Rom.* xi. 34. 36. and *Heb.* ii. 10. In the first of these places the Father is called the Lord, (*Κυριος*) without the

article, as Christ is here; but by the same way of arguing, that excludes the Lord Jesus Christ from being God, the Father would be excluded from being Lord: Or if, as Mr. *Joseph Mede* supposes, (Vol. I. pag. 318.) the apostle here alludes to the custom of the Heathens, who worshipped one or more sovereign deities, by inferior dæmons, which are called *Baalim*, or *Lords*, then what is said of the one Lord Jesus Christ, may be considered, as relating, not so directly to what he is in his original nature, as to his office of mediation with God the Father; while he himself is styled Lord, and the very same works are ascribed to him, as to the Father, to shew what a divine Mediator he is, as has been represented more at large in my sermons on *Jesus Christ God-Man*, pag. 63, 64.

Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.

under the personal character of *the Father*; from whom, ($\epsilon\zeta\ \sigma\upsilon$) as the first Mover, all things in creation, providence, and grace, originally proceed, (*Rom. xi. 36.*) and *in whom we live, and move, and have our beings*: (*Acts xvii. 28.*) And to us there is but one Lord, even Jesus Christ, who is not, like the nominal dæmons of the heathen, another god, different from the Father, or inferior in essence to him, but is, in another manner of subsistence and operation, by nature God, and a divine person, *by whom*, as well as *for whom all things were created, and in whom* ($\epsilon\iota\ \alpha\upsilon\tau\omega$) *all things consist*; (*Col. i. 16, 17.*) by whom likewise, as considered under the notion of mediator, all spiritual blessings are communicated from God the Father, and all our religious addresses are made to him, and are accepted of him, together with our persons, in and through this our great High-priest and advocate. (*Eph. i. 3, 6. and ii. 18. and Heb. xiii. 15.*)

7 Howbeit, *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some, with conscience of the idol unto this hour, eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak, is defiled.

7 Nevertheless, every one (see the second note on *ver. 1.*) has not a clear and distinct knowledge of the nullity of heathen gods: (*ver. 4.*) For some of the new converts from gross *Gentilism*, retaining too much of a secret veneration for their former idols, do still to this very day, after all their professions of Christianity, eat of those meats which are offered to them, not merely as common food, but as therein paying some sort of honour to them, as though there were really something of divinity in them; and their consciences, not being yet fully instructed into the pure doctrine of the gospel, but continuing under remaining darkness and error in these points, are sadly defiled with the guilt of idolatry. (*Chap. v. 11.*)

8 But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither if we eat, are we the better; neither if we eat not, are we the worse.

8 But if others could safely eat of those things, with a contempt of the idol, (see the first note on *ver. 1.*) they should notwithstanding consider, that food of any kind whatsoever, is no *recommendation* of us to the divine favour; for as the *kingdom of God consists not in meats and drinks*; (*Rom. xiv. 17.*) so, if we partake of heathen entertainments, though it be without any respect to the idol, to which they have been devoted, it is of no religious advantage to us; nor if, in point of prudence, we abstain from eating of such meats, are we ever a whit the worse Christians on that account: One doth us no good; and the other doth us no harm, as to our spiritual concerns, so far as it relates only to ourselves.

9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling

9 But what ye should be principally cautious and careful about is, that, be your power or right ($\epsilon\zeta\ \sigma\upsilon$) of eating such things ever so lawful in itself, yet never insist upon, or make use of it, to the ensnaring
of

bling block to
them that are
weak.

10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge, sit at meat in the idols temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols :

11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

13 Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

of those that are weak in the faith, and unsettled in the knowledge of the truth ; and to the occasioning of them to fall into sin, by their doing that with a doubting, or with a superstitious mind, which ye, with your superior judgment, can do safely and satisfactorily to yourselves.

10 For if any such person, who is less acquainted with the doctrine of Christian liberty, and of the vanity of heathen deities, shall see you, who have further light in things of that nature, sitting in an idol's temple to feast upon meats that are offered in sacrifice to those imaginary gods * ; Will not the conscience of him, that is not satisfied about the lawfulness of it, and cannot so well distinguish between civil and religious acts, be encouraged, by your example, to eat of such sacrifices, with a veneration of the idol itself, which would be real idolatry in him ?

11 And so, by means of what you are supposed to do innocently, with a better understanding, and think you can justify, on the foot of Christian liberty, your ignorant, doubting, and mistaken brother, will be led into sin and error, to the destroying of the peace, confidence, and quiet of his conscience, and the contracting of such guilt, as in its own nature tends to his final perdition ; for whose redemption and salvation Christ himself laid down his precious life, as you, in the judgment of charity, ought to believe he did for all, that make a credible profession of his name. (See the note on *Rom. xiv. 15.*)

12 But while, in this manner, any of you act so injuriously against your Christian brethren, and, by misleading them into sinful and idolatrous practices, (*τυπλωτες*) smite and wound, disturb and defile their tender and unsettled consciences, ye sin, not against them only, but also against Christ himself, whose visible members they are ; and ye do what in you lies to defeat the design of his love, in what he has suffered for their consolation and salvation.

13 As to myself therefore, I would be so far from indulging the most innocent liberty, to the hurt of others, that if eating of meat, which has been offered to idols, would disturb the conscience of my Christian brother, or, occasion his falling into sin ; I would entirely abstain from all such flesh, how lawfully soever I might otherwise eat of it, and how gratefully soever it might be to my palate ; and would deny myself

N O T E.

* The apostle here argues only on a supposition, that banqueting on such meats in an idol's temple were as lawful, as any of the *Corinthians* might appre-

hend it to be : But in *chap. x. 25.* &c. he shews that there were some circumstances, in that manner of doing it, which made it quite otherwise.

self so far, as never to taste it all the days of my life, rather than give an occasion of stumbling and falling to the weakest brother upon earth.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How much better is the knowledge, that is under the government of love to God, and our Christian brethren for his sake, than all the finest speculations in the world! Notions that lie only in the head, puff up the heart; and he that is so conceited of his knowledge, as to think he needs no more, and despises others of weaker understanding, knows nothing as he ought: But love keeps the soul humble in itself, is condescending and benevolent to others, and is highly pleasing to God, who loves them that love him.—What vain idols are all the superior and inferior deities of the heathen, which have no divinity in them! But O what a mercy is it to be well instructed in the unity of that God, of whom and by whom are all things, as inclusive of the Father and Son, who, though personally distinct, are *one God*, and *one Lord*, in opposition to all that are not by nature God! And how are those Christians to be pitied, whose conceptions of these important things are confused and unsettled, and who act with doubting consciences, for want of clearer sentiments about them! But how careful should those of a more enlightened judgment be, to avoid every thing, that might mislead their weaker brethren, or encourage them to venture on any way of sin, that would wound their consciences, and destroy their peace and edification, and tend to their utter ruin, for whom Christ died, or who are to be deemed such, by their profession of him! Who, that dreads the thoughts of sinning both against him and them, would not willingly wave his own liberty in things, which may be done or forborn, without making himself either the better, or worse in God's account, and in his own spiritual concerns, rather than indulge the pleasure of eating any particular sort of offensive food, like meat consecrated to idols, or than do any thing while he lives, which he thinks might prove a snare, or a stumbling block to his Christian brother!

C H A P. IX.

The apostle vindicates his authority against those, who, among other pretences, made his not receiving maintenance an objection against it, 1,—3. Asserts his right to maintenance from the reason of things, from the law of Moses, and the appointment of Christ, 4,—14. Tells them, that he thought it his glory to have waved this branch of his Christian liberty among them, 15,—18. And had done it, for the benefit of others, in several instances besides this, 19,—23. And shews that he did all this, with the utmost care and diligence, in view of an incorruptable crown, and therein set them an example, 24,—27.

TEXT.

A M I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not you my work in the Lord?

PARAPHRASE.

NOW to shew how ready I am to practise the duty of self-denial, in the exercise of my Christian liberty, for the good of others, it is well known that I have done this, in a remarkable manner, for your and the gospel's sake, in working with my own hands, and not taking the maintenance, which I might have insisted on from you, when I preached a year and a half at *Corinth*; (Acts xviii. 3, 11.) and yet some among you have been so perverse, as to object against my

my apostolic authority on that account *. But am I really not a true apostle of Christ, because I have acted so disinterested and generous a part toward you? This should rather have recommended, than lessened my character among you. Am I not as free from obligations to give my labours *gratis* to any people, and as much at liberty, if I pleased, to claim a subsistence, at their cost, in preaching the gospel to them, as any other apostle? 'Tis surely unreasonable and ungrateful to suppose the contrary, only because I have not insisted upon this right. And as to the signs of mine apostleship, Have I not seen Jesus our only Lord and Saviour, and *that* in an extraordinary and miraculous manner, not only after his resurrection, but even after his ascension to heaven †? He certainly appeared in person from thence, to give me my commission, and an immediate revelation of the gospel, which I preach. (*Chap.* xv. 8. and *Acts* xxii. 17, 18. and *Gal.* i. 12.) And are not ye, the church at *Corinth*, who were converted by my ministry, (*chap.* iii. 5, 6. and *Acts* xviii. 1,—11.) evident instances of its efficacy, through the power and grace of the Lord Jesus, who, by that means, has wrought a happy change upon you, and produced those

N O T E S.

* As the apostle, in answer to those that questioned his authority, *ver.* 3. insists so largely in the next succeeding verses, on his right of receiving maintenance, and then goes on to shew why he had waived that privilege; it is hard to conceive with what propriety *that* could be called a defence of his apostolic character against their cavils, unless they had founded them, in part at least, upon his not having asserted the rights, privileges, and powers of an apostle, as others had done, in demanding and receiving such maintenance from the churches as was due to that office; and, without supposing this, what he offers in the first and second verses, to support his commission, seems to be brought in very abruptly, without any manner of connection with either what goes before, or follows after it. But, admitting that their letter had suggested, as though something of this kind had been objected against him, the propriety of the whole stands in a fair light, and in good connection with what he had been saying, at the close of the preceding chapter, about his denying himself in things indifferent, and with what he further adds about maintenance in the next ver-

ses, as also about waving his Christian liberty in divers other instances, from *ver.* 19. to *ver.* 23. *Beza* indeed, *Paulus*, and some others think the apostle's answer, (*ver.* 3.) refers to the preceding and not the following verses: But, be that as it will; yet without the supposition of an objection against his authority, on account of his not demanding and receiving maintenance, we are still greatly at a loss, to see how the vindication of his apostleship in these verses comes in; and how to preserve a tolerable connection between them and the foregoing, and following discourse.

† It was necessary, among other things, that the *apostles* should have seen Christ risen from the dead, because a great and fundamental part of their office lay, in bearing witness to his resurrection: (see the note on *Acts* xiii. 3.) And therefore *Paul* here mentions this to shew, that he was not destitute of that essential qualification of an apostle; and the extraordinary manner in which he was favoured with it, after Christ's ascension, beyond the rest of the apostles, may be considered as adding strength to this branch of his argument, and therefore is brought into the paraphrase.

those excellent gifts, as well as graces, that ye are enriched with.

2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am unto you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

2 If there be any others, and particularly any adversaries, that are risen up among you, on whom my labours have not been successful, and who therefore will not own me to be an apostle of Christ; yet undoubtedly I am one, in an eminent manner, to you; and, whatever they maliciously object against me, ye, of all others, ought cheerfully to own my divine mission: For your conversion is a confirming testimony, like a sealed warrant, to the validity of my apostolic office, which I received from the Lord Jesus himself, and have executed by his authority and influence; and which he honoured by the holy impressions that he visibly made upon you, when I was the instrument of begetting you to him, through the gospel, and so was your spiritual father. (*Chap. iv. 15.*)

3 Mine answer to them that do examine me, is this;

3 My apology (*απολογία*) and defence then in general, by way of reply to those that call in question mine authority, and sit as it were in judgment to censure me, (*ανακρινεισι*) is summarily comprehended in what I have been saying: (*ver. 1, 2.*) And so far forth, as they make a handle of my not asserting the rights and powers of an apostle, in taking the maintenance due to persons in that office, mine answer in particular to that charge, is as follows: (*See the note on ver. 1.*)

4 Have we not power to eat and to drink?

4 Have not I and my brother *Barnabas*. (*ver. 6.*) as well as any other apostle, authority (*εξουσιαν*) to demand a supply of convenient food and drink from the people, among whom we spend our time and strength in ministering the gospel? We certainly have, notwithstanding our tenderness in not always insisting upon it, that we might not be chargeable to them. (*2 Theff. iii. 8, 9.*)

5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles,

5 Nay, in case we had seen fit to have married, hath not either of us a claim to the privilege of carrying about, from place to place, a sister in Christ, whom we had taken into the relation of a wife *, and

cf

N O T E.

* *A sister, a wife* (*αδελφην γυνακα*) cannot fitly signify a *sister-woman*, because every *sister* must needs be a woman; and the word (*γυνη γυναικος*) signifies a *wife* all along in *chap. vii.* where it is very often used, and mostly rendered a wife, though sometimes a *woman*, with a reference to her being a wife. And it surely better comports with the apostle's reputation and argument, to think, that he spoke of carrying about a *wife*, than any other woman, whether

a domestic servant, or a woman of substance to attend him, like those that voluntarily followed our Lord, to minister to him, who therefore could not be properly said to carry them about with him. The first of these his narrow circumstances did not well admit of buying, or hiring; and the second would have been a help, rather than a charge to the churches; and to to have instanced in such as the last of these, would have been directly contrary to the design of his argument;

postles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

7 Who goeth a warfare at any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

8 Say I these things as a man? or

of requiring that those, whom we minister to, should be at the additional charge of maintaining our families, together with ourselves, as others of the apostles have done? To instance in some of the circumcision, Have we not power for this, as well as *James*, and other near kinmen of our Lord, according to the flesh, (*Matth.* xiii. 55. and see the note on *Mat.* xii. 46.) and particularly as well as the apostle *Peter*, in whom some of you peculiarly glory. (*Chap.* i. 12.)

6 Or is it to be supposed that only I and *Barnabas*, my dear companion and fellow-traveller, who were called, separated, and sent forth to our work, by the Holy Ghost, and by the intervention of the church and elders at *Antioch*, (*Acts* xiii. 2, 3, 4.) Is it, I say, to be thought that we are the only apostles that are excluded from the right of being maintained by the churches, and of being excused working with our own hands to subsist ourselves, as ye well know I did at *Corinth*? (*Acts* xviii. 3.) It is utterly unreasonable to imagine any thing like this, were ye only to consider the equity of things:

7 For as we are *soldiers*, listed under Christ's banner, to pull down the strong holds of sin and Satan, and captivate the hearts of sinners to him, (*2 Cor.* x. 4. and *2 Tim.* ii. 3, 4.) Who ever uses to undergo the hardships, dangers, and expence of a war, at his own cost and charges, without partaking of the spoils? Again, as the church is styled God's vineyard, (*Isa.* v. 1, &c. and *Luke* xx. 9, &c.) and we are *labourers* under him, (who gives the increase) to plant, dress, and water it, (*chap.* iii. 6,—9.) who is ever employed in forming and cultivating such a plantation, and has not the privilege of eating of its produce? Or, as we are *shepherds* under Christ, whom he has appointed to feed his lambs and his sheep, (*John* xxi. 15, 16. and *1 Pet.* v. 2, 4.) who has such a charge of the flock, and spends his time, care, and labour in fulfilling it, and is not sustained and refreshed with its milk? Since therefore every one reasonably expects, and is allowed, these rewards of his labour, surely every minister of the gospel, who sustains all these characters, has a right to be maintained by his employment in the service of Christ, and of the churches.

8 Do I mention these well known instances of what is commonly practised, and always counted fit and equitable among men, and argue this point merely

N O T E.

ment; and as *Peter* was married, (*Mat.* viii. 14.) there is no room to doubt, but that the woman he carried about was *his wife*.

or faith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

10 Or faith he it altogether for our sakes? for our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope, should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we

ly on the foot of human judgment, on which I might venture to rest the cause? Or doth not divine revelation also, in the *Mosaic* law itself, which *Jewish* zealots, my grand opposers, are so fond of, teach the very same things? It certainly doth.

9 For, to look back to the Old Testament dispensation, it is recorded in the law, which *Moses* delivered to the *Israelites*; (Deut. xxv. 4.) You shall not prevent the ox, by muzzling him, or by any other methods, from eating of the corn, which he treads out of the ear, while he is labouring in that work. Do ye suppose that this divine injunction related merely to such inconsiderable brute creatures as oxen, as though God only took care that proper provision should be made for them?

10 Or rather, Is it not natural to conclude, that, though his mercies are over all his works, he has a farther meaning in it *, to show the still greater obligation, which lies upon all persons to exercise humanity, and do justice toward their own species, that are employed in working for them; and especially towards us, who labour in the work of the Lord, for the benefit of their souls? Doubtless it stands on record for instruction of this sort, and for enjoining an equitable regard to any of us, who labour in useful services for the good of mankind; that as the plowman takes pains for others; in breaking up the ground, and sowing it, (*ver. 11.*) with a reasonable expectation of a proper recompence; and the thresher beats out the corn, in expectation of receiving a suitable reward; and as, in this manner, *the husbandman, that labours, ought to be partaker of the fruits:* (2 Tim. ii. 6.) So we, who are employed about God's spiritual husbandry, (*chap. iii. 9.*) in breaking up the fallow-ground of sinners hearts, and in sowing the good seed of his word; and we, who in our preaching separate the wheat from the chaff, the saint from the sinner, may well expect to receive the necessaries of life, as a just recompence from the churches, for whose advantage we thus labour in the word and doctrine.

11 If we have sown the seed of God's word among you, as the means of producing spiritual and eternal blessings, for the refreshment, improvement, and salvation of your immortal souls; Is it any great return,

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or

N O T E.

* As in *Duet. xxv. 4.* the passage here referred to, nothing goes before or after it, that has any relation to beasts, but it stands amidst directions to the duties of justice and mercy toward reasonable creatures; it may well be concluded,

ed, that the prohibition of muzzling the ox is there brought in, the more strongly to enforce those duties toward men, and therefore is very fitly applied by the apostle, in an argument for the maintenance of ministers of the gospel.

we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? nevertheless, we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know, that they which minister about holy things, live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar, are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach

or what any reasonable and grateful person would grudge; if, for our labour in scattering such inestimable benefits among you, we are made to partake of such shares of your temporal substance, as are needful for the sustenance of our mortal bodies, and fitting them for further services of this excellent nature? There is surely no proportion between the value of what ye give and receive; the last so far exceeds the first.

12 If accordingly other servants of Christ, and even the false teachers themselves among you, claim and exert an authority over you for the maintenance, which I have been speaking of; (*ver.* 4,—6.) and ye allow their demand to be just; are not we, who first planted and watered the *Corinthian* church, (*chap.* iii. 6.) much more entitled to it? Nevertheless, to shew, that we seek not yours, but you, we have not insisted upon, nor indeed received this acknowledgment from you, which we had so unquestionable a right to; but have rather chosen to undergo all the hardships of want, or of providing for ourselves by the labour of our own hands; lest, by putting you to any charge, we should have prejudiced your worldly minds against us, as though we had mercenary designs upon you; and so should have obstructed your attending upon, and readily receiving that glorious gospel, which sets forth the person, offices, and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and which he is the author of, and has committed to our trust.

13 But had we claimed and used our liberty in this case, there could have been no just objection against it, especially not by *Jewish* converts*: For, to remind you of the provision which God still more expressly made for his ministering servants in the *Mosaic* law, (*Numb.* xviii.) Do ye not understand and consider, that by his appointment the *Levites*, who officiated in holy things, as in killing and preparing the sacrifices, and the like, were maintained by the offerings at the tabernacle, and afterwards at the temple; and that the *priests*, who devoted themselves to the service of the altar, had their parts and shares of its sacrifices, for the subsistence of themselves and their families? Surely ye, who so much boast of your knowledge, cannot be strangers to these things.

14 In like manner, to bring all this down to the New Testament state, in which the reason of things is the same, our Lord Jesus, by his immediate authority,

N O T E.

* The apostle's arguing out of the *law* may intimate, that he therein had his eye most particularly on the *Jewish converts*, the more effectually to silence their opposition to him.

preach the gospel, should live of the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things, neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, wo is unto me, If I preach not the gospel.

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

rity, has appointed and ordered, that his servants, whom he sends forth to preach the everlasting gospel, should be maintained by those that have the benefit of their labours; as particularly when he said, with a reference to this very case, *Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass, in your purses, &c. For the workman is worthy of his meat, and the labourer of his hire.* (Matth. x. 9, 10. and Luke x. 7.)

15 But notwithstanding all this clear proof, from the nature of things, from the law of *Moses*, and from Christ's own institution, that gospel ministers ought to be provided for, at the people's cost; and though I have as much right to it, as any other of his servants: Yet I have not made use of my privilege in this respect; nor have I wrote these things about it with any desire or intention, that, whenever I may come to you again, it should be at your expence: No, I only mention it to stop the mouths of those, that seek all opportunities of aspersing me; and to set you an example of self-denial, and of waving the use of your Christian liberty, on proper occasions: For I had rather perish for want, or wear out my life with hard labour, to earn my bread, than that any one should deprive me of the pleasure and honour, as I count it, of promoting the interest of Christ, and the good of your souls, in the most acceptable manner, by preaching the gospel freely, without making it any way burdensome, and so prejudicing you against it.

16 For though, in the discharge of my office, I have published, and still continue to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation by Jesus Christ; this is my indispensable duty; and so I have no more room to glory in barely doing this, than others have, which is indeed none at all: For I am under an absolute necessity, by the commission and command of my great Lord and Master, to preach the gospel wherever I come; (*Acts xxii. 15, 21. and Rom. i. 14.*) yea, the worst of all woes, even to the bitterest reproaches of a guilty conscience here, and everlasting horrors hereafter, must be my portion, were I to be disobedient to the heavenly vision, in not preaching the gospel; (*Acts xxvi. 19.*) which, I trust, will never be my case.

17 For if I voluntarily and cheerfully attend to this important service at free cost, and *that* under all the difficulties of want and poverty, or of providing for myself, merely for the glory of God, and the salvation of others, I have at present a noble satisfaction in so doing, which I would not part with for all this world; and I humbly look for, and depend upon, a gracious

gracious reward of my faithfulness and zeal in the day of Christ: But if it be with unwillingness and reluctance, that I receive and manage the trust, which he has committed to me, for dispensing his gospel, and therein act as an hireling, who values the fleece more than the flock, and grudges his pains, unless it be with a prospect of some temporal advantage to himself;

18 What is my reward then? verily that when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

18 What is the reward then, that I could expect, at present, in the reflections of my own mind, or could look for at the great day of account, in such a mercenary and unfaithful way of executing my commission? Why truly none, but what is very terrible*, though nothing can be more happy, in case of faithfulness: This, I assure you, I often seriously think of, that when I preach the glorious gospel of the grace of God, I may be the more excited to plant and settle it, (*ἑνω*) merely for Christ's sake, in love and obedience to him, whose gospel it is; and may do this freely, without expence to my hearers, as often as circumstances make it needful, and conducive to the great ends of my ministry; that I may not rigorously, and unseasonably, use my right of requiring a supply from the people, in return for my labour in preaching to them.

19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

19 For though in this instance of Christian liberty, as well as in several others, I am under no obligation to any man to abridge myself in the use of it; yet I have been willing, and have thought it matter of prudence and duty, so far to consult the various tempers, weakneses, and unhappy biassees of all sorts of men, as, in things of that nature, to submit myself like a servant, and accommodate my measures, in the most pleasing manner to them; to the end that, by such condescensions, innocent compliances, and self-denials, I might sweeten their spirits; might recommend Christ, and his doctrines and ways, the better to them; and might win the more souls over to him, which I count the richest gain of all my ministrations.

20 And unto the Jews, I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under

20 As for instance, when I have had to do with the *unbelieving Jews*, I have reasoned with them out of the scriptures of the Old Testament, as a proper way of arguing with a Jew; (Acts xvii. 2, 3.) and as far as I could with a safe conscience, and consistently

N O T E.

* *What is my reward?* is paraphrased with relation both to a faithful and unfaithful discharge of his office, and to a reward at present, and to be expected hereafter; all which taken together, seems to me to clear up the force and

connection of the argument, better than any thing I have met with in commentators, many of which have rather puzzled than satisfied me in their accounts of it.

der the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law.

ently with the truth of the gospel, have observed their *Jewish* rites and ceremonies, as in the circumcision of *Timothy*, because his father was a *Greek*, (*Acts* xvi. 3.) that I might soften their offence at the gospel's being preached by an uncircumcised *Gentile*, and might bring them over to Christ *: In dealing with *believing Jews*, who, for want of further light, think themselves to be still under an obligation of keeping up a religious regard to certain branches of the ceremonial law, (*Acts* xxi. 20.) I, as knowing that all its ordinances are not, as yet, absolutely unlawful, and that there must be time allowed to bring them entirely off from their old opinions about it, have also so far yielded to their prejudices, as, on important occasions, to comply with some of its rites; (*Acts* xviii. 18. and xxi. 21,—26. see the notes there) to the end that I may the better ingratiate myself with them, and gradually reconcile them to the whole of the gospel scheme; while, at the same time, I continue to warn them against laying any stress upon ritual observances, or imagining that they can be thereby justified; and constantly teach them to make Christ the only ground of their hope toward God.

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law.

21 On the other hand, when I am cast among those that are unacquainted with the Old Testament, and never were under the *Jewish* dispensation, I preach Christ to them, without appealing to the law and the prophets, for the confirmation of what I say concerning him; but resting the cause entirely upon the evidence of the doctrine itself, the plain facts, and undoubted miracles wrought to prove it, and the Spirit of God to set all home upon their hearts; and in my behaviour toward them, and among them, I take care not to offend them, by my own observing, or putting them upon complying with circumcision, and other ceremonial rites, relating to meats and days, and the like: Nay, I strenuously remonstrate against those, that would impose such rites upon them; (*Gal.* ii. 3,—14.) and assert my own, and their liberty, as to those things; looking upon myself, at the same time, not as a lawless person, or as one that is not bound to keep the *moral* law, with a conscience toward God, as in his sight, and in obedience to him; but as being, as much as ever, under that law, as a rule of life in the hand of Christ, who has made it the inviolable law of his kingdom, that all my thoughts, words, and actions may be regulated according

N O T E.

* I have chosen to understand by the *converted Jews*, that we may keep the ideas distinct, which otherwise may be too coincident.

ording to it, in a due subjection to him. And this I carefully attend to, while I abstain from all ceremonial observances among the *Gentiles*, that I may lay no obstacles in the way of their conversion, who never were under the *Mosaic* law; but may gain their hearty consent to Christ and his gospel, as believers in him; and an entire subjection to him, without the incumbrance of that ancient yoke of bondage.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

22 Again, when I have been conversant, either with believing *Jews* or *Gentiles*, that are weak in knowledge and grace; and apt to be stumbled and grieved, or drawn into sin against their own consciences, while they see others making such a use of Christian liberty, in things of an indifferent nature, as they themselves are scrupulous about; I have, in those cases, condescended to their infirmities, and forbore the use of such liberty, as is in itself lawful and innocent, that I might not lay stumbling-blocks before them; but might win them over to, and settle them in, the more important points of faith, and moral obedience: In a word, I have tried all allowable expedients, and yielded, as far as possible, in acts of self-denial, in my dealing with all sorts of persons, wheresoever I came; not from any unsettledness in my own principles, temper, and views; but to the end that, by all prudent, laudable, and sinless methods, which I think best suited to their circumstances, and most likely to be attended with a divine blessing, I might be instrumental, in the hand of Christ, to deliver some, at least, of all sorts from the error of their ways; from the power of sin and Satan, and their own prejudices; and from the curse of the law, and the wrath to come; and to lead them into all the privileges and blessings of a spiritual salvation, even unto eternal life.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

23 And all this I do, out of a sincere and zealous concern to prevent unreasonable exceptions against the gospel, and to recommend and propagate it among people of every character; to the end that I may not only share in its special and saving benefits myself; but may have a joint communion and partnership in them, with many others, and particularly with you.

24 Know ye not that they which run

24 In this manner of conducting myself, in which ye ought to imitate me *, I act with care and caution,

N O T E.

* The apostle evidently intends that what he had been saying, and was further going to add, about his own conduct, should be regarded by private Christians for their imitation; because

in the close of this verse he turns his address to them, saying, *So run, that ye may obtain*; and in the next verse speaks of himself and them in common as *striving to obtain an incorruptible crown*.

run in a race, run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain.

tion, diligence and constancy, like *the racers*, and *combatants* in the *Grecian* games, which are wont to be celebrated in the neighbourhood of *Corinth* * : Ye very well know that in *racing*, all, who are called to that exercise, run, and continue running, with all their might, to get the garland, which is set up at the end of their course; every one hoping to obtain it, by reaching the goal first, though but one can have it: In like manner, it is your duty and interest, as well as mine, to *run with patience the race which is set before us*, (Heb. xii. 1.) and, by divine assistance, to be *pressing toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*: (Phil. iii. 14.) And ye have the highest encouragement hereunto, inasmuch as not only one, but *many*, together with myself; (*ver.* 19,—23.) yea, *all, that run with faith and patience*, shall have the honour and advantage of receiving *the reward of the inheritance from the Lord Christ*. (Col. iii. 24.)

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery, is temperate in all things: Now, they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.

25 And as, at those public games, *wrestlers* and *boxers* are also engaged in combats; every one of them, (*ο αγωνιστευος*) who would contend in good earnest for victory, even to an agony, is very exact in his regimen, with respect to diet and discipline, that he may be the better prepared for the conflict: So we ought not to indulge our sensitive appetites unto any excess; nor unto the eating of such meats, as may be an occasion of stumbling to our brethren; (*chap.* viii. 9, 13.) but should mortify all worldly and sinful affections, and abstain from every thing, that would be an hindrance to us in our Christian warfare, in which we wrestle against the most potent adversaries, (*Eph.* vi. 12.) and are called to fight *the good fight of faith*, and *lay hold on eternal life*: (1 Tim. vi. 12.) And we should be the more abundantly excited to this, when we consider that those gamblers take all their care and pains, only for the sake of obtaining a garland of flowers, or of pine, myrtle, olive, bays, laurel, or the like, which is a poor fading, withering, and perishing crown, of trifling value, and only serving to puff up their pride and vanity, without any solid advantage to themselves; but *that* which lies before us, to animate our utmost care and diligence, mortification and self-denial, is no less, than

N O T E.

* Among the famous games of *Greece*, those that were kept at the *Isthmus* of *Corinth*, were called the *Isthmian* games. These the apostle here, and in the three following verses alludes to, as well known among the *Corinthians*; and par-

ticularly to the *racing*, *wrestling*, and *boxing* or *cuffing*, used on those occasions, which, together with *leaping* and *quoiting*, were the principal exercises in those games. See Dr. *Hammond's* notes.

than an inheritance, and crown of glory, of infinite worth and duration, *incorruptible, undefiled, and fadeth not away.* (1 Pet. i. 4. and v. 4.)

26 I therefore fo
ten, not as uncer-
tainly: fo fight I,
not as one that
beatech the air:

26 I therefore, under this apprehension of things, stretch forward, with all my might, like the *racers*, that I may finish my course with joy, &c. (*Acts* xx. 24.) and this I do, not without minding, and keeping within the rule of duty; but studiously and carefully attending to it, as knowing that I cannot expect to be crowned, unless, in this manner, I *strive lawfully*; (2 Tim. ii. 5.) any more than they that run for the prize can win it, unless they keep within the lines, which are wont to be plainly drawn for marking out their course: (see the note on 2 Cor. x. 13.) Nor do I engage herein, as one doubtful in myself, whether I, running in the prescribed path of duty, shall have the honour of being crowned at last, or not; as they are, who know that *one only receives the prize*; (ver. 24.) but I press on with an entire satisfaction in myself, that in this way I, through grace, shall certainly obtain it. In like manner, relying on the strength of Christ, I exert myself, with the utmost vigour, like *boxers* and *wrestlers*, in fighting against all opposition; not in jest, nor barely to prepare for the combat, as they do, when they are using themselves to their respective exercises, only for diversion, or ostentation, or for improving themselves in these arts, by stretching forth their arms and legs, and throwing them about with a flourish in the air, while there is no enemy to encounter them.

27 But I keep
under my body,
and bring it into
subjection; lest
that by any means,
when I have
preached to others,
I myself should be
a cast-away.

27 But as, when they come to close combat, they give their antagonists such violent strokes, as make them black and blue; and throw them down to get the mastery over them*: So I, labouring in good earnest, by divine assistance, to gain an entire conquest over all my corruptions, contend vehemently against them, by faith and evangelical repentance, watchfulness, fasting, and prayer, mortifications of the flesh,
and

N O T E.

* The terms here rendered, *I keep under, and bring into subjection*, (*επι-παύω και δουλοπαινώ*) are *agonistical*, alluding to a combatant's giving his adversaries black and blue eyes in *boxing*; and throwing them down, and getting them under him, in *wrestling*. But it would be very whimsical to imagine that, literally speaking, the apostle beat his own face, or any part of his body, till he made it black and blue; and it would be downright nonsense to say, that he brought his body under himself,

as one combatant did the body of another under him. There is therefore no foundation for popish penances, macerations, and scourgings of the body, in these words, which are only strong and lively figures, to signify the mortification of sensitive appetites, and, together with them, of all the evil propensities of the *old man, the body of sin*, which is here fitly represented, in allusion to the natural bodies of those, that were wounded and subdued in combat. Vid. *Bez.* in loc.

and self-denials, with regard to all indifferent, (*chap. viii. 13.*) as well as unlawful things; and by these means I am helped to wound and bring down the whole body of sin, together with all my fleshly inclinations: All this I constantly endeavour to do, with the utmost care and caution, and godly jealousy over my own spirit, that as I do not, so I may not run at uncertainties; (*ver. 26.*)* left, (were this my case) after I have preached the gospel to others for their salvation, I myself, instead of being partaker with them, (*ver. 23.*) should give way to any unfaithfulness, neglects, and self-indulgences, or other criminal temper and conduct, which, were I under their dominion, would, in the nature of things, and by the gospel constitution, issue in my being (*αδουμος*) rejected of God, as an insincere and slothful servant; and in my labours being disapproved of him, and judged unfit to be rewarded in the great day of account. And this I mention as my own practice, to excite you to the like circumspection, care, and diligence, mortification of sin, and self-denial, lest any of you, through allowed defects therein, should be disapproved of God in the final judgment.

RECOLLECTIONS.

How ungenerous is it, to argue against the temporal rights and privileges of the ministers of Christ, only because sometimes, in condescension to the wants, weaknesses, and prejudices of the people, they are so self-denying, as not to make use of them! They have as much liberty to marry a sister in Christ, that may be suitable to them, as any other men; and they, upon principles of reason and divine revelation, have just claims to a comfortable maintenance of themselves and their families, at the expence of the people, on account of their sacred employment for the good of their souls. This is plainly their due by the law of common equity, as in their religious office and character, they are like soldiers, and shepherds, and labourers, that plant and sow, plow and thresh; as also by the ancient law of God, relating

N O T E.

* It is not reasonable to think that the apostle had any doubt in himself, whether he should be eternally saved, or not; for he had said, just before, that he did *not run as uncertainly*, and always spoke with an entire confidence as to his own salvation. But as he well knew, that God did not design his own, or any other persons attaining it, without the use of proper means, which are connected with the end, both in the divine purpose, and in the constitution and fulfilment of the new covenant; so he excited himself, by these considerations, to the utmost diligence in mortifying the corruptions of nature, which, on a supposition that he were careless in subduing them, and should live under the power of them, would be inconsistent with his assured hopes of eternal life: But it by no means follows from hence, that he was under any apprehensions of his being suffered to do so inconsistent a thing, and of thereby miscarrying, and being eventually rejected as a false professor, or unfaithful minister, in the great day of account. And he seems, according to his wonted admirable wisdom, to have transferred these things, as it were in a figure, to himself, to shew the inseparable connection between the means and end, and so to stir up all other professing Christians, and ministering servants, to like care and diligence; and particularly to pave the way for the *Corinthians* receiving his awful admonitions without offence, which immediately follow at the beginning of the next chapter.

relating to the ox, which trod out the corn; and to the priests and Levites, who attended the business of the altar; yea, and by the command of Christ under the New Testament-dispensation, that they, who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel. But as these are rights, which, on prudential considerations, may be waived, what an honour is it to those ministers, that choose to yield them up, when their own circumstances admit of it, and the edification of their people requires it! How much better is it to pursue the great ends of a gospel ministry for saving souls, and becoming all things to all men, as far as may be without sin, for gaining them over to Christ, than to live in the midst of ease and affluence by means of their liberality! And how pleasant are the reflections of a sincere Christian's mind on his abstaining from some instances of a liberty, which is lawful in itself, when the use of it would be stumbling, or ensnaring to the consciences of his brethren, and a hindrance to their edification! Only let him always remember that, as he is under the *moral* law to Christ, he should never do any thing sinful, for the pleasing of any one whatsoever. But O what faithfulness, care, and pains, in dependence on divine grace, are necessary, both to ministers and people, for running, and fighting in their Christian course and warfare, according to the prescribed rules of the word of God, and for duly governing their passions and appetites, tempers and conduct, in order to their receiving an incorruptible crown of glory! And, with what humble and holy jealousy over themselves, should they, that preach to others, take heed to their own souls, and to their doctrines and practices; that neither they themselves, nor their labours, be disapproved and rejected, by their Judge, in the great day; but that they may be partakers with those, whom they have been the instruments of converting, in all the saving benefits of the gospel!

C H A P. X.

The apostle, returning to his argument about things offered to idols, reminds the Corinthians of the great privileges, and yet terrible overthrow of the Israelites in the wilderness, 1,—5. Cautions them against all idolatrous, and other sinful practices, like theirs, lest they themselves, notwithstanding their gospel privileges, should also fall under God's sore displeasure, 6,—12. Comforts them against temptations, 13. Shews that partaking, in a religious way, of things offered to idols, was inconsistent with their having communion with Christ at his table, 14,—22. But allows of eating them, as common food sold in the market, or at a civil entertainment; provided it be with a single eye to the glory of God, and without offence to the consciences of others, 23,—33.

TEXT.

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the

PARAPHRASE.

NOW, to return to your question, (*chap. viii.*) about partaking of idolatrous feasts, which, I perceive, some would persuade you may be done without danger of incurring God's displeasure, because, in the greatness of his favour, he has made you his church and people, and visibly taken you into all the privileges of the gospel-state: But to guard you, my dear brethren in Christ, against such a presumptuous thought, I would remind you of God's dealings with the church of *Israel*, our predecessors in his covenant, and the natural ancestors of those of us, who are of *Jewish* extract. Observe, I beseech you, what high privileges

privileges God favoured them with as his peculiar people: When he delivered them out of *Egypt*, they were all under the protection, guidance, and refreshment of the cloud of glory, that eminent symbol of his gracious presence, which sometimes spread like a canopy over them, to screen them from the piercing beams of the sun, by day; (*Psal.* cv. 39.) and at others, was miraculously formed into a cloudy pillar, which, on its bright side, gave light to them; and, on its dark side, concealed them from their pursuing enemies, by night; (*Exod.* xiv. 19, 20.) and they all, to a man, passed with safety through the Red sea, as on dry land, while the waters stood as a wall on each side of them; (*Psal.* lxxvi. 6. and lxxviii. 13. and *Exod.* xiv. 21, 22.) but, as soon as they reached the shore, the waters returned to the overflowing and drowning the *Egyptians*. (*Exod.* xiv. 27, 28.) All which was typical of the spiritual light and protection, comfort and salvation, now brought in to the people of God, by that redemption, which is in Christ Jesus; and of the everlasting destruction of them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of his Son.

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud, and in the sea;

2 And all the church of *Israel*, both young and old, male and female, were baptized into the covenant, which God made with them by the ministry of *Moses*, their leader; and so were brought under obligations to believe, and obey the divine law of that typical mediator and deliverer, by their passing under the cloud, which hung over them*, and through the sea, whose waters stood in heaps on their right hand, and on their left; which was typical of Christian baptism, whereby we and our children are visibly and solemnly initiated in God's covenant, devoted to him, and engaged to be his.

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

3 And when they came into the wilderness, they all partook of one and the same food, even of the *Manna*, which fell round about their tents; and which, in its signification, was, in a manner, the same to them and us; and so may be called spiritual meat, not only as it came down from the clouds of heaven,

N O T E.

* It is probable, says *Estius*, that they were sprinkled here and there, with drops of water from the sea, which stood upright on both sides, as they passed along, and from the cloud that was spread over them; by which the sacrament of baptism might be the more evidently signified. Vid. *Est.* in loc. And if it be supposed, that here is any allusion to the mode of baptism, one would think it re-

fers rather to an administration of it by sprinkling, than by immersion; since the *Egyptians*, that were drowned in the sea, were baptized by the waters covering them, rather than the *Israelites*, that went on dry land, and could be no other way washed than with drops that might fall from the cloud and the dashings of the waves.

heaven, by the ministry of angels; but as it was *primarily* typical of Christ, and his spiritual benefits, and of feeding by faith on him, for the nourishment of our souls to eternal life; (*John* vi. 32, &c.) and was *secondarily* typical of our sacramentally eating bread at the Lord's table, in commemoration of his broken body.

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: (for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ.)

4 They likewise all drank of one and the same water, which was miraculously provided for them, when they were reduced to the greatest extremity of drought; (*Exod.* xvii. 6. and *Numb.* xx. 11.) and which may be called the same spiritual drink, in its signification, to them and us, as it had a typical reference *primarily* to gospel benefits by Jesus Christ, which are represented as the living waters, that he gives to them who believe in him; (*John* iv. 10, 14. and vii. 37,—39.) and *secondarily* to the cup in the Lord's supper, which is drank in commemoration of his blood shed; for they drank of the waters that gushed out of the rock at *Horeb*, which was smitten by the rod of *Moses*, their lawgiver, and ran in dry places like a river, (*Psal.* cv. 41.) and accompanied them (*ακολουθουσης*) for their relief, in their several journeyings for many years through the wilderness: And that rock prefigured and signified Christ, the rock of ages*, who was indeed himself all along graciously present with them, in his divine nature, and visible emblems, for their refreshment and supply; and who has now been smitten in his human nature, by the rod of the law, in the hand of justice, when he *bare our sins in his own body on the tree, and opened a fountain for sin and uncleanness*, in his blood, *by whose stripes we are healed.* (*Isa.* liii. 5. *Zech.* xiii. 1, 7. and *1 Pet.* ii. 24.)

5 But

N O T E.

* Dr. *Shuckford* thinks, that the apostle here speaks, not of the rock at *Horeb*, but of *Christ*, who, though invisible, was the spiritual support of the *Israelites* in the wilderness: The rock at *Horeb*, struck by the rod of *Moses*, sent forth waters; but the benefit was owing, not to the rock, but to *Christ*, who was the spiritual and invisible rock of his people, who by his power gave them this supply; and whose presence was with them, not at this time only, but in all their journeyings. See his *Connect.* Vol. III. pag. 24, 25. I have taken this thought into the paraphrase, though not, with him, to the exclusion of the other sense, which I think is sufficiently supported by *Exod.* xvii. 6. and *Psal.* cv. 41. and is easily reconciled with *Moses'*

striking the rock a second time in another place, for a fresh supply of waters, about 38 years afterwards, *Exod.* xvii. 6, 7. compared with *Numb.* xx. 11, 13. (See *Univ. hist.* Vol. I. pag. 511.) For at that time, God might order the waters to fail for *Israel's* farther trial; or their former encampments might be in lower ground, in which the waters from the first rock might flow after them; but their present station might be in ground too high for the streams to ascend in their natural course. For the solution of this and of another difficulty (if it be one) taken from their, soon after this last miracle, buying water of the *Edomites*, and digging wells. See Mr. *Jes. Mede's* works, Vol. I. p. 327.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

5 But notwithstanding all these peculiar and glorious privileges of an external nature, which every one of them were favoured with, as God's visible church, there were vast multitudes of them, with whom he was highly offended by their unbelief, idolatry, murmuring, and other provocations: For as, on these accounts, he *swore in his wrath, that they should not enter into his rest*; (Psal. xc. 11.) so the whole of that generation, from twenty years old and upwards, except *Joshua* and *Caleb*, (Numb. xiv. 28, 29. compared with chap. xxvi. 64, 65.) were, in his righteous judgment, by one means or other, cut off in the wilderness; and many of them fell short of the heavenly inheritance, as well as of the promised land, its type; though *Moses* and *Aaron*, and others of them were eternally saved.

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

6 Now these things came to pass, and were recorded, as figures (*τυποι*) of what is to be expected in like cases; and as examples of sin and punishment in that professing people, for a caution and warning to us, who succeed them in their visible church state, and covenant privileges, that we might not imagine ourselves to be secure from like punishments, if we be guilty of like crimes; and particularly, that we might take heed of indulging sensitive appetites to any excess, or of coveting such things, as are unlawful to us, like that of the eating of meat offered to idols, while it would be to the wounding and stumbling of weak consciences, (*chap. viii. 12, 13.*) and while Providence affords us other wholesome food; even as the *Israelites*, not contented with the *Manna*, which God had provided for them, sinfully and impatiently desired *flesh to eat, and the fish, the garlick, and onions of Egypt.* (Numb. xi. 4, 5, 6.) Let us take heed of every thing of this nature, lest *the wrath of the Lord should be kindled against us*, and one way or other *smite us*, as it did them, *while the meat was yet in their mouths.* (Numb. xi. 33. and Psal. lxxviii. 30, 31.)

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

7 Nor let any of you go into idolatrous practices, as some of them did, in an astonishing manner, according to what is written concerning them, saying, (*Exod. xxxii. 6, 19.*) *The people sat down to eat and to drink* in their feasting on their sacrifices, which they had offered to the golden calf, as some do now a-days on idol sacrifices in idol temples; and then *they rose up, and danced before it*, to express their homage and joy, according to the idolatrous rites of the heathen in worshipping their false gods. Take heed of symbolizing with that people, in partaking of idolatrous feasts, with a conscience of the idol, or

in its temple in honour to it ; (*chap. viii. 7, 10.*) lest as the wrath of the Lord, waxed hot against them, and there fell of them that day, about three thousand men : (*Exod. xxxii. 10, 28.*) So God should visit you with some awful judgment.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

8 Nor let any of us be guilty of the abominable sin of uncleanness in any form whatsoever, which some of them afterwards committed with the daughters of *Moab*, according to the filthiest custom of the heathens, at some of their religious feasts, in honour of their idols ; and so highly incensed was the indignation of the holy and jealous God against them for these, both corporal and spiritual whoredoms, that three and twenty thousand of them were slain in one day, by his immediate hand, besides another thousand, that were executed by the judges for that sin, which made the whole number of them twenty and four thousand. (*Numb. xxv. 1,—9.*) Let us take heed then of every kind and degree of lewdness *, for which *Corinth* especially is so infamous, and to which it has so many temptations ; lest for that, as well as for spiritual fornication, in paying religious honours to false gods, we come under like severe rebukes with that people of old : For *whoremongers and adulterers God will judge*, let their profession, external privileges, and relation to him, be what they will. (*Heb. xiii. 4.*)

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

9 Nor let any of us distrust the power, faithfulness, and grace of Christ, to help us under our difficulties, discouragements, and dangers ; nor, by one and another provocation, try his patience and forbearance towards us, (*καὶ οὐκ ἐπίσταται*) even as some of them, when they were much discouraged because of the war, (*Numb. xxi. 4.*) disbelieved his care and kindness, and tempted, provoked, and spake against him, who is the most high God, and the angel of the covenant, that was with them to conduct and lead them through the desert, saying, *Can God furnish a table in the Wilderness ?* (*Psal. lxxviii. 17, 18, 19.* compared with *Exod. xxiii. 20, 21.* and see the note on

N O T E.

* At *Corinth*, as *Strabo* tells us, (*Lib. ii. cap. 16.*) there was a temple dedicated to *Venus*, with above a thousand priestesses, all common strumpets, belonging to it. Hence the detestable prostitutions among them if any professing Christians were defiled with them, were spiritual as well as corporal whoredom ; and so was that, which *Israel* committed with the daughters of *Moab* at their feasts upon their sacrifices. I have there-

fore thought proper to keep up a hint of this in the paraphrase ; though, as the idolatry of Christians, which is spiritual adultery, was spoken of in the foregoing verse, I take *fornication* here to relate principally to that flagrant sin itself, which so abounded at *Corinth*, and too much continued to infect some of the members of the church there, as appears from what the apostle says about them, *chap. v. 11.* and *2 Cor. xii. 21.*

on *Acts* vii. 38.) And for this their sinful distrust of him, and provoking behaviour towards him, who had given them gracious promises, and signal proofs of his power and goodness, they were grievously bitten, and many of them mortally wounded, by the fiery serpents, which he sent to destroy them. (*Numb.* xxi. 5, 6.) Let us guard against the like unbelief and provocations, lest he leave us to the power of that *old serpent called the devil.* (*Rev.* xii. 9.)

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

10 Nor let any of you be dissatisfied, repine, and complain at any of God's ways and dispensations, nor at any sufferings for the sake of Christ, and restraints from sensitive appetites, which ye are called to; nor yet murmur, through the instigation of others, against us, the apostles of Christ, on account of what we deliver from him, which is; in effect, murmuring against Christ himself, whose servants we are; as the *Israelites* murmured, in a provoking manner, at God's dealings with them, and against *Moses* and *Aaron*, which he called murmuring against himself, when the spies brought an evil report on the land, and when *Corah* and his company gathered themselves against those his servants; and, for their discontented temper and carriage, many of them were cut off by the immediate hand of God, or by a destroying angel. (*Numb.* xiv. and xvi. chapters.) Have a care of giving way to such a grumbling rebellious spirit; lest God also visit you with some desolating judgment.

11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

11 Now all these things, relating to the sins and punishments of God's ancient professing people, that were so highly favoured of him, beset them, (as I have said, *ver.* 6. and now repeat it, the more deeply to impress your minds) as types and patterns of what we are to expect, under our gospel privileges, if we follow their example in sinning against God; and they are left on record, and handed down in the sacred writings to us for our caution, who live at the close of the *Jewish* age*, and under the last dispensation of grace which God designs for the church in this world, that we may take warning from them, so as to avoid their sin, and escape their punishment.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he

12 The improvement therefore which ought to be made of all this is, that the self-opinionated professor, who,

N O T E.

* The *Jesus* divided the time of the world's continuance into three ages; the first, *before* the law; the second, *under* the law, and the third, *after* the law; and as the age *under the law*, which was the conclusion of the *Jewish* ages, was just then expired, and the age *after the law*, under the Messiah, which was

the last age of the world, had then commenced, *the ends of ages*, (*τα τιντα των αιωνων*) may respect both the expiration of divine dispensations under the two *Jewish* ages, and the introduction of the third and last, as the concluding period, that should abide to the end of the world. See *Dr. Whitby's* notes.

he standeth, take heed lest he fall.

who, because of his light and external privileges, presumptuously imagines that he stands safe in the liberty of the gospel, and is in no danger of sinning, so as to provoke divine wrath against him, should see to it, (*βλεπετω*) that he do not deceive his own soul, by fancying himself to be what he is not; and every one should be watchful and prayerful, and use all means of God's appointment, in an humble dependence on his grace, to prevent backslidings and apostacies; lest, notwithstanding all his high pretences and vain confidences, he fall into sin and ruin, as the *Israelites* did of old.

13 There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

13 But for the encouragement of the humble and faithful among you, who are diffident of themselves, and place their entire trust in Christ, and in the grace of God through him, for preservation in the way of their duty *, Let it be remembered by such of you, that hitherto no trials of any kind, whether in a way of affliction and tribulation from the hand of God, or men; or in a way of inducement to sin, through the power of remaining corruption, or of Satan and this evil world, have ever come upon you, beyond what are incident to human nature, and usually befall mankind; and are to be expected in this present imperfect state; and may be bore and vanquished, through divine assistance, by the holy fortitude and resolution of even mortal men: And (∴) ye may be well assured, for time to come, that, as God has made many great and precious promises of all seasonable supports and aids to his people, he is unchangeable in his truth and faithfulness, to perform them to every one of you, that put your trust in him; who, in the wise and holy disposals of his providence and grace, will not permit you to be exercised with any trials beyond your strength, which shall be either proportioned to them, or they to it: But as he knows your infirmity, and how

N O T E.

* It appears to me, that the apostle, in this verse, speaks of *true believers*, in opposition to those, whom he had spoken of just before. (*ver. 12.*) as (*δευων*) *seeming* to themselves and others, or only *thinking that they stood*: For what he here says about the *faithfulness* of God, in *not suffering them to be tempted above that they were able*, &c. could not relate to such members of the church at *Corinth*, as, being only self-confident professors, either had already fallen, or were in danger of falling, to their own destruction. But were he also supposed to give the foregoing caution to true believers, *their taking heed lest they fall*,

may be considered as a needful guard against spiritual pride and carelessness in them, and as a proper and appointed means, by which God in faithfulness fulfils his gracious promises of *not suffering them to be tempted above that they are able*, &c. or it may only intimate that, unless they should take heed to their standing, they might fall to such a degree, as would awaken God's displeasure against them in some way of his awful judgments, though not to their eternal perdition; as was the case with many of the *Israelites* that sinned, and fell in the wilderness, though they got safe to heaven.

how difficult it would be for you to be always burdened with them, whenever he suffers them to beset you, he will graciously open a way for your deliverance, in due time, from them, or from falling into sin and destruction by them, that ye may not be tired out, and overcome through their long continuance, nor faint under them; but may be enabled to hold on your way, and hold out to the end, when the Lord will deliver you out of them all. (*Psal.* xxxiv. 19.)

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

14 Therefore, my dearly beloved friends and brethren, awed by these dreadful examples on one hand, and encouraged by hopes of all needful assistances on the other, flee with the utmost resolution, speed, and vigour, to the farthest distance possible, as from every other sin, so in a special manner from idolatry; avoid it as ye would the plague; and shun all approaches to this detestable iniquity, and all occasions and appearances of it, that ye may have nothing to do with it, in any form whatsoever; and particularly, not in partaking of *Pagan-feasts* upon their sacrifices in their idol temples, which I have been cautioning you against, (*chap.* viii.) and now, resuming the argument, shall further explain and enforce upon you.

15 I speak as to wise men: judge ye what I say.

15 What I have delivered, and am now going to add upon this head, is proposed to you as men, who value yourselves upon your superior knowledge and learning*; and as men, who it is to be presumed, are acquainted with the principles of Christian religion; yea, and as men, who I charitably believe are, many of you at least, endued with spiritual wisdom and understanding: I therefore appeal to your own reason and conscience, as *knowing* men; and desire you to consider the weight and force of the following arguments.

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we

16 When we communicate in the Lord's supper, which is a religious feast upon the sacrifice of Christ; and therein drink of the cup of wine, which signifies his blood, (*Matth.* xxvi. 27, 28, 29.) and may fitly be called the cup of blessing, which we, who administer that ordinance, bless†: Is not what the communicants

P 2

N O T E S.

* By *wise men*, the apostle seems most directly to mean the false teachers, and their adherents, that were mightily conceited of their own wisdom; and yet, as he appeals to the judgment of the whole church, in what he was saying, we may reasonably suppose him to include those that understood the doctrines of Christ, and those that were made wise to salvation.

† The *cup of blessing*, which we bless, may be so called, because, according to the institution and example of Christ, his

servants solemnly set it apart, for sacred use, by thanksgiving and prayer, and beg a divine blessing upon it, for the spiritual benefit of the receiver; and because they who partake of it, with faith and other suitable graces, offer up their joyful adoration, blessing, and praise to God for a crucified Christ, and for all the great and glorious deliverances and blessings, which he, in his superlative endearing love, has purchased for them by his death.

we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

municants do, in drinking the wine of this cup, an open profession, token, and means of their holy fellowship with Christ, in the virtue and benefits of his precious blood, which was shed for the remission of their sins? And is it not a public acknowledgment of their obligation, and of their purpose, by his grace, to yield themselves up, in a way of obedience, to him, and to God through him, as a people in covenant, and in a state of friendship with him? In partaking also of the other symbolical element, to wit, *the bread*, a loaf or cake of which we, the ministring servants of Christ, break into several pieces, in order to its being distributed and eaten; Is not our feeding on this, which still continues to be in its own substance *bread*, (see the notes on *Luke xxii. 19, 20.*) a visible sign and means of our having spiritual communion with Christ in his broken body, which is represented by it, as he *was wounded for our transgressions?* (*Isa. liii. 5.*) And is not this a test and bond of unfeigned devotedness to him, and to the Father through him? Ye very well know that all this is the avowed design of our religious eating and drinking at his table, in which we also have a professed communion one with another, in our communion with Christ?

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

17 For as the bread taken, and eaten, in that ordinance, is of one loaf, or one sort of substance, broken for us all, and is made up of many grains of corn, which are ground, and moulded into one lump; so it intimates that we, the members of the visible church, which consists of many individual Christians, are hereby in a symbolical manner considered as, and own ourselves to be, united together, by faith and love, into one holy lump in conformity to Christ, and into one mystical body, of which he is the head *: For we are all partakers of that one loaf or substance, which signifies Christ, the bread of life, who came down from heaven; (*John vi. 51.*) and so we have fellowship one with another, in our communion with him: (The like may be said of our drinking of the wine, which is made of the juice of many grapes, and signifies the blood of Christ.) And when these sacramental elements are received with faith in the object,

N O T E.

* These words (*ὅτι εἰς ἓν ἄρτος, ἐν σώμα, οἱ πολλοὶ ἐσμὲν*) may, as several have observed, be more justly and orderly rendered, *because the bread is one, we being many, are one body*; and the apostle plainly alludes to the custom of breaking a loaf, or cake of bread, into several pieces, for distribution among the members of the church, that they might

eat of it, at the Lord's supper, as Christ broke the bread, at the first institution of that ordinance, and as the Jews were wont to do at their passover; which shews how far distant from the primitive institution and practice, the usage of the Papists is, who deliver whole wafers, instead of *pieces* of bread, to every one of their communicants.

ject, represented by them, we have spiritual and saving communion with Christ, and communications of blessings from him, in virtue of his atoning sacrifice.

18 Behold Israel after the flesh: Are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

18 Observe likewise how the matter stands, with respect to the religious feast on the peace-offering, which the *Israelites*, that were circumcised in the flesh, were admitted to eat of; (*Lev. vii. 15.*) and which the carnal *Jews*, that rest in ceremonial and bodily services, continue to do at this day: When they feast upon the remainder of those sacrifices, which were offered upon the altar, do they not thereby profess and own, that they have communion with, and pay their devotions to that God, to whom those meats have been consecrated; and that they have joint fellowship with him in the sacrifices, as offered on the altar for them; he having one share of it, and they another?

19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

19 Now to apply these thoughts to the point in hand, What is my meaning in alledging these instances? Do I hereby intimate, in contradiction to what I have said before, (*chap. viii. 4.*) that there is any thing of divinity in the nominal gods of the heathen? Or that meats being offered in sacrifice to them, or to their images, makes any alteration in these meats themselves, so as to render them unfit in their own nature, for the food of man, or as to defile him, who eats them in circumstances that do not signify his partaking of them *as sacrificed*, nor give an occasion of *stumbling and offence* to others? No, I am as far from admitting any thing of this kind, as the most zealous advocates for an universal liberty to take part in idol entertainments can be.

20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

20 But what I insist upon is, that the heathen sacrifices are offered to *dæmons*, (*δαίμονας*) which, whatever their worshippers imagine, or intend, are no better than wicked and impure spirits; they are offered, I say, to these false deities, and not to the only living and true God; so that, as appears, by parity of reason, from what has been said about partaking of the Lord's supper, and of the peace-offerings, to feast on the remainder of those sacrifices in *Pagan-temples*, where they are offered, is to have fellowship and communion with the idols, to which they are consecrated: And I would by no means have you go into any practices, that, by just construction, are holding communion with such unclean spirits as *dæmons*, and with idolaters therein.

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot

21 Ye cannot, in any consistency with the honour of God, with your Christian character and profession, or with your own edification and safety, drink of the wine, which is symbolical of the blood of Christ, and which

cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

which he has commanded you to do in remembrance of him; and of the wine which, in heathen libations, is consecrated to their *dæmons*, (*δαίμωνιον*) and is drank in honour of them: Nay, it is a direct contradiction to suppose, that ye can have communion with the Lord Jesus, and with one another, in partaking of bread and wine, as his guests, at his table, according to his appointment; and have communion likewise with *dæmons*, and their worshippers, at their idolatrous feasts; nor ought ye to attempt this, or do any thing that has the least appearance of it; since the very design of Christianity is to destroy all worshipping of those, that *by nature are no gods*. (*Gal. iv. 8.*)

22 Shall we then, who profess to be espoused to Christ, dare to provoke him to jealousy*, by paying religious honours to any fictitious deities, or graven images, in competition, or together with him, which is spiritual whoredom, as it was in his ancient people the *Jews*? (*Deut. xxxii. 21.*) What a desperate risk is this to run? Since in that case, our eating and drinking at his table, (*ver. 21.*) will no more secure us from punishment now, than their eating and drinking what may be called the same spiritual meat and drink did them, when they were guilty of idolatry and other sins. (*ver. 3,—10.*) And if his wrath should be kindled against any of us for this, or other crying abominations, are we able to withstand, escape, or bear it? Alas! we are no match for the Almighty. (*Nab. i. 6. and Ezek. xxii. 14.*)

23 Furthermore, as to the plea of those, that think there can be no harm in eating things offered to idols, provided there be no religious respect designed, or paid to the idol itself thereby; even to such I would say, It is indeed, by the law of Christian liberty, allowable for me, (which also is the case of any other believer) to do as I judge may be best in all things of an indifferent nature, such as the eating of meats is, in itself considered, whether they have been offered to idols, or no; but it is not at all times, and in all circumstances, fit and convenient to go to the utmost extent of this liberty: I might with a good conscience, and without violating any law of God, practise all such things on proper occasions; but to do it, when it would be matter of offence, or stumbling

N O T E.

* Here seems to be a direct reference to the first and second commandments, *Exod. xx. 3, 4, 5.*; and as Christ is undoubtedly *the Lord* meant in the foregoing verse, which speaks of *his* cup, and *his* table, it is most natural to consider *him*, as the Lord intended in this

verse, whom we ought not to provoke to jealousy; and, by consequence, as included, at least, in the God, who declared himself to be a jealous God, in the second commandment; particularly with respect to worshipping him alone.

stumbling to others, or of drawing them into sin, would be to hinder, instead of promoting their spiritual advantage; and so better omitted than done.

24 Let no man seek his own: but every man anothers wealth.

24 In cases of this nature, no one ought to study and pursue such things as are only agreeable to himself, or may serve his own pleasure, humour, or temporal benefit; but every one should think himself bound in conscience to do what may *please his neighbour for his good to edification.* (Rom. xv. 2.)

25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

25 Though, as has been shewn, (*ver.* 20,—22.) it would be extremely criminal and dangerous, for any of you to eat of meats offered to idols, in their temples, or at any religious feast, instituted to their honour; yet, so far as ye yourselves only are concerned, ye may indeed lawfully eat any thing, that is exposed to sale, as common food, in a public market, without troubling yourselves with scrupulous inquiries, whether it has been offered to an idol, or not; (see the note on *chap.* viii. 1.) the food itself being no way affected by that circumstance; nor bought and used with any relation to the idol, but only as the bounty of Providence.

26 For the earth is the Lords, and the fulness thereof.

26 For as God is the great Creator, proprietor, and disposer, sovereign Lord and governor of the whole earth, and of all its fruits and products; (*Psalm.* xxiv. 1.) so he has given them for the service of men; and all their rich variety, for necessity and delight, are sanctified to the believer's use; insomuch that he may lawfully eat of them under the gospel dispensation, which has abolished the ceremonial distinctions of them, that were of a typical nature under the law; (*1 Tim.* iv. 4.) and in which Christ, as mediator, is Lord of all.

27 If any of them that believe not, bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

27 Again, If any of your heathen friends, or acquaintance desire you to take a meal with them, at their own houses; and convenience, good manners, or hopes of promoting their spiritual welfare, or some other prudent considerations incline you to accept of their courteous invitation; ye need not make any scruple of eating such food, as the table is furnished with for your entertainment; nor hamper your own consciences by asking nice questions, Whether any part of the provision is the remainder of what has been sacrificed to an idol, or not; since ye professedly partake of it only as a common meal.

28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not, for his sake that shewed it, and for

28 But if he who invited you, or some other person present, should tell you, that what is set before you has been consecrated to an idol; and should thereby intimate his apprehension, that your eating of it would be practically to allow of the religious honours, which were therein paid to it; then, to shew your utter

for conscience sake. For the earth is the Lords, and the fulness thereof.

utter detestation of such an high crime against the majesty of heaven, and of all approaches towards it, do not so much as taste of it, out of regard to him, who mentioned this on purpose to try you, and to see whether you would countenance idolatrous worship: Abstain likewise in such cases out of regard to conscience, that it may neither be misguided and drawn into sin; nor be wounded, troubled, and stumbled by your doing what might have been avoided; since there is enough for you, in other supplies of Providence, without it: For, as I said but now, in a different view of the argument, (*ver. 26.*) * the earth, with all the vegetable and animal food, that is produced, or sustained by it, is what God has made, and given for the use of man; and, in such an abundance, you may have a sufficiency for the refreshment of nature, though you refrain from eating such food, as you are, in this manner, and with such an intent, assured has been offered to idols.

29 Conscience I say, not thine own, but of the others: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

29 But when I say, eat not of it for conscience sake, I do not mean merely your own conscience, which can distinguish between the meat itself, and its being offered to idols, and is no further concerned in this case, than to take heed of doing what may be accounted dishonourable to Christ and religion, and may prove a snare to others; but I principally mean the conscience of another person, that may be grieved, or else emboldened to do what is unlawful to him, by your example, though your own conscience, abstracted from these circumstances, might receive no harm by it; and this is reason sufficient for your abstaining: For, to put myself in your place, Why should I use my Christian liberty at such an imprudent and unseasonable rate, as to occasion another man's conscience to pass a wrong judgment upon me, for doing that, which, with my just sense of things, I might warrantably do, were it not for one way or other injuring people of different sentiments.

30 For, if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

30 For if, through the bounty of a kind Providence, I have opportunity, and, through the grace of the gospel, I have a liberty, of feeding indifferently upon whatever is set before me for the sustenance of the body; yet why should I indulge myself so far, as to make *my good to be evil spoken of*, (*Rom. xiv. 16.*) by giving an occasion of reproachful censure upon me, for eating such meats, as I receive with prayer

N O T E.

* I do not see but that this passage, *the earth is the Lords, and the fulness thereof.* may be retained, and is properly enough repeated here, according to

the view given of it in the paraphrase; though some *Creek* copies, and some versions have dropt it.

prayer to God for his blessing upon them, and with a religious and joyful gratitude to him, both for his providing them, and allowing me to partake of them, though the stander-by may think I cannot do it without sin?

31 Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

31 To wind up therefore the present argument with two or three general rules, which are of extensive use in other cases, as well as this; Let it be your great concern, as Christians, that in all the common actions of life, such as eating and drinking; and in all your use of gospel liberty with regard to things in themselves indifferent, such as meats and drinks of every kind; yea, that in all things whatsoever, whether of a civil or religious nature, ye keep the glory of God in view, as your ultimate end, and behave in such a manner, as ye in conscience apprehend, may, by his blessing, be most conducive to that noble end.

32 Give none of fence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

32 Always endeavour to avoid every thing that might obstruct the conversion of *Jews* or *Heathens*, and prejudice the minds of either of them against Christ and the gospel; and take heed of doing any thing that might be matter of grief and stumbling to *Jewish* Christians who are exceeding scrupulous about meats, and jealous of every thing that has the least appearance of idolatry; or that might be matter of suspicion to *Gentile* converts, as though your professions of abhorring idols were not sincere, and they might persist in paying some religious respect to them; or that might be matter of grief and discouragement on one hand, or of perversion on the other, to any member of the church, which God has erected under the gospel state, whether they be weaker or stronger believers.

33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

33 On the contrary, labour, in the strength of Christ, to imitate my example, who readily deny myself in many instances, and make it the governing aim of my conduct to do all that in me lies, to accommodate my behaviour to all sorts of people, in all things, that may be lawfully done, or let alone, as may be most winning upon them, and most subservient to their peace and comfort: (*chap. ix. 20.*) And I therein seek, not to do what might be most agreeable and convenient to myself, or gratifying to my own ease and inclinations, humour, or worldly advantage; but what may be most for the spiritual benefit of others; to the end that I may be instrumental, in the hand of Christ, to gain many souls over to him; and to help them forward in his way, for their present edification, and eternal salvation.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How foolish and dangerous is it for any to imagine, that their visible relation to God, and sacramental privileges, like those of *Israel* under the Old Testament, and of professing Christians under the New, will screen them from the displeasure, and the judgments of God, in case they be guilty of idolatry, uncleanness, tempting of God, or Christ, by unbelief, murmuring against his dispensations, or any other allowed sin! How should the example of others, in their miscarriages, caution us against provoking the Lord, and against carnal security and self-confidence, lest we fall into their punishments, as well as sins! But, blessed be God, that his faithfulness and grace are a happy security to truly humble, depending, and watchful believers, that none of their trials shall be so uncommon, so great, or so long continued, as to exceed the strength he gives, in the way of their duty, to bear them; or to prevent his making, in due time, a way of escape from them.—How great and holy is our God, and how jealous of his glory, before whom all the idols of the heathen are nothing and vanity! Whatever their worshippers think of them, they are no better than *demons*, wicked and impure spirits; and to pay religious honours to any nominal deities, is to offer the highest affront to the Lord Christ, who is the author and object of our religion, and is by nature God, in opposition to them. How condescending is it in the great God and Saviour, to admit believers to a holy fellowship with him, and to institute an ordinance, peculiarly designed for promoting communion with himself, and with one another, as they are one body, and are all partakers of that one living bread, which came down from heaven! But how inconsistent is it with this communion, to have fellowship with *demons*, and to go into any suspicious practices of an idolatrous appearance, that may be occasions of stumbling, grief, and sin to one another! Even in the use of lawful things, we should have a tender regard to the consciences of others, and deny ourselves in such instances, as are likely to be injurious to them. We should neither imagine, that meats or drinks of any kind are in themselves polluted, or unlawful to use under the gospel dispensation; nor yet indulge ourselves in a needless and unseasonable use of them, to the offending, or ensnaring of others: For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof, which he has given us to be used, either promiscuously, or with restraint, as occasions require. Whether therefore we eat or drink, or whatever we do in religion, or in common life; let us do all to the glory of God, and in such a manner, as to give no offence to *Jew* or *Gentile*, or to any member of the church of Christ, as those who, like the apostle, consult the edification and comfort of others, and seek not our own humour, or secular interests, but their spiritual benefit, that they may be eternally saved.

C H A P. XI.

The apostle, after an exhortation to follow him, and a commendation of the church for observing his former orders, 1, 2. Proceeds to censure, and correct some great irregularities among them, in women's speaking publicly with unveiled faces, even under their prophetic impulses, 3,—16. And, in contentions, schisms, and disorderly celebrations of the Lord's Supper, 17,—22. And, to rectify their scandalous abuses of that sacred ordinance, he reminds them of the nature and design of its institution, as he received it from Christ himself, 23,—26. And directs them how to attend upon it in a due manner, and to avoid the danger of unworthily receiving it, 27,—34.

TEXT.

BE ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

PARAPHRASE.

BE ye therefore * imitators (*μιμηται*) of my example, as well as followers of my directions, (*chap.*

x. 32, 33.

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* This verse might have been better made the close of the preceding, than the

x. 32, 33.) in condescending to the weaknesses and prejudices of others for their good, and in every thing else, so far, and so far only, as I therein copy after our great Lord and Master Jesus Christ, who is our only perfect pattern, and in imitating whose religious and moral temper and conduct we cannot err.

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

2 Now, my dear brethren, it is greatly to your honour, and I reflect upon it, and speak of it, with the utmost pleasure and commendation, that the better part of you bear me upon your minds, with an affectionate concern for my apostolic authority, reputation, and comfort in all things; and with a dutiful regard to the main of all the important doctrines of the gospel, which I preached to you *; and that ye observe so many of those rules and orders, relating to the worship of God, which I taught and inculcated upon you, and committed as a trust to you, by word of mouth, when I was personally with you.

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and

3 But as I find that several irregularities have since sprung up among you, one of which relates to women's laying aside their veils, and thereby assuming an air of undue authority over the man †, under pre-
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tence

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the beginning of this chapter; it having the nearest connection with the last verse of that, and none at all with what follows in this: And in that connection the argument stands much in the same manner, as it doth on a like subject in Rom. xv. 2, 3: There the apostle says, let every one please his neighbour for his good, to edification; for even Christ pleased not himself; and here he says, even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved: Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

* Either the apostle here speaks of only the better part of the church; or else all things must admit of some restriction, as it doth in chap. x. 33. and very often in other places; and must relate to things different from those, for which he before, and afterwards blamed them, and about which it is not to be supposed that he had given them no directions: Nay, in opposition to their gross abuses of the Lord's supper, he expressly tells them, that he had delivered to them what he had received of the Lord, relating to that holy institution, ver. 23.; and it is with the most judicious and engaging insinuation, that he here sweetens their spirits. discovers his affection to them, and takes off their prejudices against the reproof he was going to give

them, by introducing it with so friendly and cheerful a mention of what was commendable in them. But what he here says about their *keeping the ordinances, as he delivered them*, gives no countenance to unwritten or oral traditions; since he speaks only of what they themselves had heard him deliver by his apostolic authority, and since we have no absolute certainty, in these distant ages, of any thing, that he said to this, or any other church, further than is recorded in the holy scriptures.

† For understanding the following discourse and reasoning, to ver. 15. it is proper to observe, that though amongst us, in the western part of the world, wearing the hat when men appear in public, is a token of superiority; and being uncovered is a token of inferiority; yet among the ancient eastern nations, women's wearing a veil was a token of modesty and subjection, as in the case of Rebecca; (Gen. xxiv. 65.) and men's going unveiled was a token of the superiority of the male to the female sex; and therefore for women to throw off their veils, and to appear open-faced in public assemblies, even though supposed to speak under divine inspiration, was deemed, by the custom of those times and places, to be assuming an air of authority, which belongs only to the man, and an inverting the order, in which the God

and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

tence of their praying, or prophesying by immediate inspiration, in your public assemblies, (*ver.* 5.) I desire that, for rectifying this disorder, ye would observe, and seriously consider, that by divine constitution, suitable to the natural order of things, the Son of God, who, by original right, as Creator, has universal dominion over all his works, is, in his incarnate state, and office-capacity, Lord and Governor of all mankind, and, in a peculiar manner, of his people, as he is *the head of the body*, and *head over all things to the church*; (*Col.* i. 18. and *Eph.* i. 22.) and that the husband, according to the natural superiority of the male sex, is the head of government to his wife, who ought to be in fit and reasonable subjection to him; (*Gen.* iii. 16. and *Eph.* v. 23, 24.) and that God the Father, who has put all things under Christ's feet, has, in that consideration, a superior authority over him*, who, as Mediator in human nature, is subject to the Father. (*Chap.* xv. 27, 28.)

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

4 As therefore, according to the well known custom of these Eastern nations, it is universally acknowledged, that veiling the head is a badge of modesty and subjection, and that being unveiled is a sign of superiority; so every man, who, by an extraordinary gift of the Spirit, (see the note on *ver.* 3.) leads the worship of the church in prayer, as their mouth to God; or in preaching and exhortation, as his mouth to them, for edification and consolation, with a veil upon his head, or any covering on his face, that denotes inferiority and subjection to them, to and for whom he

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of nature has placed the two sexes. This is what the apostle argues against, and insists that all proper, and especially significative signs of distinction are to be preserved by the woman, even supposing that she prays, or prophesies, which some think here signifies uttering sacred hymns in public assemblies, under an immediate *assistus* of the Spirit; (see Mr. *Jos. Mede's* works, p. 77, &c.) and that this gives no dispensation to the contrary: And it is plain, that he here refers only to women's publicly praying or prophesying *by inspiration*, because he reckons these among the *extraordinary* gifts of the Spirit, in *chap.* xii. 10. and xiv. 1.—32. and because, in the ordinary course of things, at least, he forbids women's speaking in the church, and that for the same reason, as he here orders that, when they speak by a supernatural gift, it should be with their veils on, *viz.* to maintain the natural subordination of their sex to the man's, that

they might not behave, as if they were on a level with him. *Chap.* xiv. 34, 35. and *1 Tim.* ii. 11, 12. (See Mr. *Locke's* note on the text before us.) And, perhaps, the practice, which the apostle here inveighed against, was taken up in imitation of the heathen priestesses, who paid their devotions with their hair dishevelled, or hanging loose upon their shoulders at full length. See *Paræus* and *Whitby* on the place.

* When God is said to be *the head of Christ*, it relates to office-constitution; and we can no more infer from thence, that they are not partakers of the same *Divine nature*, than that man and woman are not of the same *human nature*, when the man is said to be *the head of the woman*: But as there is a difference in order and authority between the man and the woman; so there is between God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, in that constitution, by which he, in his office-capacity, is both head and Lord of all

he speaks, reflects a dishonour upon Christ, his political head, (*ver. 3.*) * who has given him all the authority that he has any claim to.

5 But every woman that prayeth, or prophesieth with her head uncovered, dishonoureth her head; for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

5 But, on the contrary, every woman who, even under an *afflatus* of the Spirit, pours out her prayers in public to God, or delivers exhortations to the people, with her face unveiled, or in any sort of dress that betokens a superiority, or equality at least, to the male sex, shews a disrespect to the man, as if, on account of her being under divine inspiration, she were not to continue in the modest subjection, which she owes to him, as her political head: (*ver. 3.*) For laying aside her veil is, in effect, the same thing, with regard to this point, as if she were to cut off her hair, or cut it short †, and so wear it in the distinguishing form of the man's.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

6 If therefore the woman would throw off the garb and guise of subjection, by laying aside her veil, even let her clip her hair short, just as the man doth: But if, as every one knows, it would be an indecent, bold, and immodest thing, contrary to all approved custom, for a woman to appear in public, especially in religious assemblies, polled, or with her hair cut short, in the same distinguishing manner as mens are; let her, for the same reason, keep on her veil, as it becomes the female sex to do, when favoured with divine revelation, as well as at other times.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

7 Indeed the man ought not to cover his head with a veil, to denote a subjection that is unsuitable to his sex; because in the dominion, which he is invested with over the creature, he bears the image of God, and is therein to make a sort of honourable representation of that supreme dominion, which God has over all, and which is his glory: But the woman is matter of glory to the man, as he has the honour of a becoming dominion over a creature of such excellent and amiable endowments; and therefore she ought to keep on her veil, in token of it.

8 For,

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* By the man's and woman's head, that is dishonoured, some understand their own natural heads: But, as it is not easy to conceive, consistent with the force of the apostle's reasoning, how the woman dishonours her own natural head, by laying aside the mark, or badge of her subjection to the man; so the apostle having in the introduction of this argument, explained *the head of the man*, to signify *Christ*, and *the head of the woman* to signify *the man*, in a political sense, with respect to authority or domi-

nion, it seems every way most agreeable to understand him, as continuing the use of these terms, in that explained sense.

† It was the custom of those ages for the men to wear their hair exceeding short, hardly lower than the tip of their ears, as appears from the ancient busts, statues, and pictures, that are come to our knowledge; and this is what I take the apostle to mean by women's being shaven or shorn, as a most indecent thing, according to the distinguishing fashion of those days.

8 For the man is not of the woman : but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman : but the woman for the man.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head, because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless, neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord.

8 For, in the first formation of human nature, the man, *Adam*, was not created out of the substance of the woman, he having his existence before her ; but his wife, *Eve*, was afterward created out of one of his ribs. (*Gen. ii. 22.*)

9 Nor was the man originally created for the sake of the woman, who at that time was not in being ; but the woman was created after the man, to be an help-met and comfort to him ; (*Gen. ii. 18.*) which carries an intimation of God's design, that the woman, who was brought last into the world, and formed out of the man for his use, should be in all reasonable *subjection to, and not usurp authority over him.* (*1 Tim. ii. 11, 12.*)

10 Therefore, (*δια τῶν*) in acts of public worship especially, the woman ought to have a covering on her head, as the known token of her modesty, and of the man's power over her, in deference to the superior authority of those messengers of Christ *, whom he has sent to preach the gospel, and preside in church assemblies, that she may not seem to vie with the man, in the authority of teaching. And she ought to be the more careful as to this, in consideration of the supposed presence of both good and bad angels in your Christian assemblies, that she may behave with a becoming reverence to *one*, and may not expose herself to suggestions of pride or immodesty from the *other*.

11 But what I have been saying, about the man's dominion over the woman, is not to be construed as though he were to be an *absolute* Lord over her, and she his slave, whom he might command and rule, in an imperious, arbitrary, and tyrannical manner, according to his own will and pleasure. No ; for the man can no more be now without the woman, than the woman without the man ; but, in their respective places, they are

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* *Mr. Locke* on this verse says, *what the meaning of these words is, I confess I do not understand*: And 'tis indeed extremely difficult to determine it. The generality of expositors refer it, either to the good angels, on account of the reverence due to them, or to evil angels, on account of the danger of temptations to pride and immodesty from them ; both these sorts of spirits being supposed to be present in religious assemblies. But as great uncertainty and obscurity attend those conjectures, and as the word (*αγγελοι*) rendered *angels*, primarily signifies *messengers*, and is so translated in *Luke* vii. 27. and ix. 52. and *2 Cor.*

xii. 7. and as the ministers of the seven churches in *Asia* are styled *angels*, *Rev. i. 20.* and in several verses of the two following chapters, the first sense given in the paraphrase, appears to me to be most natural, most easily intelligible, and best connected, and of a piece with the rest of the apostle's thread of argument on this head. However I have just touched upon the other two, that the reader may take his choice, in a text so intricate as this, which has been perplexed, instead of cleared, by the many attempts that have been made to explain it. Vid. *Pol. Synop.*

are equally useful and necessary, one to the other, and mutually obliged to study and promote each others comfort and advantage; God having, in the wisdom of providence, ordered that it should be so; (*ver. 12.*)* and the Lord Christ, who is the head of the man, (*ver. 3.*) having shewn equally kind regards to both, by making them the subjects of his kingdom, in which there is *neither male nor female; but they are all one in him*, (*Gal. iii. 28.*) with respect to spiritual blessings, without altering the natural and civil duties of the relation in which they before stood to each other.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman: but all things of God.

12 For as the woman was at first formed out of the man; so likewise all the sons of *Adam*, yea, the whole human race are conceived and brought forth by the woman; and therefore they are now the reciprocal means and instruments of each others being and happiness: But God himself is the first cause and orderer of all, who has made the man to be what he is to the woman, and the woman what she is to the man, that they might discharge their mutual duties, in the most faithful and affectionate manner, one toward the other.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

13 But, to return to my principal argument, I appeal to your own unbiassed judgment and sense of things, and would ask you, Is it decent and becoming in a woman, though under inspiration, to behave as if she would invert the natural and established order of God's appointment, by putting off her veil, and so boldly assuming the air of authority, which does not belong to her, when she takes the liberty of praying in public?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

14 Doth not nature itself, which has made a distinction of sexes, and has prompted all civilized nations to preserve an appearance of that distinction, tell you, that, according to the generally established and approved custom of the age, it is an effeminate and degrading thing for a man to wear and dispose his hair in the length, dress, and form of a woman's; so as not to be distinguished from her's †? This is very unseemly, and unbecoming him.

15 But if a woman have long hair, it

15 On the contrary, If a woman let her hair grow to its full length, and dress her head with it, according

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* *In the Lord* (*εἰς Κυρίω*) usually, and I apprehend constantly is, or may be, meant of *Christ*, in the numerous other places of the New Testament, where that phrase occurs; and therefore I could not think it proper to leave out a reference to him in the paraphrase; especially since he had been mentioned

before (*ver. 3.*) as concerned in this argument.

† The promiscuous dress of both sexes was forbidden in the law of *Moses*, (*Duet. xxii. 5.*) probably to prevent the abuses that might attend unnatural disguises. See *Ainsworth* on that place; and the *Universal Hist.* Vol. II. p. 638.

it is a glory to her : for her hair is given her for a covering.

ing to the common mode of attiring with decency and sobriety, it is an ornament suitable to her sex ; and it is to her commendation, that she keeps up the natural sign of her being satisfied with the rank, in which God has placed her : For her hair was given her, by the author of nature, to be such a cloathing for her head, as should be managed in a manner distinctive from the man's, that there might be no appearance of confusion of sexes. This argument, as has been observed, (*ver.* 5, 6.) is equally strong with regard to the veil, or any other mode of dress that betokens modesty and subjection ; and therefore nothing contrary hereunto ought to be suffered, in your religious assemblies.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

16 But if, after all that has been urged, there be any of your new teachers, or others among you, that are of a litigious spirit, and disposed to contend for so preposterous a practice ; all that I shall further add is, that, as such a temper is to be condemned, so no such usage is allowed of by us, the inspired apostles of Christ ; nor is it to be met with in any of the other New-Testament churches, whether consisting of *Jewish* or *Gentile* converts, which God has made the seat of ordinances, and honours with his presence, that he may be glorified in them ; and therefore it is best for you to have nothing to do with it.

17 Now, in this that I declare unto you, I praise you not, that you come together, not for the better, but for the worse.

17 And (*δε*) while I speak of persons being contentious, this reminds me of some other great mismanagements among you, which are by no means to your honour, or edification : Though I have, with pleasure, commended you for following my instructions in other things ; (see the note on *ver.* 2.) yet, as to what I am now going to say, I must, with regret, tell you, that instead of praising, I am constrained to blame and reprove you, because ye are so very disorderly in your religious meetings, that they turn, not to your spiritual profit, and the glory of Christ ; but to your own great hurt, and the dishonour of his name.

18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there

18 For, in the first place, when ye meet together in a church way, for the celebration of sacred ordinances, I am informed, (*chap.* i. 11.) that ye fall into parties, and so make schisms among yourselves *, to
the

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* It is plain, that by *divisions*, or *schisms*, (*σχισμα*) the apostle does not mean any *separation* from the church, but uncharitable and disorderly divisions in it : For the *Corinthians* continued to be one church ; and, notwithstanding all their strifes and disagreements, there was no separation in the external communion of one factious party from another : And

it is in this sense of *schisms* in the church, and not of *rending off* from it, that he uses the word, *chap.* i. 10. and xii. 25. which are the only places in the New Testament, besides this, where *church schisms* are mentioned. The scripture notion therefore of this sin is a quite different thing, from that orderly separation from corrupted churches, which later

there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

19 For there must be also heresies among you; that they which are approved, may be made manifest among you.

20 When ye come together therefore into one place, *this* is not to eat the Lord's supper.

21 For in eating every one taketh before *other* his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

the breach of order, peace, and brotherly love; and I have too much reason to credit the reports I have heard of it, at least as to some part of you.

19 For considering the depravity of human nature, and how busy Satan and his instruments are to sow tares among the wheat, it is not to be expected, but that as, in the event of things, our Lord himself has foretold us, it must needs be that offences come; (*Matth. xviii. 7.*) so there would be, not only factions and schisms among you, but also great corruptions in doctrine and worship, which wicked and designing men would introduce to the subverting of the Christian faith and practice; (*2 Pet. ii. 1.*) God suffering it to be so, in his wise and holy providence, and over-ruling it to this good end, that sincere believers in Christ may be tried, and proved, and shine with the greater lustre, as approved of him; and so be the more evidently distinguished from nominal professors and hypocrites.

20 This factious spirit has introduced another very criminal misdemeanour, in the most solemn parts of worship; when ye professedly meet together, as New-Testament churches use to do, in one place, for celebrating the Lord's supper*, which he instituted to be a memorial of his death, the way, in which many of you manage on those occasions, is such, as really is not partaking of that divine ordinance, according to the true nature and design of its institution, but is turning it into another sort of festival, than Christ intended.

21 For in your disorderly manner of keeping that spiritual and sacred feast, ye eat and drink, as though it were appointed for the refreshment of the body, rather than of the soul: Instead of the whole church's partaking of one bread, (*chap. x. 16, 17.*) in testimony of their communing together with brotherly love, and of their having joint fellowship with Christ, each party bring their own provision, and eat their own supper, when it is ready for them, before another eats theirs;

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ter ages have stigmatized with hideous outcries, as *schism*; and have made an engine, of the greatest cruelties, oppressions, and murders, that have troubled the Christian world.

* I see no just reason to suppose, as many do, that the apostle here refers to their *love feasts*: For he mentions only *the Lord's supper*, and all, that he speaks of afterwards, admits of an easy application to their gross irregularities in partaking of that ordinance, while many

of those things can admit of no other construction, as may be seen in their places: And, for the cure of their abuses of it, he brings them back to the original institution of the Lord's supper; (*ver. 23,—27.*) and then directs them how to celebrate it in such a manner, as might prevent their so unworthily receiving it. (*ver. 28.—31.*) But if, after all, any should think that the apostle meant the *love feasts*, what he here says is no great commendation of them.

theirs; and instead of taking only a little of the bread and wine, which is enough to answer the end, some of you make a full meal, contrary to the plain design of the institution, which was at the close of the paschal supper, after the hunger of the disciples had been satisfied, by their eating at that festival: (see the note on *Mark* xiv. 22.) And as there is a great difference, in worldly circumstances, between some and others among you; so they who, through their poverty, are incapable of providing for themselves, are neglected by the rest, and go away as hungry as they came, while the rich bring plentiful entertainments for their own and their friends use, and eat and drink to the full *, if not to a degree of excess, and *that* at a time when they ought to be most sober, self-mortified, and serious, and to exercise a compassionate love to Christ's poor, in distributing to their relief.

22 What, have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

22 What an incongruous, absurd, and scandalous practice is this! If feasting to please and satisfy animal nature be your design, have ye not † families to eat and drink in for this purpose, privately at home? Or do ye think so lightly of the church of God's own institution, for the celebration of divine ordinances in their solemn assemblies, as if common and sacred things were to be blended together in its administrations, and its poor members were to be thought beneath your notice, though they are as dear to Christ, and cost him as much to redeem, and have as much right to this holy ordinance, as the rich? And are ye minded to expose and discourage, and to pour contempt and scorn upon such members of the church, as have no provisions of their own, nor are admitted

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* As the word (*μεθυσι*) sometimes signifies only to drink so freely as to cheer the spirits, and is rendered *well drunk*, (*μεθυσθησιν*) *John* ii. 10. and is used by the *seventy* much in the same sense, *Gen.* xliii. 34. and *Cant.* v. 1.; there is no necessity of thinking that any of the *Corinthians* used to make themselves drunk at the Lord's supper; but they allowed themselves in too great a liberty of drinking there; and perhaps took encouragement to it, because the *Jews* were wont to do so at the passover, and the *Heathens* at their feasts on their sacrifices; and yet their Christian principles and profession might restrain them from those shameful excesses, which both *Jews* and *Heathens* ran into, on those occasions.

† As in scripture language, nothing is more common than for *houses* to signify

families, it seems more natural to take *houses* in that sense here, in opposition to *church assemblies*, which had been spoken of just before, *ver.* 16,—20. than to understand *houses* in the *literal* sense, in opposition to the *place*, where the church met together: And as the *Christians*, in those days of persecution, could have no stated places that were peculiarly set apart for religious worship, but met, as they had opportunity, in private houses, I cannot think, with Mr. *Joseph Mede*, (*Vol.* I. p. 405, &c.) that the *place* they met in is here called the *church of God*, so evidently contrary to the use of this phrase in this epistle, (*chap.* i. 2. x. 32. and xv. 9.) and in all other parts of the New Testament. See Dr. *Chauncy's Ecclesia Enucleata*, p. 14.

to partake of yours? What shall I say to such an extreme disorder and corruption among you, as this? Shall I commend you for it, as I did for your following my orders in other things? (*ver. 2.*) No, by no means; in this particular I cannot do it, but must faithfully reprove you; since herein ye have, instead of keeping, notoriously departed from, what I delivered to you about this very ordinance.

23 For I have received of the Lord, that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread:

23 For though I was not present when our blessed Lord instituted this holy supper, and celebrated it with his disciples; (*Matth xxvi. 26, &c.*) yet *that*, which I have received concerning it, by immediate revelation from Jesus Christ himself; (*Gal. i. 12.*) and *that*, which I accordingly communicated and recommended to you, for your religious observation, when I preached the gospel among you, and brought you into a church state, (*chap. iii. 6. and Acts xviii. 7,—11.*) was this, that as the Lord Jesus is the great Head and King of the church, and only has a right to institute divine ordinances, and demand our obedience; so in the very night, on which Judas perfidiously betrayed him into the hands of his enemies, in order to his being crucified, he took a loaf or cake of bread into his hands, at the close of the paschal supper, to intimate that he was going to set it apart to some further sacred use: He did this, I say, the very same night, that he might seal his Testament, just before he died, for the confirmation of our faith; that he might shew how willing he was to undergo, and keep in view, the extremest of his sufferings in his near approaching death, and might testify the greatness and constancy of his endearing love to the church, in providing for their comfort, even while he was going, in the most terrible manner, to bear their sins and sorrows; and that he might the better engage their love to him, and their after notice of, and value for this affecting ordinance, as the token of a dying friend.

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

24 And when he had prayed over the bread for a blessing upon it, with thanksgiving to God for the riches of his love and grace, and so set it apart for the intended holy use; he then brake it into several pieces, for each of his disciples to eat of it; and, at his delivering it out, he said to them, *Take and eat*, thereby intimating that it was designed, and given for their spiritual benefit, and that they ought to receive and feed upon him by faith, which was signified by those actions; and, further to explain his meaning, he added, this broken bread, which I have now se-

parated to sacramental use *, is the symbol and representation of my body, which is just now to be crucified, pierced, and wounded for your iniquities, as suffering in your room and stead: Take then and eat of this symbolical bread, in a believing, humble, joyful, thankful, and obediential remembrance of my dying love; of the extremity of my sufferings on your behalf; of the deliverances and blessings, which I have thereby procured for you; and of the obligations to love and duty, which I have thereby laid upon you.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

25 In like manner he took the sacramental cup into his hands, after he and his disciples had eat of the bread; and then, having also set that apart by prayer, (*Mark* xiv. 23.) he said to them, The wine in this cup signifies and represents, and is to be the standing memorial, by my institution, of the blood which I shed, with agony in my soul, for the confirmation of the covenant of grace, and the purchasing of all the good things contained in it; which covenant, as all its promised blessings depend upon, and are to be enjoyed by virtue, and in consequence of my death, may be called the New Testament put in force by it: *Drink* † ye all of this cup, (*Matth.* xxvi. 27.) with this religious sense of its meaning, very frequently, as often as ye have opportunity for it, in a fiducial, affectionate, penitential, grateful, and self-dedicating

N O T E S.

* That the pronouncing of these words, *This is my body*, is not the form of consecration, as the *Papists* pretend, is evident; because Christ bid his disciples *take and eat*, before he pronounced those words; but it is very absurd to suppose, that he should order them to take and eat the bread, before it was consecrated. Besides, the words of consecration or blessing, that are pronounced by the minister, must be spoken to *God*, in a way of prayer, that he would make the bread to be that to us, for which he has appointed it; but *this is my body*, is spoken to the *people*, and not to *God*, and therefore cannot be the words of consecration; they only assert what the bread by blessing, it, or setting it apart, is made to be, namely, a sign, representation, and memorial of the broken body of Christ, and not his very body itself. See the notes on *Matth* xxvi. 25. and *Luke* xxi. 20.

† Our Lord, at the close of the paschal supper, commanded, that *all* his disciples, under the notion of his church and family, should celebrate this ordi-

nance, (*Matth.* xxvi. 27.) as a sign and memorial of their deliverance from sin and wrath, by his sufferings and death, in like manner as *Isaiah* kept the passover, in token and commemoration of their deliverance from the destroying angel, and from their *Egyptian* bondage. (*Exod.* xii. 26, 27. and *Duet.* xvi. 2, 3.) This shews that the Lord's supper was instituted in the room of the passover. And as he expressly ordered, that *all* his disciples should *drink of the cup*, which is more than he said, though not more than he intended, of *eating the bread*; and which the apostle here interprets with a reference to the whole body of the church at *Corinth*; this evidently shews how unreasonably and sacrilegiously the *Papists* deprive the *people* of the *cup*, directly contrary to the most special command of Christ, that *all* the communicants should drink of it, as *all* the disciples, then present, did; and that in the same character of discipleship, in which they had eat of the bread. (*Mark* xiv. 22, 23.)

dedicating remembrance of me, and of my bleeding love to you, and of the soul-sufferings especially, which I underwent for the redemption of your souls, as your substitute and ransom.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

26 This holy institution answers a most important end: For as often as ye eat of this appointed bread, which is, in its own nature, bread still, though signifying Christ's body; and as often as ye drink of the instituted cup, the contents of which are wine still, though significative of his blood, which is *shed for many, for the remission of sins*; (Matth. xxvi. 28.) ye thereby, as in duty bound, do publicly declare, and openly avow to God, to your own consciences, and to all the world, the death of your Lord and Saviour, as that which ye depend upon alone for pardon and reconciliation, and for a gracious performance of all the promises of the new-covenant, unto complete salvation; and ye thereby visibly do *, and sincerely ought to publish to all around you, that ye are not ashamed of, but glory in a crucified Jesus, how much soever *Jews or Heathens*, or any sort of unbelievers may despise him: And this ye, as a church of Christ, are to continue to do, with frequency, all the days of your lives, as every church, not only in this, but in all succeeding ages. is likewise obliged to do, till he shall come again, and receive them to himself; or shall appear the second time, without sin, unto salvation. (John xiv. 3. and Heb. ix. 28.)

27 Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

27 This is the plain institution of Christ, the end of which I have set before you; and therefore whoever, contrary to its nature and design, shall in an ignorant and irreverent, factious and uncharitable, carnal and sensual manner †, eat of this symbolical bread, and drink of this symbolical cup of the Lord Jesus, which he appointed to be taken, and eaten and drank, in remembrance of his sufferings in body and soul, will incur the guilt of profaning this sacred ordinance, and of contemptuously treating the sin-bearing body, and the atoning blood of the Lord of glory, as though his death were not a propitiatory sacrifice worth

N O T E S.

* The verb (*καταγγελλει*) here rendered indicatively *ye do shew*, is also imperative, and signifies *shew ye*; accordingly the turn of the paraphrase takes in both senses.

† *Eating and drinking unworthily* relates not to the unworthiness of persons that come to the Lord's supper, but to their unworthy manner of receiving it; and has a plain reference to the uncharitable and scandalous mismanagement

of the *Corinthians* at that ordinance, which the apostle had been censuring: (*ver.* 18.—22.) This therefore ought to be no discouragement to humble souls, as it too often is, that sincerely desire to partake of it, in a holy manner, and to right ends, according to the institution of Christ; but should excite their serious concern to celebrate this, as they also ought every other ordinance, with a religious regard to its spiritual design.

worth remembering; but were a common un sanctified thing, like the death of other men.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

28 But, in order to the preventing of such heinous guilt, let every one, who would partake of this holy ordinance, go into a close examination of his state before God; of his faith, love, and evangelical repentance; of the frame of his heart, and course of his life; and of his knowledge and sense of the spiritual signification and ends of this solemn institution; let him see to it, that they be agreeable to what ought to be found in a sincere communicant; and with these serious inquiries, and gracious exercises of soul, let him eat of the sacramental bread, and drink of the sacramental cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

29 For he who, being negligent of all this, eats and drinks at the Lord's supper, with an unfriendly, contentious, party spirit, or with carnal principles and views, such as have been already taken notice of, (*ver.* 18,—22.) or doth it without a religious, reverent regard to the true nature and intention of Christ's appointment therein, eats and drinks, not to his own edification and advantage, but to the exposing of himself to some severe temporal judgments in this life*, as tokens of God's righteous resentment against him, for not considering the death of Christ, with a religious regard to it, as represented in that ordinance; nor making a difference (*μη διακρινων*) between those sacred symbols of the Lord's body and blood for spiritual purposes, and common food for the refreshment of animal nature.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

30 It is on account of those shameful disorders, in temper and practice, which have been found among you, that the hand of God already lies so heavy upon you †. From hence it is, that many of you are now, by his awful judgments, in a weak, sickly, and dangerous state of health; and many others have been cut

N O T E S.

* The word (*κριμα*) translated *damnation*, properly and primarily signifies *judgment*, and is used for *temporal judgment*, in 1 *Pet.* iv. 17. and often by the *seventy*, as in *Duct.* xxxii. 4t. and *Ezek.* v. 8, 10, 15.; and it is evidently to be thus understood here, and not of *eternal damnation*, as many honest and truly gracious souls have taken it, to the terrifying of their spirits, and discouraging their approaches to the Lord's table: For the apostle explains his meaning in the next verse, where he instances in *temporal judgments*, which had befallen many of the *Corinthians*, for their abuses of that sacred ordinance; and tells them, *ver.* 32. that *when they were thus judged, they*

were chastened of the Lord, that they should not be condemned with the world: This opposes *judgment* to *final condemnation*; and intimates that some of them, at least, who were visited with those temporal judgments, were the children of God, and would be eternally saved.

† It is not improbable but that, as some have apprehended, *Corinth* was then visited with an epidemical and mortal disease; and that the apostle might know, by immediate revelation, that the sins of God's people there, particularly in their horrid profanations of the Lord's supper, greatly contributed to the bringing down of that judgment upon them, and upon their city.

cut off by * death : Take heed therefore, lest, for the like cause, God should come out, in still further ways of righteousness, against you.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

31 For were we seriously, strictly, and conscientiously to search into our own conduct in this, and all other cases, by comparing it with the word of God ; and were we thereupon to pass sentence upon, and condemn ourselves for what is amiss in us, and with penitent hearts to correct it, we should escape God's severe rebukes, in the way of his holy providence, for our defaults.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

32 But when any of us, who are true believers, are in this, or any other way, afflicted by terrible things in righteousness, we are therein wisely and mercifully chastised of the Lord, in a fatherly manner, to the end that we might be brought to repentance, and not suffered to go securely on, uncorrected and unreclaimed, in such ways of sinning, as would be inconsistent with a state of grace and favour with God ; and so might not be cast in judgment, at the great day, with the unbelieving and ungodly world.

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

33 Therefore, my dear brethren in Christ, take heed of all those provoking abuses of this holy ordinance which have been so notorious among you ; and, when ye assemble for partaking of the Lord's supper, stay for one another, that ye may communicate together at the same table, and at the same time ; and so may have a truly Christian fellowship and communion with the Lord Jesus, and with one another, like brethren of the same family, and children of the same heavenly Father, according to the real intent of the ordinance itself.

34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home ; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

34 And as to ordinary and needful refreshments of the body ; if any of you are hungry, let such an one satisfy his craving appetite at home ; and not think to do it at the Lord's table, which was never appointed for such purposes ; that ye may not meet together for the worse, (*ver.* 17.) even to the aggravating of your guilt, and provoking God to punish you in the way of his dreadful judgment, (*ως κριμα*) for your perverting the design of so solemn an ordinance, and celebrating it in an unbecoming and uncharitable, carnal and factious manner. And as to other irregularities, of what nature soever, which are among

N O T E.

* *Sleep* is a common word in scripture, to signify the death of *men*, whilst it is most frequently used with relation to the death of the *saints*, because there is to be a rising, or awaking from the

dead, both of the just and the unjust. (*Dan.* xii. 2.) But *brutes* that die, are never said to *sleep*, because they will never rise again.

among you, and have been mentioned to me, I shall defer the consideration of them, till, by the will of God, I may have opportunity of making you another visit; when I hope, by his guidance and blessing, to set them all to rights.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

Where can we find an example without defect, or an authority without restriction, but in Christ! The best, even of inspired men, are to be imitated no further than they follow *Him*; nor are any commands binding upon conscience, further than they are *His*: But it is matter of high commendation, to remember all that is good in his servants; and to observe those ordinances and commandments, which they deliver from the Lord Jesus. How contrary is it to the design of inspiration itself, to subvert the natural order of things, which God himself has established! He has made man to be the head of the woman, in some degree of dominion, as Christ, in his office-capacity, is the head of the man, and God the Father is the head of Christ. How unieemly and dishonourable then is it, for the human sexes, to change the ranks of superiority and inferiority, which God has ordered for them, and the tokens of which are to be preserved by such distinguishing dress, as nature, and the allowed customs of the age direct to! But yet, as God has made the man and woman reciprocally useful and necessary one to the other, and the wife is to behave with modesty and subjection, in all lawful things, to her husband; so he should treat her with the utmost gentleness and affection.—How blame-worthy, and injurious to the interest and credit of religion, is it, for the members of churches to fall into a contentious, factious, and uncharitable temper and behaviour towards one another; and *that* about practices which are contrary to the laudable custom of other churches! And how melancholy is it to think of the heresies in doctrine, that will unavoidably rise in the church, through the subtlety of Satan, and the corruption of mankind! But, blessed be God, that he over-rules all, to the greater improvement of true believers, and to the more evidently distinguishing them from false professors—What a gracious institution is the Lord's supper, whose authority and love have bound the frequent celebration of it upon the consciences of all his disciples, whether weaker or stronger believers, till he shall come again to judgment! But how careful should we be to observe *this*, together with every other ordinance, just as he has left it; and *that* in a solemn manner, suitable to its spiritual nature and design, as a memorial of his body, which was broken, and of his blood, which was shed for us; and not with carnal principles and views, which make it quite another thing! How senseless, and contrary to sacramental language, is it, to suppose that the substance of the bread, after it is set apart for sacred use, is turned into the very body and blood of Christ! It is bread still, as much as ever. And yet how concerned should we be to partake of it with reverence, and with an exercise of suitable graces, that we may not eat and drink unworthily! In order hereunto, every one should examine himself, as to his apprehensions about the obligation and meaning of this ordinance, and his right to partake of it; and when he has good hope, through grace, that he is a true believer, and sincerely desires, and aims at the honour of Christ, and his own edification, in receiving it, he ought humbly, thankfully, and cheerfully, to approach the table of the Lord; and not be kept back by terrifying fears of a damnation, which the apostle never meant, and which such a soul is in no danger of; nor by fears of such temporal judgments in this life, as came upon the *Corinthians*, for their scandalous profanations of the sacred symbols of the body and blood of Christ. But whenever God corrects any of us for our iniquities, How happy is it, if we are only chastened of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world! Alas! How many things are there out of order in true believers, and in the churches of Christ themselves! And what need is there of divine direction and influence, to reduce them all to a regular state, as becomes the gospel!

C H A P. XII.

As the Corinthian church was greatly enriched with spiritual gifts, and turned them into occasions of strife and envy, the apostle considers their original, as from God, and their variety and use for the propagation of the gospel, and edification of the church, 1,—11. Illustrates this by an allusion to the human body, in which every member has its place and use, for the good of the whole, 12,—26. Applies it to the church of Christ, which is his body, and to the gifts of every particular member, which are to be exercised for the advantage of all the rest, 27,—30. And closes with an exhortation to seek after something still more excellent, 31.

TEXT.

NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

PARAPHRASE.

NOW, having offered what may be sufficient about the disorders, that have been found in your worship, (*chap. xi.*) I would add some thoughts about those supernatural qualifications, endowments, and powers, which, though not in themselves of a saving nature, may be called *spiritual gifts*; because they proceed from the immediate operation of the Holy Spirit, are chiefly seated in the soul, and relate to spiritual things. In these some of you greatly excel; (*chap. i. 5, 7. and xiv. 12.*) but are too apt to pride yourselves, and to turn them into occasions of strife, envy, and vain-glory: With respect then to these *, and the persons endowed with them, I would fain have you understand and consider, my Christian brethren, of whom ye have received them; what their true nature and design is; and how they ought to be used and exercised.

2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

2 As to their *original*, Ye cannot but know, and ye ought seriously to reflect upon it, to keep you humble before God, and to engage you unto a holy and diligent improvement of them for his glory, that most of you were sinners of the *Gentiles*, and lately were in a state of deplorable darkness and idolatry, in which ye were drawn, and even hurried away, (*απειρογρησμένοι*) to the worshipping of false gods, and their images, such as stocks and stones, and the work of men's hands, which, whatever their devotees pretend, about the answers given by their oracles, are justly styled senseless, *dumb idols*, (*Habak. ii. 18.*) that can neither speak, nor hear, nor do any thing for their worshippers; (*Psal. cxv. 4,—8.*) much less can they confer such excellent gifts upon them, as ye are
now

N O T E.

* The word (*πνευματικόν*) rendered *spiritual gifts*, being both *masculine* and *neuter*, may relate to *persons* as well as *things*.

now favoured with: To these ye paid your religious homage, even as ye were induced to it, by the natural blindness and depravity of your own minds; by the example of others, and the artifices of your Pagan priests, who were then your leaders; and by diabolical impostures, that had nothing of the divine Spirit in them, by whom ye are now turned from those idols to God, and are so richly adorned with his supernatural gifts.

3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God, calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

3 Therefore, to excite your gratitude and praise to the author of the happy change, that is made upon you; and, at the same time, to give you a general and certain rule, whereby ye may distinguish the gifts and operations of the Holy Spirit, from all delusions, such as the exorcisms of the Jews*, and the pretended inspirations of the Heathens; as also to prevent envy, strife, and prejudices among you, I judge it needful to inform you, that no one whatsoever, be he Jew or Gentile, who thinks or speaks, under the light and influence of the Spirit of God, can reject our divine Lord and Saviour, and talk of him, as though he were an impostor, abandoned of God; or can designedly detract, in any respect, from his glory; much less can such an one work any real miracle to confirm those blasphemous *anathemas*; it being directly inconsistent with the design of the Holy Ghost, and of all his operations, to inspire with any sentiments, or communicate any powers, that are opposite to, or derogatory from, the honour and dignity of the blessed Jesus: And, on the other hand, no man can, from his very heart, acknowledge Christ's authority; speak honourably of him, as God; and profess, own, and preach him, as the only Lord and Saviour, whom he reverences, loves, adores, and serves, and on whom he entirely depends for all salvation; much less can he perform any miracle, to confirm the truth of this profession of his faith in him, but by the illumination and operation of the Holy Spirit, who comes into our world on purpose to glorify Christ, by taking of his things, and shewing them to us. (*John xvi. 14.*)

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but

4 Now, to direct the use of your spiritual endowments, as well as lead you back to their original, it is

N O T E.

* The Jewish nation denied that the Holy Ghost was given to the Gentiles, or dwelt upon any out of the land of Israel; and their Exorcists were enemies to Christ, and pretended to be themselves endued with the Holy Ghost. (See Dr. Lightfoot's *Hebrew and Talmudical exercitations*, Vol. II. p. 780.) What the apostle therefore says in this verse, seems

designed to confute the vain boasts of the Exorcists; and to take off the prejudices of the believing Jews against the Gentile converts: And yet, as some of the Heathens pretended to inspirations, I do not see why we may not suppose, that he intended to distinguish the operations of the Spirit from those delusions also.

but the same Spirit.

is proper for you to consider, that there is a great variety in the kinds and degrees of those gifts, which are conferred upon believers, and upon ministering servants; some being of one sort, and others of another; some suited to one particular end, and others to another; and some more eminent and excellent than others: But, of what nature or degree soever they be, none of them proceed from different spirits, but all from one and the same divine Spirit, who alone bestows them, and enables any person to exercise either of them.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

5 There is also a variety of offices, services, or ministries, (*διακονιων*) in the church, some of which are superior to others: (*ver. 28, &c.*) But it is one and the same Lord Jesus, who has instituted them, and has qualified and commissioned his servants to fulfil them; (*Eph. iv. 11, 12.*) and who appoints and calls some to one kind of service, and others to another, when and where he pleases; and they all therein act under his authority, and by his influence, who is their Head, Lord, and King, and therein minister to him.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all.

6 And there are divers miraculous works, powerfully performed in the discharge of these offices; (*ver. 5.*) and by virtue of these gifts, (*ver. 4.*) some in one way, and others in another; but all are owing to, and derived from, one and the same God, even the Father, who mightily and effectually works by, and together with, his Son and Spirit, as the original cause and producer, both of all the abilities, that any persons receive for them, and of all the good effects that are wrought upon others by them.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

7 But that none may abuse any of these spiritual gifts and offices, in the exercise of them, it is to be considered, that all these evident discoveries and demonstrations of the peculiar presence, light, and power of the Holy Spirit, in which God the Father, and our Lord Jesus, act by, and together with him, (*ver. 5, 6.*) are designed, and granted to those, that are favoured with them, not for their own private advantage, honour, and applause, much less to swell their own pride, and disdain of others, or to occasion strife and envy; but they are given to every one, that has them, for the same general ends and purposes, even for the instruction, edification, and confirmation of the church; and so for the common benefit of the whole mystical body of Christ. (*ver. 12, 13.*)

8 For to one is given by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another

8 For, to instance in some of the principal of these spiritual endowments, to one person is freely given by, the immediate agency of the Spirit of truth and grace, a clear understanding of the great doc-

ther the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

8 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

trines of the gospel, and an ability to preach and apply them, with judgment and propriety, in the whole compass of them, according to New Testament revelation of their glorious system, for making others wise unto salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ: To another is given, by the light and influence of the same divine Spirit, a deep insight into the old Testament types and prophecies concerning Christ, and the important things of the gospel, as they are contained in the law and the prophets *; and an ability of explaining them to others, and shewing how they are accomplished under the New Testament state:

9 To another is given, by the same Holy Spirit, a full assent to the truth of the gospel, and boldness in preaching it, together with a firm trust in Christ for all divine assistance †, that shall be needful in every dangerous and difficult service, to which he may be called: To another is communicated the gift of healing all manner of bodily diseases, in an instant, without the use of ordinary means, for confirmation of the gospel, by the same good Spirit:

10 To another is given a power of working other miracles of all sorts, as there may be occasion for them to answer the like purpose; such as inflicting immediate and visible punishments on notorious offenders, as in the case of *Ananias* and *Sapphira*, and *Elymas* the forcerer; (*Acts* v. 5, 10. and xiii. 11.) raising the dead; (*Acts* viii. 40.) and conveying the Spirit by laying on of hands: (*Acts* viii. 17.) To another is granted the gift of prophecy †, for the foretelling of some

N O T E S.

* *The word of wisdom, and the word of knowledge*, intimate, not only an acquaintance with the things meant thereby; but also an ability to discover them to others; and as the gospel of Christ, or Christ as revealed in the gospel, is called *wisdom, the wisdom of God, and the wisdom of God in a mystery*, in this epistle, chap. i. 24. and ii. 6, 7. and *the manifold wisdom of God*: Eph. iii. 10. And as *knowledge*, which may be supposed to be taught by the Holy Ghost, in a way of *comparing spiritual things with spiritual*, (chap. ii. 13.) is mentioned here as a distinct gift from that of *wisdom*, and from that of *prophecy*, ver. 10. and from those of *revelation* and *prophecy*, chap. xiv. 6.; the distinction, given between all these in the Paraphrase, seems as probable, as any, that has fallen under my observation. See *Miscell. Ser.* Vol I. p. 41, &c. and *Dr. Whitby* on this place.

† *Faith* is here ranked among the ex-

traordinary gifts of the Spirit; but to understand it of the *faith of miracles*, as is commonly done, is, I think, to make it too coincident with the two next mentioned gifts; the *faith of miracles* being, in effect, the same thing with *the gift of healing, and the working of miracles*: And therefore I have considered all these expressions in such senses, as may best preserve a difference between them; and yet have given such a view of *faith*, as may be ranked among the *extraordinary gifts of the Spirit*.

‡ I rather choose to restrain *prophecy* in this place to the natural and strict acceptance of the word, and *that* with relation to a lower sort of prophets, such as *Agabus*, who prophesied of the famine at *Jerusalem*, and of *Paul's* being bound there, (*Acts* xi. 27, 28. and xxi. 10, 11.) than to take it, in the laxer sense, to signify preaching, or explaining texts of scripture by an immediate illumination of the Spirit, as it is to be understood

some particular events, which, when they come to pass, are likewise a further confirmation of the gospel: To another is given a power of discovering what spirit men are acted by, whether of God, or of the devil, or of their own warm imagination; and so, whether they are true, or false prophets; (*chap. xiv. 29.*) as also of discerning men's tempers, designs, and qualifications; (*Acts v. 3, 9. and xiv. 9.*) and knowing, by immediate suggestion of the Holy Ghost, who are, or are not, fit to be employed in any public affairs of the church: (*Acts xiii. 2, 3.*) To another is given a faculty of speaking any foreign language, immediately and fluently, for propagating the gospel among strangers of different nations: (*Acts ii. 8, &c.*) To another is given a great readiness of interpreting, with propriety and exactness, what is said in those languages, to such as mingle in the congregation, and do not understand them. (*ver. 30. and chap. xiv. 13, 27.*)

11 But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

11 But whatever variety there is in these gifts and powers; on whomsoever they are bestowed, in greater or lesser degrees, or in different kinds; and to whatever noble purposes they are fitted, designed, and applied, they are all evidently divine; and, in opposition to the multitude and diversity of the gifts themselves, they are all wrought by that one and the self-same blessed Spirit, whom I have been speaking of, and who therein operates as a divine person, distributing them in all their sorts and measures to every one, that has any thing of them respectively, as his own things, (*ιδια*) which he has full power to bestow severally, just as he pleases, and as his own act and deed; not by constraint or necessity, but freely, according to his own will and pleasure, who works as a free agent, in all that he doth *, with the same sovereignty, that is the peculiar prerogative of God himself, (*ver. 18. and Heb. ii. 4.*) with whom it is *lawful to do what he will with his own*. (*Matth. xx. 15.*) And the Spirit doth all this for the benefit of the church, as was said *ver. 7.*

12 For

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nerstood in *chap. xiv. 5.*; because this would too much fall in with either *the word of wisdom*, or with *the word of knowledge*, mentioned before. (*ver. 8.*)

* The same sort of powerful operation or energy, and the same freedom and sovereignty, in distributing all these gifts, are here ascribed to the Spirit, (*νεργει—καθως βουλευται*) as are ascribed to God, *ver. 6. and 18.* (*νεργων καθως κειλησεν*) and so are plain attestations to the *divinity and personality* of the Holy Spi-

rit: And their being all ascribed (*ver. 4, 5, 6.*) to the Father, Son, and Spirit distinctly, in an equal manner, naturally leads us to conceive of the *same Spirit*, the *same Lord*, and the *same God*, as three adorable persons in the one undivided God-head; and as exerting one and the same energy; and so being, in nature and operation, one and the same God. See my discourses on this text, entitled, *The Holy Spirit a divine person*, pag. 6, &c.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

12 For as the natural body of a man is one animal fabric, enlivened and actuated by one soul, and consists of many members, which have their several functions, in their respective places, for the advantage of the whole; but all the members of that one body, though composed of ever so many parts, constitute only one human body: So likewise it is with regard to Christ mystical *, even his church, which is vitally united to him, as members to their head; and is animated by one and the same Spirit, that resides without measure in him, (*chap. vi. 17. and John iii. 34.*) and is communicated, according to the measure of his gift, to them: (*Eph. iv. 7.*) and this spiritual body is composed of many members, each of which has its particular place and office, for the edification of the whole; but be they ever so many, and their gifts and uses ever so various, they all together make up but one complete church, or body of Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

13 For all of us, who are endued with the gifts and graces of one and the self-same Spirit, (*ver. 11.*) are thereby incorporated into one spiritual body, according to what was signified by our being baptized with water, and that without any preference of one to another, whether we be Jewish or Gentile believers; and whatever our civil station be in the world, whether that of masters, or servants, and bond-slaves: For we are all one in Christ Jesus, alike entitled to all the privileges and benefits of his church, as *Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* (*Gal. iii. 28, 29.*) And we have all been nourished and refreshed by further participations of that one divine Spirit, who invigorates, strengthens, and comforts us, and causes us to be of one heart and soul, in things pertaining to

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* *Christ mystical*, as I understand the meaning of that expression, which is so commonly used in this case, is opposed to Christ literally, personally, and corporally considered; and, most strictly speaking, signifies all his members, as united together in faith and love by his Spirit, under him, and by virtue of their union to him, as their Head; but, in a laxer sense, may be taken for all those that are visibly united to him: So that every one of them is, as it were, in one or other of these considerations of them, a part of Christ; and altogether are the *fulnesse of him, who fills all in all*, (*Eph. i. 23.*) and who said to *Saul*, when persecuting his members, *Why persecutest thou me?* (*Acts ix. 4.*) In this sense the church is not many bodies, but one body in Christ; all its members, taken

together, make but one universal or catholic church under him, as their Head, though formed into many particular churches for the celebration of sacred ordinances, and making a regular solemn profession of his name. And all those among them, that are not in sincerity and truth what they are in name and profession, as Christians, are only external and visible members of this one body, while, like limbs that have the dead palsy, or like a blind eye, or deaf ear, parts of the body which the apostle instances in *ver. 16.* they have no vital and beneficial union and communion with the Head, nor with the other members, that are internally and effectually cemented together, and partakers of spiritual life and vigour from Christ the Head.

to God, according to what is signified by our visible communion with Christ, and with each other, as one body, in our drinking of the cup of blessing at the Lord's supper. (*Chap. x. 16, 17.*)

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

14 For as the natural, so the mystical, or spiritual body, does not consist of one single member; but of many, some of superior, and others of inferior use and excellence; and none of them are unnecessary, but all conducive to the perfection and beauty of the whole.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

15 To illustrate this by a few plain instances, relating to the natural body, if the foot (supposing it were capable of speaking) should say, Because I am not the hand, and so cannot work as that doth, I am no part of the body, nor of any use to it; Would it be reasonable to conclude from thence, that it is no member of, nor any way useful to the body? It certainly is, for all that, and is necessary to its standing and walking.

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not the eye, and have no faculty for seeing, I am no part of the body, nor at all useful to it; Could any one think that therefore it is not a member of the body, nor of any advantage to it? There is no room for such a thought; since, for all that, the ear is of vast service by its hearing: So it is with respect to the spiritual body of Christ, in which its members of lower gifts and graces are as truly of the body, and as needful to it, in their respective stations, as those of superior offices and attainments, for serving the purposes of his glory, and the good of the whole church.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? if the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

17 If, on one hand, all the human body were nothing but an eye, what would become of the sense of hearing? If, on the contrary, the whole body were all ear, formed only for hearing, what would become of the rest of its senses, as particularly of its power of smelling, as well as of seeing? So if, in the church of Christ, all its members had only one sort of gifts, or graces, though ever so excellent, where would be the beauty, pleasure, and advantage of its rich variety, which is as necessary to the perfection of the church, as all the organs and senses are to that of the human body? All this would be lost, to the detriment of the whole.

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

18 But as in the natural, so in the spiritual body, God has, in fact, set and ranged every member in its proper place and order, with such powers, and for such uses and services, as in his infinite wisdom, and good pleasure, he saw fittest and best, that each of them might subserve, and be employed for the benefit of the whole, with a suitable variety of spiritual qualifications and offices, that are needful for it.

19 And

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more

19 And if, in either of these sorts of bodies, there were only one member for one particular use, How could it, in the first case, be a proper human body? Or, in the second, an organical and integral, or complete body, composed of several parts like that of the church? The very notion of such a body supposes it to be made up of many members, every one of which has its special use and function, for which it was formed, furnished, and placed in the body of Christ.

20 But now, as God has ordered both these structures, according to the counsel of his own will; the members, in each of them, are very many and various, for serving their several important purposes; and yet all together constitute but one body, according to their respective natures, for the good of which, every one of them, as in a well organized body, ought to contribute its part, *as of the ability which God gives, that he in all things, relating to the spiritual body, may be glorified through Jesus Christ.* (1 Pet. iv. 11.)

21 And they have such a mutual dependence upon, and relation to one another, that as, in the natural body, the eye, which is the organ of sight, cannot say to the hand, which is the instrument of work and labour, I have no occasion for you, but can do as well without you: No, nor can the head; that highest and noblest part of the body, which is the seat of contrivance and direction, say to the feet, which are the lowest part, but support and carry about the whole human frame, I stand in no need of you: So, in the mystical body, they, that have the most excellent gifts and qualifications, and the highest stations in the church, such as may give them the denomination of a ministerial eye*, and subordinate head, while considered as a part of the body in distinction from Christ, who is equally and only the proper Head of the whole, ought not to despise the meanest of its members, as though they were insignificant and useless.

22 Nay, to carry this comparison still farther, those parts of the body, that seem to be of the more weak and tender frame, such as the organs of digestion, nourishment, and circulation of the blood and spirits, and

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* Christ is the only proper, vital, influential, and authoritative Head of the church; as such he is frequently spoken of in scripture; and no man ought any more to be called its head, than its master, in any such sense. But as the apostle, all along in this context, speaks of the church, as *the body of Christ*, in al-

lusion to the complete natural body, all the members of which have need of one another: So *the head*, that cannot say *to the feet I have no need of you*, is to be considered merely as a ministerial head, and so a part of the body itself in distinction from Christ, as the *supreme Head*, who animates, and rules the whole.

more feeble, are necessary.

23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour, and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all

and the like, are absolutely necessary to the subsistence, life, and vigour of the human body; yea, and more so, than the largest of its limbs.

23 And even as to those parts of the body, which, in the present fallen state of human nature, we account to be not so graceful, nor so fit to be exposed to open view, as the rest, we take the more special care to put a decent clothing upon them; and those very parts, which modesty requires to be concealed, have an artificial beauty put upon them; and, in that sense, may be said to have a more honourable respect paid them, than others that are left uncovered: So, in the present imperfect state of the body or church of Christ, we should be ready to cast a mantle of love over the *infirmities* of its least graceful members; and to make the best of them, instead of exposing them to contempt and reproach, or disdain and rejecting them, as useless.

24 For as in the human body, its comelier parts, such as the face and hands, which may be seen in their native beauty, need no artificial covering, either to adorn, or conceal them; but, this not being the case with all its members, God in his providence has contrived a proper proportion of honour, as well as service, in the whole frame of the body, according to the state and situation of each of its parts; and has given intimations to mankind, to supply the lack of natural decency, by putting an ornamental concealment upon those, that needed such borrowed embellishments: So, in the spiritual body, the most eminent and shining Christians, and servants of our Lord, easily approve themselves to the consciences of their fellow-members; but it is the will of God, that those who, though real believers and faithful ministers, need more favourable allowances, should be treated with the greater tenderness and kind regard, in condescension to their weaknesses and infirmities; and that they should be assisted and encouraged in every thing that is good; and esteemed for such services, as they may be capable of.

25 God, in his infinite wisdom, has adjusted things after this manner, both in the natural and spiritual body, to the end that, in one, and the other, there might be no (*σχίσμα*) breach, disharmony, or alienation of affection, or disrespect to any fellow-member; but that all the members of the body might have a like solicitous concern, and natural care of the welfare one of another.

26 Finally, such is their intimate union, and mutual sympathy with each other, whether it be in a way of grief, or of pleasure, that if one member suffer

all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

25 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

fers pain, or injury, all the rest of the members are afflicted with it, and ready to do what in them lies for its relief; or if one member be easy, prosperous, and comfortable, or honours of any kind be conferred upon it, all the rest are partakers of the pleasure and advantage with it, and have an honour redounding to themselves by it.

27 Now, to apply all this to the case in hand, Ye, my brethren, considered under the notion of a church, formed according to the order of the gospel, stand in communion with one another, and with all other true churches of Christ, and together with them make up the catholic visible church, of which he is the Head; (*Eph. iv. 15, 16. and Col. i. 24.*) and each of you are particular members one with another, and so a part (*ex membris*, see the note on *Rom. xi. 25.*) of that spiritual and holy body: (*Eph. v. 30.*) And therefore every one of you ought to employ the gifts and graces, that God has furnished you with, for the edification of the whole, according to your different ranks and qualifications; and ye are all to sympathize and share with one another, both in prosperity and adversity; as also in the honour that is put upon some, and in the neglect and contempt that is shewn to others; so as to *rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep.* (*Rom. xii. 15.*)

28 And in the external administration of the affairs of the church, for the advantage of the whole, God in these days of its first erection has appointed, guided and placed various officers, some more general, and others more special, in it; much after the manner, as proper officers over provinces, and particular cities, or corporations, are established by the authority of a temporal sovereign in his kingdom: As, to specify them, he has thus set in the church, *First* of all, Apostles, who received their commission immediately from Christ himself, as the prime ministers of his kingdom; and are furnished with *the word of wisdom*, (*ver. 8.*) for making a full revelation of the mind and will of God under the New Testament-state: *Secondly*, Prophets, who are enabled to foretel important events, by the spirit of *prophecy*, (*ver. 10.*) and to explain Old Testament predictions, by *the word of knowledge*: (*ver. 8. and chap. xiii. 2.*) *Thirdly*, Teachers, who labour in the word and doctrine, whether they be evangelists, or pastors of particular churches, or preachers at large; (*Eph. iv. 11.*) and who by that faith, which is the gift of the Spirit, (*ver. 9.* see the note there) are fully persuaded of the truth of the gospel, and depend on the power and grace of God, for all protection and extraordinary assistance, in preaching

preaching it with boldness: *Fourthly*, Persons that have an extensive power of working all sorts of miracles: (*ver. 10.*) *Fifthly*, Those that have the gift of healing bodily diseases, without the use of human art: (*ver. 9.*) *Sixthly*, Such as, being of the lower class of prophets, foretel particular events, and are assistant to the apostles and the churches, in going to one place and another on special occasions, for various purposes: (see the note on *ver. 10.*) *Seventhly*, Such as, having the gift of discerning spirits, (*ver. 10.*) are men of great penetration and judgment, fit for presiding over the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church: And *lastly*, Such as have any ability of speaking *, and interpreting divers languages, by inspiration of the Spirit †.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

29, 30 In the constitution of such a body as the church of Christ, even in its first erection, Is it reasonable to suppose, that all its members, or officers, should be apostles? or that they all should be prophets? or all preachers? or all workers of every kind of miracle? Or is it to be supposed, that all should have the gift of healing bodily diseases? or all should be able to speak foreign languages? or all should have the faculty of interpreting them? This would be as absurd, as to imagine, that the whole natural body were to consist of only one sort of members, each of which is fitted for every use, and so renders the rest needless: But they are all, as variously distributed, valuable and important, in their respective places, capacities,

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* As *interpretation of tongues* is mentioned, *ver. 10.* and *ver. 30.* I have considered this as included in *diversities of tongues.*

† Most of the *offices*, here spoken of, evidently tally with the *gifts* mentioned in *ver. 8, 9, 10.* and that very much in the same order. The greatest difficulty lies in *helps and governments*, with respect to which, I have mostly (for want of better light, and yet not with full satisfaction to my own mind) followed the critical account, which has been given of them, as parallel with *prophecy and discerning of spirits*; though I have varied from those learned authors, who, to keep up a perfect agreement between the order of this enumeration, with that in the forementioned verses, have made *miracles* here, to correspond to the *gifts of healing* there; and the *gifts of healing* here, to the *working of miracles* there. See Dr. *Lightfoot's* Hor. Hebr. &c. on the place, and *Milner's* Sac. Vol. I. p. 74. &c. and the table sa-

cing that page. Methinks those diligent writers have used too much force in interpretation, to maintain the very same order in both lists; since with a small variation of it, in these two particulars, there is an exact correspondence in the whole, and the order of recital is of little importance. The curious reader may consult for other interpretations, Dr. *Hammond* and *Whitby* on the place. But whatever be the determinate meaning of the apostle, in every particular of each of these lists, the *gifts* and *offices* were in themselves *distinct*; and all had not every one of them; and yet they were not so distinct, but that one person might have several of them; and the apostles might have them all, from the highest to the lowest of them. But as the *Corinthians* prided themselves in the *gift of tongues*, the apostle, to humble them, mentions this *last*, as holding the lowest rank for usefulness of all the rest, according to what he says about them at large in the fourteenth chapter.

ties, and order, to perform different services for the good of the whole; so that no one ought to envy another for his superior gifts and station; nor ought any one to despise another, or account him useless, because he may not be capable of serving so high and excellent purposes, and to so great a degree as himself.

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

31 But, how laudable soever it be for every one, without envying others, to desire, (were it the will of God) the most eminent gifts for service*; ye are nevertheless too ambitious and carnal in debates and emulations about them, as if he were the only valuable and useful Christian, that has most of them: And yet, I have a better way to direct you to, for glorifying God, and promoting the spiritual welfare of your own and others souls, than can be attained merely by the most flourishing gifts; and that is, to improve all that God bestows upon you, be it more or less, with a spirit of love, for each others edification. (Chap. xiii.)

RECOLLECTIONS.

Of what excellent use for the confirmation of the gospel, and first plantation of the church, were the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit to apostles, prophets, teachers, and many others! And though those, that were of a miraculous nature, are now ceased, as being no further necessary; yet, blessed be God, ordinary gifts, of several kinds, are still continued for the edification of the church. But if we excel in any of these; alas! How apt are we to pride ourselves in them, and to despise others of lower attainments, for want of duly considering what we were before we received them, and to whom we owe them! We, like the *Corinthians*, that were carried away to dumb idols, were utterly unworthy of them; and they all proceed, as mere favours, from one and the same God and Father; from one and the same Lord Jesus; and from one and the same divine Spirit, who, though a distinct person from the Father and Son, is one God with them, and, in a common concurrence of operation, distributes all sorts of gifts, with sovereign freedom and power, to whomsoever he will, for the glory of Christ, as our only Lord and Saviour, and for the benefit of his church: For as the natural body is one, and consists of many members, that are useful in their places, to complete it, and to perform the functions that are necessary to it: So the mystical body of Christ, which is his church, is one, as being united together by one spirit, and having communion with him, as its Head, according to what is signified in baptism and the Lord's supper: But it has many members of different use, in their respective stations, for the good of the whole; and they all together make up but one spiritual body, while each one, in particular, is as much a member of Christ as another; so that one of them cannot say, It has no need of the other. How should a sympathizing spirit be diffused through them all, that they may rejoice and mourn in each

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* The word here rendered *covet* (*ζηλοῦν*) is of the *indicative*, as well as *imperative mood*; and it seems most agreeable to the apostle's design of putting a check upon the pride, contentions, and envy, which prevailed among the *Corinthians*, on account of their spiritual gifts, to understand him as intimating, that they did, in a blameable manner, covet the best of that sort of gifts, as

though there were nothing more valuable to be aimed at, or these alone were sufficient for their glorying. (See Mr. *Locke's* note.) And yet as it may be both lawful and commendable, to desire them with an humble temper of mind, and for proper ends, I have given such a turn to the paraphrase, as takes in that sense also, consistently with the other.

each other's prosperity and affliction: And how should the meanest, as well as the most eminent of them, be esteemed and honoured as dear to Christ, and as useful to the whole body! Every one ought to be contented with such spiritual gifts, as God has been pleased to vouchsafe to him, without envying others; and the only valuable end for which any should desire the best of them, is in order to further usefulness: And yet, be they of the higher or lower degree, a gracious principle of love to Christ, and one another, with a governing exercise of it, is still more excellent and advantageous, and more earnestly to be coveted.

C H A P. XIII.

The apostle shews the necessity and advantage of the grace of love, without which all spiritual gifts, all external acts of liberality, and even courage for martyrdom itself, will not profit us, 1,—3. And he represents its excellency by its properties and effects, 4,—7. By its abiding, after all gifts for edification shall cease, and by its preference to faith and hope, 8,—13.

TEXT.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

PARAPHRASE.

SO great is the excellence and necessity of that true love, which seeks the good of others, for Christ's sake, out of affection to him, and in obedience to his command, that, to transfer things in a figure to myself, were I able, by the gift of the Spirit, to speak, with the utmost fluency and eloquence, the various languages of all the nations of the earth; and could I talk, even like the angels themselves, in the sublime and vigorous stile, in which they may be supposed to speak to one another; and yet were I destitute of the grace of God, and particularly of that noble grace of love, which springs from faith in Christ, (*Gal. v. 6.*) and is carried out to him, and to God through him, and to all his people, truth and ways for his sake *, I, with all my pompous shew and flourish of words, am in reality no better than a man, that makes a loud noise, and is vainly ostentatious, without any advantage to my own soul, or likelihood of being serviceable to the souls of others, and without any acceptance to God; and so, after all, I am but like a hollow instrument of brass, or a high sounding cymbal †, which is altogether useless to itself, and has

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* *Charity* (*αγαπή*) is by no means to be restrained to what we commonly call by that name, as consisting in *alms-deeds*, or acts of beneficence to the poor: For the apostle supposes, (*ver. 3.*) that we may give all our goods to feed the poor; and yet have none of the charity he speaks of. It therefore ought to be rather rendered *love*, as it properly signifies, and is usually translated in other places. And though it may primarily

relate to that, which ought to be exercised to fellow-Christians, and others; yet it is to be considered, as springing from a principle of love to God, and from faith in Christ, which works by love; or else it will not be a truly Christian grace, nor of that great worth and excellence, as is all along ascribed to it, in this discourse.

† Various are the conjectures of the learned about this *sounding brass, and tinkling*

has no great musical variety, or agreeableness in its notes, for the pleasure or profit of others.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have no charity, I am nothing.

2 And if I had the spirit of prophecy to foretell distant events, and to explain and apply all the predictions of the Old Testament; had I also the clearest insight into all the sublime, difficult, and important points of the gospel revelation; and had I the greatest compass of all knowledge, human and divine, that ever any man attained to; yea, had I the highest degrees of the faith of miracles*, for the performing of all sorts of wonderful works, even to the removing of mountains from their basis, and casting them into the sea: (*Mark xi. 23.*) If, notwithstanding all these extraordinary powers and achievements, I have no true love to God, and others for his sake, and do not exercise these gifts for his glory and their good, I am an insignificant creature, of no value in his account; and have nothing of true religion or Christianity in me; but shall be found, at last, among those, who had prophesied in Christ's name, and cast out devils, and done many wonderful works; but to whom he will say, *I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* (*Matth. vii. 22, 23.*)

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

3 And if my liberality were to abound so far, as to sell all that I have in the world, and to dispose of it, for the relief of the poor, according to that high instance of trial, which our Lord proposed to the rich man in the gospel: (*Matth. xix. 21.*) Yea, if I had courage and fortitude enough, to go into such an heroic act of self-denial, as to sacrifice my own life, and give up my body to be burnt at the stake, for my

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tinkling cymbal. Some think, that by the *sounding brass*, is meant the *sounding trumpet*, and by the *tinkling cymbal*, the *high sounding cymbal*, both of which are mentioned in *Psal. cl. 3, 5*; and that the cymbal, as well as the trumpet, was a wind instrument of brass or silver. See Dr. Hammond. Others think that a *tinkling cymbal* was, when two hollow balls of brass were struck, one against another, without any measure, or tone of music, but with a rude, inartificial, and howling sound. See *Lightfoot's Hebrew and Talmudic Exercitations*. But others, I apprehend with the greatest probability, suppose, that a cymbal consisted of two large hollow plates, or small deep dishes of brass with broad brims, which were struck one against the other, to fill up the symphony in great concerts of music, and made a great deep sound, but had scarce

any variety of musical notes. See Locke on the place, and the elaborate enquiry of the author of *Fortuita Sacra in commentar. de Cymbalis ad calc.* cap. vi. & alibi. But this author thinks the notes were more various and musical.

* This cannot be meant of *saving* or *justifying* faith: For that faith always *works by love*; (*Gal. v. 6.*) whereas it is supposed, that this faith may be without charity or love: But faith here means the *faith of miracles*: For it stands among the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, and miraculous powers unto the *removing of mountains*; and yet it may also be understood of a *notional* or *historical* faith, as to the truth of the gospel, together with a firm dependence on Christ for *miraculous* assistance; because all this must be supposed to be included in the faith, that wrought miracles in his name.

my profession of Christ; and yet have not sincere love to him, and to his members, interest, and honour, as its principle, it would be of no advantage to my spiritual and eternal concerns: For all this a man may do, from ostentation and vain glory, to get, and leave, a good name in the world, or from a selfish vain conceit of merit by it; and *that* is all the reward, which such an one will ever have. (*Matth. vi. 2, 5, 16.*)

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

4 The true Christian love, I am speaking of, is a most amiable, generous, and operative grace; it endures injuries, affronts, and provocations, with great patience and long-suffering; passes them by, and bears with them, instead of allowing wrathful passions to rise, and boil, and vent themselves in severe resentments; and it is courteous, affable, and beneficent, (*χρηστέλιαι*) ready on all occasions to do good: Love doth not grieve or grudge at the prosperity of others, or envy them the riches, honours, or any excellent qualities, whether of a civil or religious nature, that they enjoy: Love doth not behave with insolence, contempt, and scorn, toward persons of inferior rank and attainments; nor act rashly, or perversely, (*επεπευδαι*) to the disadvantage of others: Nor doth it fill a man with high and proud conceits of himself, of his own gifts, or parts, graces, or worldly emoluments; but, *in honour, prefers others to himself; and in humbleness of mind esteems others, better than himself.* (*Rom. xii. 10. and Phil. ii. 3.*)

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil,

5 It does not act out of character, (*εκ ασχημοει*) unsuitable to one's station, age, or business; doth nothing that is unbecoming the man or the Christian; or that is indecent, base, and vile in itself, or in the common account of the wise and sober part of mankind: It is not so selfish, as to aim at, or pursue any private personal benefit, to the detriment, or neglect of others, or of the public welfare; nor doth it inordinately seek after riches, honour, or pleasure, reputation, and applause, at the expence of others: It is not soon exasperated, and thrown into a furious passion, that renders railing for railing; nor is it apt to be angry without a cause; nor to carry resentments beyond due bounds, either as to the degree, or the continuance of them: Nor is it ready to suspect evil of others; or to put the worst construction upon their conduct; much less doth it *seek* to find faults, and charge them by mere conjectures and strained inferences; or to aggravate what may be amiss, or meditate mischief of any kind.

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth

6 Christian love takes no pleasure in doing any false or unrighteous thing in itself, or in seeing it done by others; but grieves at their sins and failures, and rejoices

rejoiceth in the truth:

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

rejoices in their just and regular deportment, and in its own sincere and faithful behaviour towards all it has to do with; and it delights to see the truth of the gospel, and real, vital, practical religion prevail in ourselves and others.

7 It covers (*συνιστά*) the faults of others, as much as may be consistent with duty; (1 *Pet.* iv. 8.) bears with their infirmities; and suffers many injuries, rather than retaliate them: (*Rom.* xv. 1. and *Gal.* vi. 2.) It is much inclined to believe every good thing it hears of others, as far as there is any manner of ground for it, and will believe well of all its friends and acquaintance, and even of its enemies, till it has convincing reasons to the contrary: And, when things look suspicious, it hopes the best, as long as it can, and does not easily give up a case as desperate, when it appears to be very bad; but is willing to think that in due time, through the grace of God, it may be mended: And it continues firm, and patient, and maintains a noble fortitude of soul, under all the hardships and ill usage it meets with.

8 This excellent grace of love is, furthermore, of an abiding nature; it is of perpetual use in all circumstances of this life, and is never utterly lost out of the heart, that is once truly seasoned with it; nor will it die with us, or be needless in the heavenly world; we shall carry it thither, where it will subsist, and reign, and be perfected in all its lustre and glory for ever: But it is otherwise with all the spiritual gifts, that any here are favoured with; as for instance, suppose they be gifts of prophecy, for foretelling things to come, or interpreting Old Testament scriptures by immediate inspiration, to the edification of others, and confirmation of the gospel*, these may be taken away, and will be so, as unnecessary to the gospel state, after its revelation shall be fully completed and settled; and there will be no manner of occasion for these, to assist and confirm the faith of the church in heaven, as there is at present upon earth. Or suppose they be miraculous gifts of speaking all sorts of languages, for a sign to them that believe not, (*chap.* xiv. 22.) and for propagating the gospel in various nations, these

N O T E.

* I take *prophecy* and *knowledge* in this, and the next verse, as well as *tongues*, to relate to the *extraordinary* gifts, that belonged to the first state of Christianity; and have considered them as employed in this world, only to the then *present benefit* of the church, but as altogether useless in the other world, which the apostle had principally in

view: For, doubtless, in heaven immediate revelations to all the saints, will be more conspicuous, and their knowledge more extensive, than the utmost that ever could be attained in this imperfect state; and they will not want the aid of *ministerial* instruction, in different languages, after the same manner, as they do here.

these may be lost, and will cease as soon as the present use for them shall expire; and there will be no need of these in heaven, where there are no infidels, or strangers; but all are fellow-citizens, who believe the same things, and speak one and the same language, which is easily and equally intelligible to them all. Or suppose they be the gifts of extraordinary revelation in the knowledge of divine truths, for the instruction of others, and for their learning, by those means, the mysteries of God, which before they were unacquainted with; these also may be lost, and will become useless in after ages of this world, when the sacred canon shall be finished; and will be superseded and done away, as being no further necessary for such purposes, when *in God's light we shall all see light,* and *shall see Christ as he is,* in the world to come. (*Psal.* xxxvi. 9. and *1 John* iii. 2.)

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

9 For even the best and wisest of us have, after all, but very short and narrow conceptions of the deep and great things of God, compared with what we shall have in heaven; and all the prophetic and ministerial instructions, that any of us deliver, by immediate inspiration, for the good of the church, are only for a little while, as there may be occasion for them; and are very far from taking in the whole compass of future events, or a complete view of all knowables, or of every thing that may be supposed to be contained in the scripture revelation.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

10 But when we shall arrive at that state of all perfection, which we are looking, hoping, and longing for in a better world; then all the defects and obscurities of our present knowledge and foresight, and the imperfection that attends our present way of receiving, and communicating them will be removed; and we shall have as plain and extensive views of all the then present and future things, as are fit for the most exalted creatures to have, or as can be requisite to make up the highest happiness and enjoyment our nature is capable of, and *that* in some, at present, unknown way of immediate intuition, which shall abide for ever.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

11 The difference between the present and future state is like that of a child and a grown man, which, in my own case, as I can easily recollect, stands thus; When I was in the young and tender age of life, I talked and prattled about human affairs after a weak and childish manner; and conceived of them, was affected toward them, and reasoned about them, like a child that was no competent judge, and knew very little of them; but, when I grew up to a state of manhood, I corrected my childish, crude, and mistaken

notions, and threw off my former trifling and silly ways of thinking and speaking about them: And thus it is with respect to our present, compared with our future knowledge of divine themes, when we shall unlearn many things that we here learnt; shall pity, or smile at all our present impertinences, and correct all our mistakes about them; and shall have juster and clearer apprehensions of what we now have some true acquaintance with.

11 For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

12 For while we dwell in mortal flesh, and carry about a body of sin, which darkens the mind, we see and conceive of the grand sublime mysteries of the kingdom of God, with obscurity and imperfection, in the word and ordinances, as in, or by means of a looking-glass, which shews the object only by reflection*; and our thoughts about many of them are puzzling and intricate, like what we have of things, that are proposed to us in a riddle, instead of plain and proper words: But, when we get to heaven, we shall behold them in a more exact manner, according to what they are in themselves, and as clearly and distinctly, as one man beholds the face of another in their immediate converses together; (2 *John* ver. 12. and *Epist.* iii. ver. 14.) and *that* without any darkening medium between them, which, in this frail state of the body and mind, is necessary to be interposed between the divine majesty and us; since *no man can see his face, and live*: (*Exod.* xxxiii. 20, 23.) I myself, notwithstanding all my visions and revelations, (2 *Cor.* xii. 1, 4.) have but a scanty, imperfect insight into the profound truths of God, many of which surpass the comprehension of my mind, while there are many others, that have not been communicated to me: So that, it is but a very little portion that I know of the great God, and of his counsels and methods of wisdom and grace by Jesus Christ, and of the exalted themes, employments, and enjoyments of heaven, compared with what they are in themselves, and will one day appear to be. But, when I arrive at the bright regions above, I shall have as certain, immediate and familiar a knowledge of them,

as

N O T E.

* Here seems to be a double allusion, (*δι' ὀφθαλμοῦ ἐν ἀινυγματί*) one to a *glass*, which presents an object to the eye, though with some obscurity; and is to be understood, not of a *prospect*, such sort of glasses being a *modern* invention; but of a *mirror*, or *looking-glass*, which anciently consisted of some polished metal, such as copper or brass, or steel, or gold; (*Exod.* xxxviii. 5. *Job* xxxvii. 18. and *Rev.* xxi. 18.) which did not give so clear a view of the object, as our looking-glasses do: (see also the note on 2 *Cor.* iii. 18.) The other is an allusion to a riddle, which is an obscure way of representing things to the understanding, and requires the labour of the mind to find them out; accordingly some copies read (*καὶ ὡς ἐν ἀινυγματί*) and as in a riddle. Vid. *Mill. & Bez.* in loc.

as any of my most intimate friends and acquaintance now have of me; yea, though there is an infinite distance, between the knowledge which God has of me, and the utmost of that, which I ever can have of him; yet my way of knowing him, and all heavenly objects, will be by a sort of immediate inspection, resembling that, with which both he and the holy angels now know me*.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

13 And, to conclude what I would offer, to set forth the excellence and importance of truly Christian love, it has not only the preference to all spiritual gifts; but even to every other special and saving grace: For, during our abode in this present life, the three cardinal graces of faith, hope, and love, reside inseparably in the hearts of the saints, and are of continual use, and vastly more to be preferred than any spiritual gifts whatsoever; yea, they are all constituents of the Christian character, and ought to be in daily exercise till we die. Faith is most immediately necessary to our pardon and justification; hope, to our comfort; (*Rom. v. 1, 2.*) and love, to our conformity to God, and cheerful obedience to his commands: (*1 John iv. 7, 8, 16. and v. 3.*) But the most excellent of all these is *love*, as it not only, like faith and hope, relates to God and ourselves, but to others also; as faith and hope are designed to promote it, and are proved to be genuine by it; and as it is the brightest image of the God of love, and will go to heaven with us, and be perfected there, where faith in an *unseen Jesus*, and as *the evidence of things not seen*, (*1 Pet. i. 8. and Heb. xi. 1.*) shall be swallowed up in vision; and hope, as an expectation of future and unseen blessedness, to relieve us under all our present burdens, (*Rom. viii. 24, 25.*) shall be swallowed up in complete enjoyment †; while love to God and Christ, saints and angels, will make up a great part of the harmony and happiness of heaven, and will glow and flame with the most disinterested and delightful ardour for ever.

U 2

R E C O L.

N O T E S.

* As the apostle does not say *by whom* he was known, I have taken the liberty to supply it various ways, in the first of which, perhaps, I may be singular; but it appears to me to be easy, natural, and agreeable to the representation given, in the former part of the verse, of our intimate manner of knowing things in heaven, like that of *seeing face to face*.

† *Faith* and *hope*, in their present ways of acting, will cease in heaven;

and yet there will ever be a firm persuasion of the truth of all that God shall make known in that state, and an entire trust and confidence in him, for the endless perpetuity of all possible blessedness; and separate spirits there will, doubtless, live in an assured hope and expectation of the resurrection and reunion of the body, together with all the glory, which will attend that final manifestation of the sons of God.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How ambitious should we be of abounding in every exercise of so amiable a grace, as brotherly Christian love, which results from faith in Christ, and from love to him, and to God through him! What are all miraculous gifts of tongues, of prophecy, of immediate revelations, of working wonders, and of a firm assent to the great truths of the gospel, whereby we might be fitted for service in the church? And what are all external acts of the most generous liberality to the poor, and suffering martyrdom itself for our profession of Christ's name, without a principle of grace in the heart, and particularly the grace of love, to animate, spiritualize, and improve them for the glory of God, and our own and other's good? They may appear with specious and noisy pomp; but, without love, will be of no saving advantage to us, and will leave us miserable creatures for ever. How admirable is evangelical love in its benevolent temper and behaviour, meekness, patience, humility, and forbearance; in its candour, and willingness to believe and hope the best; in its sympathy, disinterestedness, and generosity; and in its tender, touching, and friendly care, for the welfare of others! And of how much longer duration is this excellent grace, than all spiritual gifts, which may be lost, even while we live, and will have their period with this world at farthest, and be useless in the next; and which at best leave us very imperfect in our knowledge, like children in understanding, while we are here! And though faith and hope abide with us, and are as necessary as love, during our continuance in this world; yet love is the most eminent of these graces, as on many other accounts, so especially, because it will abide, and be perfected, together with our knowledge of divine things, in heaven; where, not only all spiritual gifts, but faith and hope themselves, in their present use and exercise, as well as several other graces, that are suited to this state of imperfection and warfare, shall cease; and we shall have no further occasion for them, to all eternity.

C H A P. XIV.

The apostle recommends such spiritual gifts, as are suited to answer the purposes of Christian love for the edification of others, and prefers prophecy to the gift of tongues, 1,—5. Illustrates the unprofitableness of barely speaking in unknown languages, without interpreting them, by several comparisons, 6,—12. Exhorts to an intelligent sort of worship, that may be profitable to others, as well as ourselves, 13,—20. Shews the proper use of the gifts of tongues, and the greater advantage of prophesying, 21,—25. Reproves and regulates various disorders, which arose in religious assemblies, from a vain ostentation of gifts, 26,—33. And from women's speaking in the church, 34,—40.

T E X T.

FOLLOW after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

P A R A P H R A S E.

FROM what I have been saying to recommend Christian love, (*chap. xiii.*) Let me earnestly entreat you to cultivate and improve the exercise of this important grace*: And as to spiritual gifts, I would that

N O T E.

*The church at *Corinth* was very much wanting in their Christian temper, while there were prizes and divisions among them, and one said I am of Paul, and another I am of Apollos, &c. (*ch. iii. 5. 4.*) and there were some among

them, that would set up false teachers against the apostle *Paul*, as appears from a great part of this epistle, and particularly from the *third* and *fourth* chapters; and therefore he not only spent the highest encomiums upon charity or love; (*chap.*

that ye should be zealously concerned to abound in them also; provided it be only with a view of glorifying God, and being useful to others: But, in opposition to those that are too fond of the gift of tongues, (*ver.* 12.) for vain-glorious ends, (see the note on *chap.* xii. 31.) I would chiefly recommend to you the gift of prophecy*, whereby ye may be enabled, under divine illumination and assistance, to explain and apply the sacred oracles, or to deliver instructions under any other form, to the edification and confirmation of one another, upon the principles of the charity, which seeks not her own. (*Chap.* xiii. 5.)

2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue, speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

2 For he who, by the gifts of tongues, speaks of divine things in a language, which his hearers are unacquainted with, doth not therein speak to the understanding of those men, though to the understanding of God, who, being the author of all languages, and of the extraordinary gift of speaking them, cannot but know the meaning of every word in them: For no person, that is a stranger to the tongue in which another talks, can tell what he says, or learn any thing from it; but it is all mystery to him, how excellent and important soever the doctrines may be, which the preacher utters by the gift of the Spirit; and how intelligible and advantageous soever they may be to his own soul †.

3 But

N O T E S.

(*chap.* xiii.) but here urges them to pursue or follow after it. See, for an account of what this charity is, the note on *chap.* xiii. 1.

* By *prophecy* here, seems not to be meant foretelling things to come; but opening the scriptures, and declaring the whole counsel of God, by immediate inspiration, including also the more ordinary assistances of the Spirit, which are obtained by reading, meditation, and prayer: For the foretelling of future events was not so much to the then *present* edification of the church, as expounding the word of God, and preaching the truth, as it is in Jesus; because the chief advantage of the predictions of inspired men lies in the confirmation of our faith in after-times, when the things themselves come to pass: But prophesying is here preferred to the gift of tongues; because it was to the *present* edification of the church. And under the head of prophecy, we may include breaking out into songs of praise, under an *assatus* of the Spirit, which, in the case of *Zacharius*, is called his *prophesying*. (*Luke* i. 67.) and which seems to be brought into that class in the 15th verse of this chapter.

This may be reckoned to prophecy; because we are said to *teach and admonish one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs*; (*Col.* iii. 16.) and those hymns that were uttered in public, by the immediate suggestion of the Spirit, seem to have been pronounced only by the inspired person himself; or, at least, others could not join in them with the voice, till he had delivered them out.

† Dr. *Lightfoot* supposes, with some probability, that the *tongue*, principally intended by the apostle, was the *Hebrew*, which, of a long time past, was not the common and mother tongue, but was gone into disuse; but now, by the gift of tongues, it was restored to the ministers of the church: And he suspects that the persons, whom the apostle had in his eye, judaized in this matter; and that they retained the use of the *Hebrew* language in the church, although unknown to the common people; and followed the custom of the synagogue, where the scripture was read, prayers were made, and doctrines preached in the *Hebrew* tongue. See his *Talmudical Exercitations*.

3 But he that prophesieth, speaketh unto men: to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue, edifieth himself: but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth, than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

3 But he who explains the prophetic writings of the *Old Testament*, and thereby casts a light upon the *New*; and he who, by the immediate inspiration of the Spirit, publishes still further articles of evangelical truth, in plain and intelligible terms, answers the end of preaching, in accommodating himself to the understandings of men, to whom he speaks for their improvement in light and grace; and for exciting them to the duties of their holy calling, and promoting their consolation in Christ.

4 He who delivers his sermons in a language, or style, above the capacities of his audience, may express things that greatly tend to his own spiritual improvement, and so may affect his own heart, which he ought indeed to aim at in all his holy ministrations, though that should not be the only end of his engaging in them: But he who interprets the scripture, and makes known the mind and will of God about the way of salvation, not only profits his own soul; but, according to the great design of preaching, he is useful to the church, in building it up, by additions of new converts, and by promoting the growth of its members in knowledge, faith and love, holiness and obedience, through the agency of the Spirit.

5 I could heartily wish, if it so pleased God, that ye all might be furnished * (as many of you are) with the gift of tongues: But as this is of little use, unless when ye come among people that do not apprehend the meaning of the language, which ye can speak without this supernatural faculty; I much rather desire that ye may be skilful in the doctrines of divine revelation, to explain and apply them: For he is the more excellent man, more to be esteemed, and of much greater importance to the church, (*Mat. xi. 11.*) who, in his ministry, discovers a deep insight into the scriptures of the *Old Testament*, and into the peculiarities of the gospel dispensation, than he who delivers his sentiments in strange languages; unless, while in them he speaks the wonderful works of God, (*Acts ii. 11.*) he also explains to his hearers what he says, in a tongue which they understand, that the church of Christ may be really benefited by his labours. And the like may be said of such high scholastic strains of learning and eloquence, as rather amuse, than instruct an auditory.

6 Now,

N O T E.

* It appears from *ver. 12, 18, 23, 26, 27, 28.* that many of this church, and perhaps those particularly who opposed the apostle, greatly prized themselves in the *gift of tongues*, and made use of it, in a disorderly manner, to the prevent-

ing of more useful exercises in their religious assemblies; and therefore the apostle speaks the more diminutively of it, to humble them, and to regulate their ostentatious and unprofitable use of it.

6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

9 So likewise you, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for

6 Now, my brethren, whom I love in the truth, (2 *John* ver. 1.) permit me, for the avoiding of envy, to illustrate this argument, with a reference to myself, who have an interest in, at least, some of your affections; suppose I were to come to you, and to speak in languages, which ye are utter strangers to, of what advantage would it be to you; unless I were to interpret them, and to communicate to you, in intelligible terms, such things as are made known to me, and as I am commissioned to declare, either by a present immediate revelation of some new truth; or by that stock of knowledge in general, which I have of the gospel; or by opening and confirming the prophetic writings of the Old Testament, to cast a light upon the New; or by delivering its most important doctrines, relating to faith and practice *?

7 And, to shew how useless talking in unknown tongues would be, we may compare it to the artificial sounds of musical instruments, which are themselves insensible and inanimate, and are only significant by the tunes that are played upon them. Suppose, for instance, a pipe or harp were made use of for exciting different passions, and directing different motions, songs, and gestures, in mourning and dancing; (*Jer.* ix. 17, 18. and *xlvi.* 36. *Job* xxi. 11, 12. *Mat.* ix. 23. and xi. 17.) unless there were to be made a proper and known distinction in the notes, who could tell for what purpose they are sounded, or be suitably affected with it, or how to conduct himself answerable to it? The like may be said of musical instruments of war:

8 For if the trumpet were to sound a march, a charge, a retreat, or other point of war, at random, or in such a confused manner, as should give no determinate notice of what duty is to be done, when an army is drawing up against an enemy, what soldier could tell how to accommodate himself to it, or get into proper array for the battle?

9 In like manner, it may well be said, unless your tongue express words capable of being understood by your hearers, how is it possible for them to know what is the subject of your discourse; what it is that ye aim at, or say upon it; or what use they are to make of it? For all, that ye speak in an unknown language, is to no manner of purpose, as to them: It is all a mere

N O T E.

* I have given such a sense of all these terms in this conjunction of them, as seems to preserve a distinction between them, and to suit the design of the present argument, better than most that

have occurred to my thoughts; but the reader, by consulting other commentators, may find different turns of interpretation, and make his own choice.

for ye shall speak into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh, a barbarian; and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue, pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

mere senseless and confused sound in their ears, that is lost in the air; ye therein speak, as it were, only to the wind, your hearers not being able to understand one word of what ye say.

10 There is indeed a great variety of languages in the world, perhaps as many as there are different nations upon earth; and none of them is without a distinct meaning, which is understood by the people that commonly talk it; all the words in each of them stand for something, as they are used by those whose mother tongue it is, or who have learnt to converse in it; but they are signs of ideas only to those that are acquainted with them.

11 If therefore I were to fall in company with one, who talks to me in words, which are very intelligible to himself, but the signification of which is quite unknown to me, I should be like a wild unconvertible foreigner to such a speaker, as not being able to receive his instructions, or to make any reply; and he, who speaks in that strange language, would be like one that talks gibberish to me, I not having any notion of what he means.

12 And this is the very case with you, if ye deliver divine things to others in a language, which they can put no sense upon. But since many of you are so eagerly desirous of excelling in spiritual gifts; let it be your great ambition, not to attain, use, and exercise that, which is so unprofitable, as the gift of tongues is, among people that cannot be instructed and edified by it; but to abound in those more excellent ones, that are adapted to promote the knowledge, faith and love, piety and increase of the church.

13 If therefore any of you be fond of speaking languages, by a miraculous power, which he himself was before a stranger to, and which those, that have not learnt it, can make nothing of; let him beg of God, that, when he comes among such sort of people, he may also be enabled to interpret what he says in their vulgar tongue, that it may not be a heap of unfeared words to them; but that they may be profited by the discourse.

14 For, to transfer this again to myself, (*ver. 6.*) as I said before of preaching or prophesying; so I would now say of praying in a public assembly; if my social prayer be offered up, as it ought to be, in their hearing, and as their mouth to God, and it be in a language which they do not understand, my own heart may indeed be engaged in the prayer, as knowing what the petitions are, which I present to the Lord; but my own understanding the prayer is of no advantage to the rest of the company, who, for want

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else, when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned, say Amen, at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

of knowing the sense of my expressions, cannot join with me in it, or be suitably affected by it*.

15 What then is the sum and upshot of all that I have been saying on this head; and what is fittest and best for me to do in these cases? It is this, when I am to pray in a public congregation, it shall be my great desire and concern, that I may do it with spiritual affections, by the special assistance, and dictate of the Holy Spirit; and that at the same time I may pray, not only with an understanding of my own words, but in such a manner, as that the understandings of my fellow-worshippers may likewise apprehend what I say: And in all parts of prophesying, and particularly that which consists in uttering the praises of God, (see the note on *ver.* 1.) what I would principally aim at is, that I may publish the honours of his name by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, with spiritual melody in my own heart; (*Eph.* v. 19.) and that I may not only myself understand what I sing; but may do it in such words, as they, who are to join with me therein, or to be instructed thereby, may understand it also, and so sing with melody in their own hearts too.

16 Otherwise, to apply this to yourselves, were any of you to offer thanksgiving, blessing, and praise to God in church assemblies, under a divine *afflatus*, and this were to be in an unlearned language, How is it possible that any private and ignorant person, who, knowing only his mother tongue, comes into the congregation, and fills up the place of a common hearer, in order to his learning and improving by your holy ministrations, should ever be able to give his assent, and consent, and either in heart, or voice, add his *Amen*, at the close of the service †, since he cannot tell the meaning of what you have delivered?

17 For you indeed, as far as your own edification is concerned in it, may fill up this part of worship in a spiritual and heavenly manner, with good judgment and devout affections; but the hearer, who does not understand

N O T E S.

* This plainly condemns the practice of the Papists publicly praying in *Latin*, while the people understand nothing of that language.

† *The place of the unlearned* (*του ιδιωρου*) signifies the place of a *private*, as well as of an *illiterate* or *ignorant* person, alluding to the place where common hearers were wont to sit in the congregation: And here seems to be a reference to the custom of the *Jewish* church, when at the end of the mini-

ster's public thanksgiving and praise, *all the people answered*, AMEN; (*Neh.* viii. 6. and *1 Chron.* xvi. 36) which was also practised in the primitive church, particularly at the close of Eucharistical prayers, when the people used to say, with loud acclamation, *Amen*, in testimony of their concurrence and approbation. Vid. *Juss. Mart.* Apol. ii. p. 97. 98. and *Euseb.* Eccles. Hist. lib. vii. cap. ix. p. 255. cum Not. Valef.

understand what you say, cannot possibly be profited by it.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all :

18 For my own part, I am indeed very thankful to my gracious God, for favouring me with this, as well as every other spiritual gift ; insomuch that I am enabled to speak, as occasions require, in the extensive course of my ministry, with many more foreign languages, than any of your most celebrated teachers, or than all of you, taken together, have ever been furnished with, or called to make use of.

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

19 Nevertheless, so little do I pride myself in this extraordinary endowment, or value it for itself, or use it in an ostentatious way, that, when I come into a Christian assembly, I had much rather utter ever so few words, were it five only, with judgment and understanding, so as to express my meaning intelligibly, and for the instruction and advantage of others, as well as for my own edification, than to make ten thousand fine discourses in a language, which the people do not understand, and consequently cannot be profited by.

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding : howbeit, in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

20 Let me accordingly entreat you, my brethren, not to go into a weak and childish temper, in affecting novelties, and pompous appearances, such as the showy gift of tongues ; and in esteeming them, rather than things that are more solid and useful : Ye ought, indeed, to resemble little children, in the meekness, harmlessness, and humility of your disposition and behaviour, (*Matth.* xviii. 3, 4.) free from all malicious, proud, and envious designs ; and, when at any time angry, ye, as is usual with children, should soon cool again ; but in knowledge, judgment, and discretion, especially with regard to your apprehensions, and management of spiritual things, it becomes you to think and act, and approve yourselves, as men grown up to maturity of understanding.

21 In the law it is written, With *men of* other tongues and other lips, will I speak unto this people : and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

21 That ye may do thus in the use of unknown tongues, and not be over-fond of them, I beseech you to consider, that in the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament, (see the note on *John* x. 34.) as particularly in *Deut.* xxviii. 49 and *Isa.* xxviii. 11. it is said, by way of *threatening* and *rebuke* to *Israel*, for their obliquity and infidelity, to the following purpose, I will speak to this incorrigible people, by the unknown language of foreign nations, who, by my providence, shall have the rule over them * ; and
after

N O T E.

* I have taken in what I apprehend to be the *primary* sense of these prophecies, as it related to God's making foreign nations, such as the *Affyrians* and

Chaldeans, a scourge to *Israel*, to convince them of their sin, in not hearkening to his prophets ; and the *secondary* sense, as, according to the apostle's interpretation,

after that, by inspired men, who shall deliver my counsel in strange languages, by a miraculous gift, to convince them of their disobedience and unbelief, in not hearkening to the messages of my servants, which were delivered to them in the plainest terms: But, notwithstanding all this, such is the perverseness of their hearts, that they will not attend unto, and receive the instructions of my providence in one case, any more than of my servants in the other, says the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

22 So that, as may be gathered from these passages, speaking in unknown tongues, by an extraordinary gift, is such an evident token of miraculous operation, as is adapted and designed, not for the edification of those, that do already believe in Christ, according to the gospel revelation of him; but for the conviction of infidels, and for a testimony against such as continue obstinate in their unbelief, as well as for the more speedy propagation of Christianity in heathen countries; and therefore it is not proper to use it unnecessarily in the church, as though they were still in a state of infidelity, and needed a continuance of this confirmation of the gospel among them: But preaching, or explaining, confirming, and applying the doctrines of the Old and New Testament, is suited, by the ordination and blessing of God, not only for the conversion of unbelievers*; but likewise for the further instruction, edification, and establishment of those, that have already believed through grace; and so ought to be ordinarily used in church assemblies for that purpose, rather than the gift of tongues, as being most profitable for them.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are

23 If therefore the whole church meet together for the worship of God, as is customary with all the churches, in one and the same place †; and all, that officiate in it, were to deliver themselves, either in prayer, praise, or preaching, in one and another language, that is not understood by the auditory, nor

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N O T E S.

terpretation, it related to the *gift of tongues*, under the New Testament dispensation, which would carry plain tokens of divine inspiration in those persons, whom the *Jews* rejected; and whom they would continue obstinately to reject, notwithstanding this further evidence, that what they spoke was from God.

* Since preaching or prophesying is the means which God has appointed, and owns for the conversion of sinners, as appears from *Rom. x. 14.—17.* and *1 Cor. i. 21.*; it must be, not absolutely, but in some restrained sense, that we are to un-

derstand the apostle, when he says, *Prophesying serves not for them that believe not.*

† The apostle's speaking of the *whole church*, as coming together *in one place*, (*ἅπασιν τοῦ αὐτοῦ*) as he also did in *chap. xi. 20.* shews that churches in those days were *congregational*, or such as met, and ordinarily assembled together in one place, for the celebration of divine ordinances; and that all their members were very careful to give their attendance, as much as possible, at their stated meetings.

are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

24 But if all prophecy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face, he will worship God, and repeat that God is in you of a truth.

is interpreted to them, that it may be so; and if any ordinary private persons, (*ιδιωται*, see the note on *ver.* 16.) that can make no sense of what is said; or any that are strangers to the gospel, and under the power of unbelief, were to come into your congregation at such a time, What would they think and say of you? Would this be a likely means of convincing and converting them? Or rather, would they not despise and ridicule you, and conclude that ye are all a parcel of wild, frantic enthusiasts, that are beside yourselves, and are possessed of the devil, rather than conducted and influenced by the infinitely wise and good Spirit of God?

24 But if every ministering servant, in his proper turn, prays and expounds, and preaches in a plain intelligible style; and any unbeliever, or private and ignorant person, providentially comes in to hear, whether out of curiosity, or from some other motive, he is in the way of being brought to serious and rational conviction; and, through the concurring light and power of the blessed Spirit, will be effectually convinced of his own sin, misery, and danger, and of the excellency, suitableness, and importance, together with his own need of, and concernment in those things, which every speaker utters; and his conscience will be thereby brought to form a just judgment concerning his own state and condition, and to condemn himself, as guilty before God, by means of what they severally deliver and enforce, according to the word.

25 And so the inmost thoughts and dispositions of his heart, relating to God and himself, are as plainly described, and laid open to the view of his own mind; as if the preacher had known them, and designedly accommodated his discourses and prayers to them; and being thus convinced and judged by the power of the word, as brought home and applied to his own soul, he will be struck with a reverend awe of the divine Majesty; and with the deepest contrition and abasement, such as, in times of the most solemn humiliation, use to be expressed by the prostration of the body, down to the ground, will earnestly implore God's pardoning and renewing grace, and join in worshipping him with you; and, from what experience he himself has of the wonderful impressions made upon his heart, he will go away with a testimony in his own conscience, and will tell his friends and acquaintance, That verily God, your God, is in a special manner present with you, to own and bless you, and your ministrations; and to give remarkable tokens of his power and favour among you.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done to edifying.

26 What then is to be done, my brethren? How are your spiritual gifts to be improved for promoting these valuable ends, when ye gather together for religious performances*? One of you is endued with, and stands ready to give vent to a spirit of *psalmody*; another to some doctrine of the gospel, for exhortation and comfort; another has the gift of tongues; another has some new discovery, by immediate inspiration, to communicate to the church; another has the gift of interpreting what is spoken in foreign languages; and one or other of you, is too forward to shew his own gift, and to be heard first, or, perhaps, to display his talents in one part of the congregation, while another is exercising his in another: But, let none of these gifts of the Spirit be used in an unprofitable, unseasonable, or disorderly way; so as that one should improperly interrupt another, or that those of less importance should supersede, or prevent those of greater: On the contrary, let all things be put into such a due course, and carried on in such a regular manner, as may be best suited, and, through divine grace, may be most effectual, to the enlarging and building up of the whole church, and promoting the spiritual growth of every member of it, till the work of God, in all its parts and degrees, shall be perfected in them.

27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

27 If, notwithstanding what has been said about the gift of tongues, as of little use for the edification of the church, (see the note on *ver.* 5.) any of you be still desirous to exercise it, Let it be at suitable times, and in a regular manner, so that, at one meeting, there ordinarily may not be above two or three speakers at most †, and *that* not all together, one here, and another there; but one after another, in their turns; and let there be one, who shall faithfully interpret in the vulgar tongue, what another says in a foreign language, that the people may be capable of receiving instruction.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let

28 But if there be no one present, that has the gift of interpreting what is delivered in a strange language, Let him, that would use it, refrain speaking in it to the congregation; since, in that case, no good

N O T E S.

* Every one of you cannot relate to every individual member of the church, but only to those that were to minister in sacred things; nor can it be supposed that each one, even of *them*, had *all* the gifts here mentioned: But they were all distributed among them; so that one, who was to lead the worship, had one, or more of them, and another had others. It is therefore necessary to take the *uni-*

versal term, here used, in a *restrained* and *distributive* sense, as this, and several other universal particles are evidently to be understood, in multitudes of other places of scripture.

† Here, as Dr. *Lightfoot* observes, is a reference to the order of synagogue-worship, in which one read the scripture in the *Hebrew* language; another interpreted, or preached; and another prayed.

let him speak to himself, and to God.

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

30 If any thing be revealed to another, that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

good purpose can be answered to them by it; and * let him be contented to employ that talent in private prayer at home, between God, who is equally acquainted with all languages, and his own soul, which also understands it, and may be edified by it.

29 With respect also (*δε*) to the use of the gift of *prophecy*, Let but two or three of them, that are endued with it, speak at one meeting of the church, and *that* in an orderly succession, without interrupting, or interfering with one another: And as there are many false pretenders to the ministry, and to inspiration, let other judicious and inspired prophets, that may be present examine (*διακρινετωσαν*) every thing that is said in public worship; and let them discern and determine concerning it, whether it be consonant to the tenor of Old Testament prophecies, and New Testament revelation, or not; and so make a difference between those things, that are delivered under divine revelation, or according to the word of God: and those that proceed from a man's own private spirit, or from a spirit of delusion.

30 But (*δε*) if any important revelation be made to another prophet, that is sitting in the assembly, as a hearer and a judge, and he should thereupon make a signal for audience; Let him that was speaking break off, as soon as he has finished what he is upon, that proper room may be left for this other servant of Christ to deliver the message, which he has received to be communicated from the Lord.

31 For though at one meeting there commonly should be no more than two or three speakers in their course; yet there may be proper opportunities enough, at different times of assembling, for all of you, that are under immediate inspiration, (see the note on *ver.* 26.) as well as for all your ordinary ministers, to exercise your gifts of teaching, one after another, that the whole church may be regularly instructed in the mind and will of God, for their edification; (*ver.* 3.) and that every one may receive a portion in season, by way of exhortation, or of consolation. (*παρακαλωναι*)

32 And this may well be done with the utmost order, convenience, and advantage, since the gifts and impulses of the Holy Spirit, even in inspired men, so far accommodate themselves to their rational faculties †,

as

N O T E S.

* As it is disorderly and unseasonable for persons to spend their time in acts of private devotion after public worship is begun, and their attendance to it is required, the apostle's advice seems rather to relate to a man's privately uttering the thoughts of his heart at home, in a

language, that was understood by none but God and himself, than to his employing himself in that manner, while he was called to join with the congregation in public worship.

† That this is meant of the prophets, who were *to speak*, and not of those, who

why

as not to throw them out of a due government of themselves, like the heathen priests, under their diabolical possessions; but to preserve their capacities of uttering themselves, or not, and to give them a judgment of discretion, when, and how long, it is fit for them to speak under his influence; and we may be sure that this divine spirit will not hurry them into any indecencies or improprieties, either as to the matter, manner, or time of their speaking.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

33 For the infinitely wise and holy God, who inspires them with his good Spirit, neither is, nor can be, the author, abetter, or encourager, (*αυταυτων*) of such a disorderly, unseasonable, and wild management, as has a natural tendency to fling his worship into confusion, and breed disturbances and tumults in the church: But he, as the God of peace and order, is the commander and approver, promoter and author of every thing, that tends to the spiritual prosperity of his people, in a regular, well-governed, and peaceable way, as he is found to be in all other churches, which consist of sanctified believers; and in which his worship is carried on in a sober, decent, and becoming manner; and therefore it may, and ought to be so among you.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be

34 As to your women, who are ready to take too much upon them in public ministrations, it behoves them to be hearers, and not speakers in religious assemblies: For it is neither decent nor allowable for them to preach, or act the proper part of the man, in any public way of speaking*; unless when, on extraordinary

N O T E S.

who were to judge concerning the truth, or falsehood, of what others delivered, appears from its being said, not that the spirits of the prophets *ought to be*, but really *are* subject to the prophets; and from the current of the context: For this has a reference to the preceding directions of these prophets to speak, or not, in a proper order, and to give way one to another in due course; and in the verse immediately after this, God's being the *Author not of confusion, but of peace*, is mentioned as the reason why the gifts and impulses of the Spirit were subject to those, that were endued with them, so as to be able to speak or hold their peace, as occasions required, in opposition to the afflatus of evil spirits, which threw their prophets into such ungovernable ecstasies, as forced them to speak and act like *furies*, or persons beside themselves. Vid. *Grut.* in loc.

* As *prophecy* or preaching, by an extraordinary gift of the Spirit, is the

main subject of the preceding verses, that sort of speaking seems, at least, included, if not most directly intended, in what is here forbidden to women; and yet as *Anna*, the prophetess, spoke publicly of Christ in the temple. *Luke* ii. 38.; and as, on the famous day of *Pentecost*, God poured out of his Spirit upon *daughters and handmaidens*, that they might prophecy. *Acts* ii. 16,—18.; and accordingly *Philip's* four daughters were said to prophesy, *Acts* xxi. 9. I can scarce think that the apostle meant *absolutely* to disallow of women's speaking in the church, when they evidently appeared to be under a divine afflatus: But probably there were some women in the church at *Corinth*, that pretended to speak under immediate inspiration, though, as far as appears, they were not really inspired, and therefore, as the apostle guarded against their unseemly manner of uttering themselves, under their pretended impulses, in *chap.*

be under obedience, as also saith the law.

traordinary occasions, they evidently appear to be under an immediate inspiration of the Spirit: In other cases, *I do not suffer them to teach*; (1 Tim. ii. 12.) nor do any other churches of the saints (*ver.* 33.) admit of it; it is by no means fit, or proper, or suitable to their sex; but they ought, by a modest silence, to shew a *submissi-on to their own husbands, as is fit in the Lord*, (Col. iii. 18.) answerable to the distinction of sexes, which is made by the law of nature, and the law of nations; and as God himself has commanded in that original law, which is contained in the writings of *Moses*, (see the note on *Luke* xxiv. 44.) saying to our mother *Eve*, which is equally binding upon her offspring, *Thy desire shall be to thy husband; and he shall rule over thee.* (Gen. iii. 16.)

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

35 And if any women do not thoroughly understand what is said, or done in the congregation, and are desirous to be further satisfied about it *, they may seek information in a private way at home, by asking (*τας ιδιους ανδρας*) *their own* believing husbands, who are supposed to be both able and willing, or, at least, may get assistance from others of more knowledge than themselves, to instruct them: For it is very unbecoming, and unsuitable to the modesty of the female sex, that an uninspired woman should take upon herself to discourse, and debate with men, in the public exercises of the church.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came

36 What mean then these irregular practices among you, so different from all, that is permitted in any other church? Or what right can your church claim,

more

N O T E S.

xi. 5, 6.; (see the note on *ver.* 3. of that chapter) so he here, without any limitation, forbids their openly speaking in the church in any way, that is peculiar to the office of men; though they might join their voices with men, in singing the praises of God, and saying aloud, *Amen*, as was customary at the end of public prayers; (see the note on *ver.* 16.) and might speak in any way, that did not interfere with the authority of the man. The great difficulty, which so much incumbers the thoughts of commentators on this place, may be chiefly owing to our not having the *letter*, which the *Corinthians* wrote to the apostle, about disorderly practices among them, (*chap.* vii. 1.) and which he answered in this epistle, intelligibly enough to those, that were fully acquainted with the subjects of complaint, and the true state of things in that church. But if we admit of the easy supposition, that the preaching women

in that church, notwithstanding their pretences, were not really inspired, the difficulty is relieved; and this passage is better reconciled with *chap.* xi. 5, 6, than in any other way, that I have met with.

* Here seems to be a reference to the custom of the *Jewish* worship, in which persons were allowed to ask questions of the preacher, relating to what he had delivered, and in conformity to which, our blessed Lord, at twelve years old, sat with the doctors, asking them questions. (*Luke* ii. 45.) But the apostle denies this liberty to women, as favouring too much of putting themselves on a level with men. (See Dr *Lightfoot's* *Exercitations* on the place, and on *Luke* ii. 46.) And the apostle directs the women to apply to their own believing husbands, rather than to other *men* for information, to prevent occasions of scandal from too intimate conversation with others of the contrary sex.

came it unto you only?

more than others, of giving into them? Can ye pretend that your's is the mother-church, and that the gospel of the blessed God was first preached, and all its ordinances were first instituted among you, and went forth to others from you; and that therefore ye may do just what you please, without regarding what is done among them? No, *the word of the Lord came originally from Jerusalem*, (Isa. ii. 3.) and from thence was communicated to all other churches. Or can ye boast that, when the gospel reached the *Gentiles*, it was *first*, and *only* imparted to, and received by you; and therefore ye are to be a rule to all others? No, the *Antiochian*, and other churches were favoured with it *before*, and even *before* you; (*Acts* chaps. xi.—xviii.) and therefore ye can challenge no prerogative beyond any of them, but are tied down, as well as they, to the institutions and commandments of Christ, the only king of his church.

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you, are the commandments of the Lord.

37 If, after all, there be any one among you, who pretends, or imagines himself to be an inspired prophet; or to be endued with extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, and with a clearer and more extensive knowledge of divine things, than others; and therefore thinks that he has authority to give laws to the church*; Let such an one know, consider, and own, that the directions, which I have wrote concerning these matters, are consonant to the general rules, which the Lord Jesus himself laid down in his personal ministry, about public teaching; and are no other than the commandments, which he has further communicated to me, and authorized me, as his inspired apostle, to enjoin upon you; and which no one, who is really conducted by his Spirit, can deny to be according to his mind and will: Consequently no pretences to inspiration, in setting up practices of a contrary nature, can be of God, and therefore ought not to be allowed by you.

38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

38 But if there be any among you so wilfully obstinate and perverse, as not to understand, acknowledge, and submit to the authority, which I have received from Christ, and the commands I have delivered from him; Let such an one, at his own peril, persist in his ignorance and contempt: I shall give myself no further trouble to convince him; and ye ought no longer to regard him.

39 Therefore,

N O T E.

* In this and the next verse, as Mr. *Locke* observes, the apostle seems to point at some chief leader of the faction, which had set up in the church at Co-

rinth against him, and against the authority, which Christ had committed to him.

39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently, and in order.

39 Therefore, to conclude all that I have been saying on these points, my advice to you, brethren, is, that ye be earnestly desirous of obtaining and exercising the gift of prophecy, as the most excellent in itself, and most profitable to the church, of all others; (*ver. 1,—5.*) and yet that ye would not utterly discountenance, and prevent the exercise of the gift of tongues, which may also be of good use in its place, if it be managed according to the foregoing rules about it.

40 In these, and all things else relating to the worship of God, take heed that it be performed in such a becoming manner, as to avoid all appearance of childishness, (*ver. 20.*) or of phrensy, (*ver. 22.*) or of women's acting out of character, (*ver. 34, 35.*) or of any other indecency *; and see to it, that the whole be conducted, not according to the devices of men's own heads, under any pretence whatsoever; but according to the commandments now given you from the Lord, (*ver. 37.*) in such a regular course, (*ver. 27,—33.*) as may prevent confusion, and may put a reputation, instead of a disgrace, upon the blessed and holy name, doctrines, ordinances, and ways of Christ; and as may be most for the glory of God, and the edification of the church.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How different is the present settled state of the church, from what the nature of things required it to be in its first plantation, with respect to immediate revelations, and speaking all sort of languages by the Holy Ghost! Nevertheless, how ambitious should we be of those ordinary gifts and graces of the Spirit, which are still as useful as ever, and, like *Prophecy* and *Charity*, are edifying to our own and others souls, rather than of showy appearances, which, like the gift of tongues, are in themselves of little advantage! And yet it concerns us to improve every kind of gift for the good purposes for which God bestows them upon us. But how unprofitable is it to preach, or pray in a learned style, above the capacity of common hearers; and how absurd to perform sacred offices in an unknown tongue, and *that* without interpreting it! Whatever good a man may get to himself, he can do none by such services to those that do not understand him: Nor ought the ministry of the gospel to give an uncertain sound; its great ends are to inform and impress the soul, that what is delivered may be clearly understood, and reach the secrets of the heart, and may gain an *Amen* of assent and consent, and constrain an acknowledgment in the conscience, that verily God is in the assemblies of his people. How happy is it when we are like little children in malice, and like men in understanding; and when we are wise to sobriety, and all our devotions are under the conduct of the divine Spirit, and of an enlightened, sanctified, and regular mind! What a credit is it to the Christian religion, when all its ordinances are celebrated with due decorum, and in a proper order, according to the word of God, who

N O T E.

* *Decently, and in order*, plainly relate, not to human inventions of rites and ceremonies, to set off the worship of God: For nothing of that kind is mentioned in the foregoing context; nay, its great design is to decry human authority in those affairs: But the *decentcy and order*, here intended, are such, as were to be deemed *the commandments of the Lord*, *ver. 37.* with regard to all the foregoing regulations, which the apostle prescribed against the various disorders that had been brought into the church at *Corinth*.

who is not the Author of confusion, but of peace, in the churches of the saints ! But how arrogant is it for women so far to forget the modesty of their sex, as to assume the rank of men in public ministrations ; or for any church to monopolize the word of God, as if it belonged only to them ; or for any persons, under pretence of extraordinary gifts and revelations, or of human authority, to set aside, alter, or add to the commands of God, in things that relate to his worship ! May we ever avoid all indecencies and disorders, and all unscriptural management, in our Christian assemblies !

C H A P. XV.

The apostle proves the resurrection of Christ from the dead, 1,—11.

Takes occasion from thence to confute those that denied the resurrection of the body, 12,—19. Establishes the doctrine of the resurrection of believers to eternal life by various arguments, 20,—34. Answers objections against it, and shews the vast change that will then be made in the qualities of their risen bodies, 35,—50. Discovers the mystery of the like change, that will be made on those who shall be living at Christ's second coming, 51,—54. Sets forth the believer's triumph over death and the grave, 55,—57. And closes the argument with an exhortation and encouragement to all diligence in the service of the Lord, 58.

TEXT.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein ye stand ;

PARAPHRASE.

AS to the disputes that have been raised among you, my Christian brethren, about the certainty of a future state, and the resurrection of the body to eternal life * ; I would begin with reminding you of, and establishing you in, the grand fundamental articles of the gospel, concerning the death and resurrection of Christ, (*ver.* 3, 4.) and shall particularly enlarge upon, and confirm the last of these, which supposes the first ; both of which, as ye well know, I insisted upon in my ministry, when with you ; which ye also then were convinced of, and embraced, as the foundation of all your hope toward God ; and in the profession and faith of which, notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemies of your souls, and the corruptions that have crept in among you, the generality of you (see the foregoing note) have hitherto continued to stand fast, (*ἠσπασάμενοι*) and, as I trust, are fully

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N O T E.

* As the *Sadducees* denied the resurrection of the body, and the existence of separate spirits, and consequently any future state of rewards and punishments ; (*Matth.* xxii. 23, and *Acts* xxiii. 8.) and the *Greek* philosophers were busy with their objections against the resurrection ; (*Acts* xvii. 18, 32.) so some of the *Jerusalem* converts seem to have been entangled with the notions of the *Sadducees*,

and some of the *Centile* converts with the philosophical speculations of the *Greeks* : The apostle therefore sets himself to confute the errors of *both*, about this important point, with admirable force and beauty, and with a variety of striking arguments, and magnificent figures and eloquence, as they are finely described by Mr. *Blackwall*, in his *Sacred Classics*, Vol. I. pag. 365, 366.

ly determined, by the grace of God, to abide by, at all events, in every day of trial.

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

2 And by means of this gospel, and of your faith in it, ye are brought into a state of salvation, and have the beginnings and earnestness of it, with the utmost securities for a complete possession, in due time, of all its felicity and glory; in case, as I hope, ye carefully attend to, and affectionately bear in mind, and maintain your holy profession of, those vastly important things, which I delivered in my preaching to you: And this ye certainly have done, and will persevere in, unless your belief of them, were only notional, or were (*εὐρη*) rash and inconsiderate*, under the power of strong passions, without any solid judgment, or suitable influence upon your hearts and lives; and so were a dead faith, which cannot save you. (*Jam.* ii. 14, 17.)

3 For I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures:

3 For as I faithfully communicated to you every important branch of the gospel of Christ; so in the very first place, as what holds the chief rank among its principal articles, (*ἐν πρώτοις*) I delivered unto you, as a sacred trust and treasure to be kept inviolably, those blessed doctrines, which I received by immediate commission and revelation from Jesus Christ himself, (*Gal.* i. 12.) as the foundation of all the rest; namely, that our dear and only Saviour died in our room and stead, the just for the unjust, to expiate our sins, and put them away by the sacrifice of himself: (*1 Pet.* iii. 18. and *Heb.* ix. 26.) And this he did, according to the current types and prophecies of the ancient inspired writings, which spoke beforehand of the sufferings of Christ; (*Luke* xxiv. 25, 26, 27. and *1 Pet.* i. 11.) and which, being actually fulfilled in our Lord, are a mighty satisfaction to our faith in him, according to those remarkable predictions of him in *Isa.* liii. 5, 6, 11. and *Dan.* ix. 24, 26.

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the scriptures:

4 I likewise shewed you that, in certain testimony of his having been really dead, he was buried in the sepulchre of *Joseph of Arimathea*, an honourable counsellor, (*Mark* xv. 43, 46.) according to the prophecy, that he should *make his grave with the rich in his death*; (*Isa.* liii. 9.) and that as he was *delivered for our offences*, he was *raised again for our justification*, (*Rom.* iv. 25.) according to o-
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N O T E.

* The word (*εὐρη*) here rendered in *vain*, signifies also *rash* and *inconsiderate*, and is different in the *Greek* from two other words that are used in this discourse, and translated in the same manner; one is (*κερη*) in *ver.* 10, 14, 58.

which signifies *empty*, as well as *vain*; and the other is (*καταρα*) in *ver.* 17. which signifies *foolish*, and *destitute of any real advantage*, or *goodness*, as well as *vain*.

ther prophecies of the Old Testament, *Psal.* xvi. 10. and *Iſa.* liii. 8. ; and that this was on the third day, (*Luke.* xxiv. 46.) according to the figurative representation of it, by *Jonab's* having been in the belly of the fiſh three days and three nights, (*Jon.* i. 17.) which was typical of the reſurrection of Chriſt on the third day, as he himſelf interpreted and applied it ; (*Matth.* xii. 40. ſee the note there) and according to another figurative way of expreſſing the deliverance of *Judab* and *Iſrael*, which carried a typical hint *, that *after two days* their promiſed Head and Saviour ſhould be revived, and on the third day ſhould be raiſed up. (*Hof.* vi. 2.)

5 And that he was ſeen of *Cophas*, then of the twelve.

5 And to aſſure us that, in fact, theſe types and prophecies were fulfilled in the reſurrection of our bleſſed Lord, which is a farther confirmation of his being the true Meſſiah, I told you, that he had been ſeen alive, at various times, after his crucifixion and burial, for forty days of his abode upon earth, by a great number of honeſt, competent, and unexceptionable witneſſes, (*Acts* i. 3.) who could not be deceived themſelves, nor be under any temptation to endeavour the deceiving of others, by forging, and ſtanding to a falſhood of that nature, which they knew would infallibly bring them under the greateſt reproaches and ſufferings: As to inſtance in ſome, out of many witneſſes †, Jeſus, on the very day of his reſurrection, appeared to the apoſtle *Peter* ; (*Luke* xxiv. 34.) and preſently after that, on the ſame day, which was the firſt day of the week, to ten of his apoſtles,

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* As it was in no ſenſe *literally*. or in prophetic language, true, that *Judab* and *Iſrael*, to whom this prophecy primarily referred, were revived, or delivered from their captivities and troubles, on the *third day*, we may well conſider this prophecy, as intended to have an ultimate reference to the reſurrection of Chriſt, as the public Head of the church, which might be ſaid to be *raiſed up together* IN HIM ; (*Eph.* ii. 6.) And though this ſenſe of the prophecy might not be well underſtood, as many others were not, till they were accompliſhed ; yet it became eaſily applicable to Chriſt, when the events ſhewed that he, and he only, roſe from the dead, on the third day. See *Pococke* on *Hof.* vi. 2.

† The apoſtle does not recite all the inſtances, recorded by the *Evangelists*. of Chriſt's ſhewing himſelf to his diſciples, ſuch as his appearing to *Mary Magdalen* at the ſepulchre, and the diſciples at the ſea of *Tiberias*, (*John* xx. 14, 15.

and xxi. 1.) and others. But he takes notice of ſome, which none of the *Evangelists* have expreſſly mentioned, as particularly *that* to *James*, and another to *five hundred brethren at once*, (*ver.* 6, 7.) which may be as fully depended upon as the others, becauſe they are recorded by this inſpired writer ; and thoſe, that he has alledged, were abundantly ſufficient to prove his point ; though doubtleſs there were ſeveral other times of Chriſt's appearing to his diſciples, during his forty days abode upon earth, which neither the apoſtle, nor any of the *Evangelists* have rehearſed, as not thinking them neceſſary to answer their end ; and we are told, *John* xx. 30 and xxi. 25. that *many other ſigns truly did Jeſus in the preſence of his diſciples, which are not written in that history* ; and that *if all the things, which Jeſus did, were written, the world could not contain the books*. See the note there.

posles, to whom he shewed his hands and his side, with all the scars of his crucifixion upon them; (*John* xx. 19, 20, 24.) and that day sevendnight to all the apostles, (*John* xx. 26,—29.) whose original number was twelve*.

6 After that he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

6 After this, according to our Lord's own appointment of a rendezvous of his disciples, to meet him in *Galilee*, (*Mark* xiv. 28. and xvi. 7.) † he shewed himself alive to a great multitude of them at once, amounting to upwards of five hundred Christian brethren, who believed in him, as their risen Saviour; the major part of whom are still living to vouch the truth of that appearance; but some of them, who testified the same all their days, are now dead and gone, and sleep in Jesus, among those, whom God will bring to be glorified with him at the general resurrection. (1 *Theff.* iv. 14.)

7 After that he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

7 He was furthermore seen, on a particular occasion, by the apostle *James* ‡, who was stiled the brother of our Lord, as being nearly related to him, according to the flesh; (*Gal.* i. 19.) and afterwards he appeared again, for the last time, in a most remarkable manner to all his apostles ||, when he gathered them

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* It is no uncommon thing for a society, body, or college of men, to retain their original name, when one, or more of them be absent or dead. *Jacob's* sons called themselves *twelve brethren*, after they supposed that *Joseph* was lost or dead. (*Gen.* xlii. 13, 32.) The *Triumviri*, *Septemviri*, and *Decemviri* among the *Romans*, were respectively so called, whether they were all living, or were present in their assemblies, or not: And we commonly speak of points of law being referred to the *twelve Judges*, though several of them may be absent, and some of them dead. In like manner, Christ having originally appointed *twelve apostles*, to be in a peculiar and extraordinary manner his witnesses, they were called by that name after *Judas* was dead, and before *Matthias* was chosen in his place, to make up the number again: (*John* xx. 24) Yea, and they continued to be spoken of as *twelve*, after *Paul* and *Barnabas* were added to their number. (*Rev.* xxi. 14.)

† It is most probable, that this public appearance of our blessed Lord to all these disciples, was in *Galilee*, where he had appointed to meet them: (*Mat.* xxviii. 16. see the note there.) And that this appointment related to the general body of his disciples, as well as to

the apostles, may be fairly concluded, because the greatest number of his disciples were in that country; and because he made two visits, at least, to his apostles in a body, before they went to *Galilee*. (*John* xx. 19, 26.)

‡ Which *James* this was, and where, or on what occasion, this visit was made to him, we are not told in the sacred writings; but early antiquity says, it was *James the Less*, who was also called *the Just*; and the brother of our Lord. He is supposed to have been the first cousin, and so called the brother of our Lord, according to the *Hebrew* custom, as he was the son of *Cleophas*, or *Alpheus*, (*Matth.* x. 3.) the brother of the virgin *Mary*: (*John* xix. 25.) And his being surnamed *the Just*, was on account of his great sanctity, and mortified life. See the note on *Matth.* xii. 46. and *Universal history*, Vol. IV. p. 256.

|| Perhaps, by *all the apostles*, may be meant, not only those that were strictly so stiled, but also the *seventy disciples*, who might be called apostles in a lax sense, as our Lord (*απισταν αυτοις*) sent them forth with an immediate commission to preach the gospel. (*Luke* x. 1.) If so, the persons here mentioned are more than the *twelve* spoken of, *ver.* 5. But if not, this being the last and most famous

them together to be eye-witnesses of his ascension to heaven. (*Luke xxiv. 51, 52. and Acts i. 9, 10.* see the note on the last of these places.)

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

8 And after all these repeated, and undoubted appearances of the risen Saviour to his disciples on earth, he, several years after his ascension, personally appeared, in an extraordinary manner, to me, (*Acts xxii. 17, 18.*) that I might have the peculiar privilege, honour, and qualification of an apostle, as an eye-witness of his being risen from the dead; (see the notes on *Acts ix. 17. and Rom. i. 1.*) though I had not the happiness of being his disciple, and seeing him in his risen state upon earth; but was converted, and called to the apostleship out of the ordinary course, by a sort of untimely, like an abortive birth*.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

9 For how much soever I be now enriched, and advanced in gifts and graces, and in the honours of the apostolate; and how eminent and successful soever my labours, and sufferings have been in the execution of that office, I really am in myself, and in my own account, the very least, and most contemptible of all the apostles of Christ; yea, *less than the least of all saints*, (*Eph. iii. 8.*) utterly unworthy of any favour, much more of so high and honourable a station in the church: Nay, on the contrary, I justly deserved to have had an eternal brand of infamy set upon me; because I was all along, in the days of my unregeneracy, and blind zeal for judaism, a most obstinate unbeliever, and a most bitter enemy to, and outrageous persecutor of the church, (*Acts viii. 3. and ix. 1.*) which God has erected as a peculiar people to himself, and which he owns and blesses, and will be glorified in, and by.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but

10 But in the happy alteration, that is now made upon me, it is merely owing to the sovereign, free, and amazing favour of God, that I, who was before *an injurious person*, a blasphemer and persecutor, and on these accounts *the chief of sinners*, have obtained mercy; (*1 Tim. i. 13,—15.*) and that I am what I now am, as a believer, and as an apostle, so enriched in my own soul, and so graciously qualified for

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famous appearance of Christ to the apostles, deserved a particular recital, and was of vast importance to the argument in hand.

* *Born out of due time*, (*ωσπερ τω εντρομη*) may be called an *abortive birth*, as it was all on a sudden, at unawares, with terrible pangs, and in a way very unlike the other apostles, who were wrought upon in the more usual

method of divine grace, and were gradually trained up to their office, by personal attendances on Christ, while he was with them: And on these accounts, especially considering what a wretch the apostle had been before, he thought himself to be as despicable, as an abortive birth, and always remembered it, to keep him humble.

but the grace of God which was with me.

for his service : (2 Cor. i. 4, 5. and xi. 5.) And the gift, fruit, or effect of God's grace, which he extended to me, (*εἰς ἐμοῦ*) and conferred upon me, was not usefess, unprofitable, and vain ; (*ὅτι κενὴ ἐργασίη*) but it wrought mightily in me, so that, under a sense of his wondrous love, I laid out myself, and all my gifts and graces, in ministerial labours for Christ and his cause, and for the good of souls, more extensively, and with greater unweariedness, amidst dangers, hardships, and sufferings, among *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, than any one of all the other apostles. (*Rom. xv. 19. 2 Cor. vi. 4, 5. and xi. 23. and xii. 11.*) Nevertheless, (though I thus speak, to support my character against those that run it down) I would by no means take any praise to myself, as if I now deserved it, more than others ; no, it was not of myself, or from any excellency of my own, that I thus abundantly laboured ; but it was all owing to the continued influence of assisting grace, which attended me, to excite me to it, enable me for it, and succeed me in it * ; and therefore my obligation is the greater, to glory only in the Lord.

11 Therefore, whether it were I or they. so we preach, and so ye believed.

11 To return then from this digression concerning myself, and wind up my argument about the death and resurrection of Christ, (*ver. 3, 4.*) whether I, or *Peter*, or any other of Christ's apostles and witnesses communicated the gospel to you, and were the instruments of your conversion and edification, we all agree in preaching one and the same doctrine of a crucified and risen Redeemer, as the foundation of the whole scheme of the gospel ; and ye professed to approve of, consent to, and receive it, and to depend upon Christ alone, according to it, for all salvation, as I trust ye also did in sincerity and truth ; and as ye must and will continue to do, unless ye have believed in vain. (*ver. 2.*)

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you, that there is no resurrection of the dead?

12 Now if Christ be preached, with all this uncontrollable evidence of certainty, (*ver. 5,—8.*) that he, who was crucified unto death, is risen again, and *that* as the Head of the church, to an immortal and glorious life. according to the scriptures ; (*ver. 3, 4.*) and if this is what ye yourselves believed ; (*ver. 11.*)

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* *Grace* is three times mentioned in this verse ; but seems to carry a different sense in each of them. In the *first*, it signifies the *free love and favour* of God, as the original source of all spiritual and saving benefits, according to the primary and most usual acceptance of the word : In the *second*. I take it to mean the *effects* of his favour, in the gifts and gra-

ces of the Spirit, as in *Eph. iv. 7.* and 2 *Pet. iii. 18.* : And in the *third*, it may import those *continued aids and assistances* of divine grace that were with the apostle to excite, and enable him to improve what it had bestowed upon him, to the glory of God, and the good of the church, and that were *sufficient for him*, according to 2 *Cor. i. 12.* and *xii. 9.*

11.) How absurd is it for any of you, or what room can there be for any false teachers, that have rose up among you, and pretend to bear the Christian name, to assert * that there neither is, nor can be, a real and proper resurrection of dead bodies to eternal life?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen.

13 But if there really be no such thing as a resurrection of the dead, then it must be affirmed, directly contrary to the plainest matter of fact, that Christ himself is not risen from the dead; since, if he is actually risen, it must be absolutely false, that there is no resurrection; and if there shall be no resurrection of others to eternal life, then it is certain that Christ did not rise, as a public head, or as the earnest and pledge, pattern, cause, and *first-fruit of them that sleep in him.* (ver. 20.)

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

14 And if Christ be not actually risen, and that as a public person, then all that we his apostles, and multitudes of others (ver. 6.) say about it, and all that we build, in our preaching, upon it; and indeed the whole gospel of salvation, which we deliver, is (κενον) mere empty, idle talk, without truth or foundation, and not worth regarding; and even your own faith in him, who, according to that notion, is himself supposed to be overcome by death, is insignificant and ineffectual, (κενη) a poor empty conceit, that has nothing in it, but must be frustrated at last.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God, that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

15 Nay, on this supposition, we, who unanimously declare, that we have seen him alive after his passion; we, who cheerfully stand to it, at the hazard of all that is dear to us in this world, and even of life itself, and without any prospect of happiness hereafter, if what we say is false; we, who have always maintained an approved character for integrity and honesty; all, and every one of us, must be deemed, and stand convicted, as the most impious and abandoned wretches, that have forged a lie for God, and knowingly published a downright falsehood in his name; because we have witnessed concerning God, (κατα τὴν Θεῶν) and professed to do it from him, by his authority, in obedience to his command, and with divine miracles

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N O T E.

* The words, *some of you*, or *some among you* (τινὲς ἐν υμῖν) may refer either to some of the *Corinthian church*, or to some of their new teachers, that had come among them; and their notion seems to have been, that a resurrection is *impossible*; or that if Christ rose, it was not in a *public capacity*: Without the last of these suppositions, the apostle's argument for the resurrection of others, from Christ's being actu-

ally risen, is inconclusive; since it was possible that he might rise from the dead, though no other person were to rise besides him. I have therefore considered the argument, in the following verses, under both these views, agreeable to his grand design, which is to prove the *possibility*, and the *certainty* of a resurrection to eternal life, and that of Christ rose, as the *head* and *first-fruit* of believers. See the note on ver. 22.

to confirm our testimony, that he loosed the pains of death, and raised Christ up to a glorious and immortal life, in token of his having accepted of his sufferings and death, as an atoning sacrifice for sin: Whereas he, in reality, did not raise up Christ from the dead, in case a true and proper resurrection of the body be in itself impossible; nor did he raise him up in a public character, as the Head of the church, if his members are not to rise after him, and in virtue of his resurrection.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

16 For it is manifest, as I said but now, (*ver.* 13.) that if there be no resurrection of the dead at all, and no other persons are to rise to eternal life, it must inevitably follow, that Christ himself neither is, nor could be raised, either in a private, or public capacity.

17 And if Christ be not raised your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

17 And if it were true, that Christ still continues under the power of death, all your own faith in him is not only insignificant and empty, as has been observed; (*ver.* 14.) but it is also (*μαλακία*) a foolish thing in you, as foolish as the unbelieving *Greeks* themselves can account it, (*chap.* i. 23.) to expect any benefit from his crucifixion, or from any part of the Christian scheme, which is founded upon it: Whatever ye may flatter yourselves with the hopes of from him, ye are still under the guilt and power of your sins, condemned and exposed to the eternal wrath of God for them; since they could not be taken away by the sacrifice of Christ, could not be pardoned through faith in his blood, nor subdued through his merit; unless, having satisfied divine justice by his death, he rose again for your justification. (*Rom.* iv. 21.)

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ, are perished.

18 The dreadful consequence of this must also be, that those, who not only lived, but died in the faith of Christ, in the nearest union with him, and in the hope of eternal life through him, and even suffered martyrdom for his sake; and whose bodies sleep in the grave under his special care, and with peculiar relation to him; all these are perishing without remedy, and for ever lost, and disappointed of their hopes in, and from him*: A most shocking thought, and the greatest discouragement

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* The nature of the apostle's argument in several parts of this chapter, and particularly in this verse to the 23d, leads us to understand him as speaking against the *Sadducean* notion (*Acts* xxiii. 8) of the non existence of spirits, and of a future state of happiness as well as against their and the *Greek* philosophers denial of the resurrection of the body:

For otherwise there might be a happiness to the *soul* in the next world, abundantly sufficient to compensate for all the tribulations that believers suffer in the body, for the sake of Christ in this world; and so they might not be of *all men most miserable*, even though the body were not to rise again. (See also the note on *Matth.* xxii. 32.)

discouragement imaginable to all survivors from putting any further trust or confidence in him!

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

19 For it, after all that we have believed concerning Christ, and all the dependence we have had on him, and all the self-denials, mortifications, persecutions, and sufferings we have submitted to for his sake; if after all this, and even while we are enduring these hardships, we have no prospect of happiness, nor shall ever receive any benefit from Christ, beyond the present life, we Christians, and especially we ministers of the gospel, who are most of all exposed to every kind of tribulation, torture, and death, on his account, must be in the most wretched condition of all men whatsoever, and ought to be pitied as the most silly and deluded creatures on the face of the earth; since, on that supposition, we part with many conveniences, delights, and advantages of this life, which we might otherwise enjoy; and yet have nothing substantial or real, in their stead, at present, nor can have any after recompense for all the losses and troubles, which we might easily have avoided, were it not for our conscientious attachment to Christ and his gospel.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.

20 But there is not the least room for any of these formidable suppositions, and inferences from them; since it is certain, as has been fully proved, (*ver.* 3,—8.) that Christ is now actually risen, in consequence of his having died, and satisfied for our sins; and so, as *the first-born*, and *first-begotten from the dead*, and *the first-born among many brethren*. (*Col.* i. 18. and *Rev.* i. 5. and *Rom.* viii. 29.) he is not only the first in order of *time**, that rose to immortal life, never to die any more, (*Act.* xiii. 34.) and the *chief in dignity*, who, as the Head of the church, rose by his own power; but is also become the *earnest, pledge, and assurance* of a consequent resurrection of all those to eternal life, who have departed in the faith †, and whose bodies sleep in a state of union

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* Those that were raised by *Elijah* sleep in Christ, and have hope in him, and *Elisba*, and by our Lord himself, on the days of his ministry on earth, died a gain, and so were no instances of a resurrection to *eternal life*; and whatever became of the bodies of those saints, that rose and came out of their graves, consequent to his death, and went into the holy city, we are told, that this astonishing event was *after* Christ's resurrection. (*Matth.* xxvii. 52, 53.)

† This manifestly relates only to the resurrection of believers, of whom Christ is *the first-fruit*, and who are spoken of, *ver.* 18. 19. as those that are *fallen a-*

And these are said (*1 Thes.* iv. 13, 14) to *sleep in Jesus*, in opposition to those, of whom there is *no hope*. Sleeping is a soft term for *death*, and is most frequently used to express the death of *believers*, though sometimes of *men* in general, because the whole human race shall have an awaking time. (*1 Jan.* xii. 2) but the death of no other creatures, is ever described by *sleeping*, because they die never to awake again; and to this notion of death carries a hint of the resurrection of the body.

with him; (*ver.* 18.) even as the first-fruits under the law, (*Lev.* xxiii. 9,—14.) that were dedicated to, and accepted of God, sanctified the whole harvest, and were a pledge and assurance of its being blessed, and gathered, in its season. (See the notes on *Rom.* viii. 23. and xi. 16.)

21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

21 For because, (*παρὰ τὴν γὰρ*) by one man's eating the forbidden fruit, (*Gen.* ii. 17.) death and ruin were brought upon the whole human race, inclusive of God's own chosen people, they being *by nature, children of wrath, even as others*; (*Eph.* ii. 3.) therefore God, in his infinite wisdom and grace, has ordered, that a resurrection to eternal life should also be brought in, by Jesus Christ, to all believers in him, who, though *the Lord from heaven*, (*ver.* 47.) was nevertheless truly and properly man, that a blessed immortality might be regained by the very nature, which had sinned it away.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

22 For as by the sin of the first *Adam*, in whom all his natural offspring were comprehended, as in their common parent and covenant-head, every one of them, are brought under the law of mortality, and subjected to all miseries and death, even unto the loss of the eternal happiness, which they otherwise would have enjoyed; (*Rom.* v. 12, 14, 21. see the notes there) so, by another covenant-constitution, not only the souls of all true believers in Christ, that are partakers of a spiritual nature from him, shall live for ever *; but every one of their dead bodies also, shall be quickened to an immortal life of glory and blessedness, through the merit of his death, and the power of his resurrection, and by his Spirit which dwells in them, (*Rom.* viii. 19.) in virtue of their union with him, and being comprehended in him, that they may reign in life by him. (*Rom.* v. 17.)

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, afterwards they

23 But every one, (*καταστος*) Christ and each of his members, is, or shall be partaker of this glorious benefit in the time, season, rank, and order, that is fit and proper for them respectively; Christ himself, who

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* The *all, that shall be made alive in Christ*, cannot mean all the individuals of mankind; because the resurrection, all along here spoken of, is represented as an exceeding great benefit, which the resurrection of the wicked cannot be supposed to be to them; and, in the very next verse, it is interpreted, as relating only to those that are Christ's, and of whom he is *the first-fruit*, as he had been called also, *ver.* 20. (See the notes on that verse.) Accordingly the whole current of the following discourse

shews, that the apostle speaks only of a resurrection to a *blessed and glorious* immortality, which is expressed in a variety of the strongest terms, and is issued in a declaration, that thereby is *brought to pass that saying, Death is swallowed up in victory*; and in a joyful triumph over death and the grave; (*ver.* 41,—57.) neither of which can be applied to the wicked by any considering mind. But *all dying in Adam*, evidently shews, that they *all sinned in him*. (*Rom.* v. 12.)

they that are Christs, at his coming.

who is to be considered as the *first-fruit*, which always preceded the full harvest, is already risen as a public head, representative, and pattern, to insure the future resurrection of all his members; and, when he shall come to judgment at the last day, those that were given of the Father to him, and are his special property, redeemed by his blood, and implanted by faith into him, all these shall also be raised, after his glorious likenets and example, to be for ever with him. (*Phil.* iii. 21. and *1 Thejj.* iv. 14, &c.)

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority, and power.

24 Then shall be the end of this world, and of all the vicissitudes, temptations, sins, and sorrows, that believers now groan under; as also the end of all those ordinances, and means of grace, and ministerial assistances of men and angels, which they now stand in need of; and then shall be (*τελος*) the consummation of the present mode of Christ's administering the affairs of providence and grace, in this sinful world, as also the perfection of the happiness of the saints; and so the joyful end will come, which they are looking, longing, and hoping for: And then our Lord Jesus, as man and mediator, having fully executed the whole scheme of his dispensatory kingdom*, for which all power was given to him after his resurrection, (*Matth.* xxviii. 18. and *Phil.* ii. 9, &c.) will deliver up (*παραδω*) his commission, trust, and charge, to God the Father, from whom he received it; and will present all his members together as a glorious church. (*Eph.* v. 27.) All this he will do after he shall have abolished every form of civil and ecclesiastical government, as they now subsist in this world, and all the authority and power, that either men or devils have usurped and exercised over their respective subjects, and in opposition to him, and to his people and cause.

25 For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

25 For, according to the decree, promise, and commission of God the Father, and his agreement with the Son, (*Psal.* cx. 1.) he in his human nature, and office-capacity, must needs continue to sit in majesty and glory at the Father's right hand, and to reign

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* Christ's *delivering up the kingdom to God the Father*, no more proves that he will in all respects cease to be a King, or to have any further reign or dominion, than the Father's delivering the kingdom to the Son, proves that the Father himself then ceased to be a King, and parted with his own rule and dominion over all. Vid. *Par.* in loc. Christ's *natural* and *essential* kingdom, which he has in common with the Father and Spirit, as *God*, will have no end; and

he, in his human nature, will wear the honour of his office, and of all his mediatorial performances, and of their secure and abiding effects and consequences; and will live in a state of superior authority and glory, like the Head of the church, for ever and ever; and therefore in these respects, his throne and kingdom shall never pass away, or be destroyed. (*Dan.* vii. 14. *Luke* i. 33. *Heb.* i. 8. and *Rev.* xi. 15.)

reign, as a king upon his throne, in the exercise of universal dominion over all persons, causes, and things, until his Father (*ver.* 27.) shall have thoroughly performed his engagement to him, of bringing down all his, and his church's enemies, both temporal and spiritual of every kind, and shall have placed them in absolute and actual subjection to him, like captives of war, that are trampled under the conqueror's feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed in death.

26 And as the last enemy, that believers have to grapple with, and are often most afraid of, but after which they have nothing farther to fear, is *death*, which separates their bodies from their souls, and from an enjoyment of Christ in all his glory; *this* shall be entirely overcome and abolished, that it may not always reign over them, or detain them under its power, and hinder the complete felicity of their whole persons; but this can be in no other way, than by raising their dead bodies to an immortal life.

27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted which did put all things under him.

27 Christ, I say, must reign in his mediatorial kingdom, till this, and all other enemies be entirely subdued: For God the Father made a universal grant of all things to be subjected to him, and has given *him to be the head over all things to the church.* (*Eph.* i. 22.) But when he speaks, by David, (*Psal.* viii. 6.) with an ultimate reference to his incarnate Son, (*Heb.* ii. 8.) of all things universally, as placed under his empire and controul, it is evident from the nature of things, and from the context of the passage now quoted, that *all things* mean only all *creatures*; and that the Father himself, who delegated this power and authority to him, as his vicegerent in human nature, is to be excepted out of the number of those all things, that are put under him.

28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

28 And when the whole design of this commitment of all office-power to him shall be fully accomplished, and the dispensatory kingdom shall be brought to its period, as having attained all its special ends and purposes, in the actual, complete, and final conquest of all his, and his church's enemies, and in the gathering of all the elect into his kingdom, as a willing people, that, in the day of his power, voluntarily subjected themselves to him; (*Psal.* cx. 3.) then also the Son, as the constituted Mediator, and ruler over all, shall resign up his office-government, in all the forms of its present administration, and in that peculiar capacity, in which he assumed and exercised it; and as there will then be no further need of his interposing, after the manner he now doth, in the mediatorial way, he will also surrender up himself, together with the whole church, to the Father's disposal, with respect to the honours that he shall wear,

as man, and the head of the body, and with respect to all the blessedness, which they shall eternally enjoy and be confirmed in, with and under him, in virtue of, and in recompense for all the services and sufferings, which he fulfilled in the execution of his commission; that all things, on the foot of his finished mediation, may return to their original and natural order, in which, not the Father singly and alone*; but God *essentially* considered, inclusive of the Father, Son, and Spirit, and of all the perfections of the Godhead, which are common to the sacred Three, will be the immediate fountain of dominion, and of all divine emanations and communications of glory and blessedness to all the saints, and to the man Christ Jesus himself, at the head of them; and will manage all the affairs of his heavenly kingdom, in a more immediate way, from thenceforth for ever.

29 Else what shall they do, which are baptized for the dead. if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

29 But, to return to the main argument in hand, the denial of a future state of happiness, and of the resurrection of the bodies of the saints to eternal life, (see the note on *ver.* 18.) subverts all the good purposes of your Christian profession, which ye entered into by baptism: For what will become of those believers, who are baptized in the name of Christ, on account of the hope they have, through him, of a blessed resurrection, after they themselves shall be numbered among the dead, and who are the rather induced thereto, by what they have seen, or heard of the faith, patience, and Christian heroism of those saints and martyrs, that have died triumphantly in full assurance of such a resurrection? If in reality there be no rising again to eternal life, to what purpose are they baptized for the sake of this hope, and of this further inducement, relating to the dead †? Or, on this supposition,

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* As it cannot be supposed, that the Father divested himself of all his authority and influence, when the immediate management of them was committed to the incarnate Son, as Mediator and Head of the church; so it is not to be supposed, in any consistence with the rights of Deity, that the Son and Spirit, as God together with the Father, shall have no share or partnership with him in the government of all things, and in the emanations of blessedness in the heavenly state, when the present administration of affairs shall be delivered up by the Son, which in his office-capacity, according to a settled economy for a certain season, he received all his authority for, from the Father: Accordingly it is very observable, that though the apostle

had expressly mentioned *God even the Father*, as the person to whom Christ gave up the kingdom, which he received from him; (*ver.* 24. see the note there) yet he here speaks of *God absolutely*, without the *personal* restriction, as *all in all*.

† There are so many intricate and perplexed interpretations given of this very difficult and obscure passage, which may be seen in the generality of expositors, and are examined at large in *Dr. Edwards's* enquiry into four difficult texts, pag. 137.—208.; and in *Fortuina Sacra*, pag. 137.—150. that I think it would answer no valuable end, to trouble the reader with them: The views I have given of it in the paraphrase, seem to me to be the most natural, and unexceptionable,

position, what good end can be answered to them by their being baptized, and so becoming professed Christians, in the stead of those believers, that are dead and gone? It is all an insignificant, trifling, and fruitless thing.

30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

30 And if there be no ground of hope, but that we die never to live more, How weak and senseless is it for us Christians, and especially for us the apostles and ministers of Christ, to expose ourselves continually to the greatest losses, hazards, and tribulations for his sake, and in hope of living with him in glory?

31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

31 As to my own part, I solemnly declare, and am not ashamed to own, that as surely as I rejoice with you in all the joy which ye have in Christ, our only Lord and Saviour, and in the success of my ministry, by means of which ye have been brought to rejoice in him *, and as surely as the Holy Spirit lives, who is the author of all this joy; so I stand ready, and expect every day, to suffer all the miseries and tortures, that can be inflicted on me, even unto death itself, in hope of a blessed resurrection; I am, in this view, weaned from life, and often familiarize to myself the thoughts of dying; and scarce a day passes, in which I am not in danger of suffering martyrdom for Christ. (*Acts* xxiii. 6. and xxiv. 21. *2 Cor.* iv. 11, 12. and xi. 23.)

32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.

32 And if, according to the custom of men now-a-days, who throw condemned criminals to the wild and ravenous beasts at *Ephesus*, to be devoured, or to contend with them for victory, I have been exposed to the most terrible and dangerous conflicts with savage and brutal enemies, in the outrageous troubles that have befallen me there, as well as elsewhere, for the sake of Christ, What a rash and foolish part have I acted †; Or were I to be actually exposed, for

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tionable, of any that I have met with, in full consistence with the sense of the preposition. (*ὕπερ*) which signifies *because*, or *by reason of*, or *for the sake of*, as in *2 Cor.* xii. 10. *Phil.* i. 19. *Col.* i. 24. and *2 Thes.* i. 5. and at others, *in the stead of*, as in *2 Cor.* v. 10. and *Philem* ver. 13. Or, perhaps, the sense may be this, if the dead rise not, what will become of those infants of believing parents that are baptized for their sakes, after they were dead, by virtue of their covenant privileges which they were entitled to, though their parents died before they were baptized; and so it is somewhat like Christ's argument, from

the covenant with *Abraham*, for the resurrection. (*Matth* xxii. 31, 32.)

* As I protest by your rejoicing (*Ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρᾳ καυχασίᾳ*) is a sort of solemn oath; if we conceive of it in this form, it naturally leads us to consider the apostle as swearing by the Holy Ghost, the author of this joy.

† Some suppose that the apostle was actually engaged in combating with wild beasts in the theatre at *Ephesus*; others, that he was condemned to it, or in danger of it, though he escaped it; and others, that he only had conflicts with persons of as fierce and furious a temper, as wild beasts. But, not being certain

for my religion, to the wild beasts upon the theatre at *Ephesus*, which I am prepared for, if it be the will of God, what possible benefit could I promise myself, or expect to reap, from such an extremely shocking and perilous adventure, if in reality there is no life after this, and no resurrection to a better state? (See the notes on *ver.* 19, and 22.) If this indeed were the case, then even let you and I, and all others that profess the faith of Christ, lay aside all further thoughts of running any risk, or suffering any troubles, on account of religion; and let us, like the *Epicurean* part of the world, and according to their licentious maxims, indulge ourselves in eating and drinking, and in all sensual pleasures, as long as we can: For, upon this supposition, we, in a very little time, perhaps before to-morrow, must die like the brute, and there is an end of us for ever.

33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

33 But take heed of being cheated, and imposed upon, by artful and designing seducers, that would draw you into such pernicious errors, as are subversive, not only of the foundations of Christianity, but of all morality too: Remember that frequency, familiarity, and intimacy of conversation with men of such a perverse, atheistical and luxurious turn, have a sad tendency and influence, to corrupt your minds and morals, by insensibly moulding them into their own temper and ways, to the destruction of all that is virtuous and religious, and of all that is really good for this world, and especially for that to come.

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

34 Be sober then, (*επισημνωσθε*) and rouse up, as ye ought, all the reasonable powers, and gracious principles of your souls, to judge (*δικαιως*) righteously and truly, concerning the important point I am speaking of, and to live in a just and holy manner, according to it; and take heed of being led into gross mistakes, and sinful practices, as their consequence, by the

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certain which might be the truth of the case, I have left it undetermined. The curious reader may consult, on the first state of the question, Dr. *Whitby*; on the second, Dr. *Hammond*; and on the third, the learned *Grotius*. Mr. *Pyle* makes the construction of *if I have fought*, (*ει εδρημαχησα*) to be *if I had fought* with beasts at *Ephesus*, according to the latitude of the *tense*. so natural to the *Hebrew* and *Helenistick* languages; and this, as he observes, saves the critics all their needless pains of recurring to another fight, and miraculous deliverance of St. Paul at *Ephesus*, grounded only on uncertain traditions; and he thinks

it shews this passage plainly to refer to *Acts* xix. 30. 31. Accordingly I have drawn this sense into the paraphrase; though as *Acts* xix. 30, 31. relates to what is generally thought to have been done, after the writing of this epistle, I should rather choose to make what is here said to refer to some former troubles, that the apostle met with at *Ephesus*, which he may be supposed to include, among others, in the *troubles which came on him in Asia, even to the despairing of life*, 2 Cor. i. 8, 9. See also Bishop *Fell's* *Oxford* notes on this 32d verse.

the error of the wicked: For, as I perceive by the objections, that have been made against the doctrine of a resurrection to eternal life, and by the spirit, with which they are urged, there are some false teachers among you, that are strangers to the true knowledge of God and his perfections, and of his mind and will, according to the gospel-revelation; and that either do, or would live, as if they had no notion at all of a divine being, and a future state. This is really a horrid disgrace to any that bear the Christian name; and I mention it as a matter of just reproach upon your new teachers, and with a hope of bringing those of you to an ingenuous humbling sense of the shameful part ye have acted, who have given them any countenance or encouragement, so directly contrary to the whole tenor of the gospel of Christ, which ye have professed to believe, and build all your hopes upon. I heartily wish, that both one and the other may take shame to themselves before God, in their reflections upon it.

35 But some man will say. How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

35 But some, to puzzle the cause, and load it with pretended absurdities, will object, How, or by what means, is it possible for dead bodies to rise again to life, after they have rotted in the grave, and their dust is scattered about, and intermingled with that of many other bodies*? Or, if it should be supposed a possible thing, With what sort of bodies will they come forth alive out of their graves? Shall it be with such animal, earthly, and frail bodies as they now are? Or shall it be with any other shape and capacities? What form can any one imagine them to be raised in, which may make them fit for a supposed re-union with glorified souls, that they may be agreeable and advantageous, and not a clog and hindrance to them, as they are in the present state, in which the soul is embarrassed, and as it were buried in the body?

36 Thou fool, that which thou lowest is not quickened except it die.

36 Whosoever he be that would overthrow this important doctrine, by raising difficulties about it, which he thinks cannot be answered, whether he be a free-thinking *Sadducee*, or a *Gentile* philosopher, I would say to him †, Thou inconsistent rationalist, and foolish philosopher, you not only *err*, as *not knowing the*

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* Here are two objections; the first, may be applied to the confutation of if I mistake not, relates to the *possibility* both. of the thing itself; the second to the *manner* of it; and the apostle's answer is calculated to obviate both. He more directly replies to the first, in *ver.* 36; and to the other, in *ver.* 37, 38; and then carries on the argument in the following verses after such a manner as

† The apostle says, *Thou fool*, not with bitterness of spirit to revile him, but with a good intent to convince him of his dangerous error, and to shew him the folly of it; and therefore this is not what our Lord condemns in *Matth.* v. 22. See the note on *Luke* xxiv. 25.

the scriptures, nor the power of God; (Matth. xxii. 29.) but you act a very irrational part, in setting up your own understanding against the wisdom and power of God; in not attending to what common observation, and philosophy itself might suggest to you; and in objecting as though things could not be, unless you could explain how they may be: Such sort of objections might as reasonably be urged against several of the plainest things in nature, which we cannot account for, as against this sublime point of revelation, and may in part be answered, and illustrated by them; as for instance, There is, *in fact*, a sort of corn, which, when you sow it in the earth, does not spring up, and come to maturity, unless it be first rotted and purified there; so that it revives after it was dead; yea, dies that it may live again: And cannot that God, who yearly produces this effect, as easily raise dead bodies to life, after they have been buried, and corrupted in the grave?

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain.

37 And as to *the manner* of your corn's afterward coming forth, and the *different form* it then appears in; we may daily observe, that the small seed, which you sowed, was not the same in its gay furniture and rich variety of clothing, when you committed it to the earth, as it is, when it revives, shoots, and grows up out of it, *First with the blade, then with the ear, and after that with the full corn;* (Mark iv. 28.) but it is sown naked grain, in its own natural substance, stripped of all those beauties, ornaments, and improvements, with which it is afterward produced; whether it be, for example, a grain of wheat *, or of some other corn, that dies in like manner, before it lives again.

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

38 But when it rises from under the clods by the power of vegetation, which it receives from the God of nature, he gives it such a body, of the same substance and kind, though different in its form and qualities, as he has appointed to it, and sees fit to clothe it with, suitable to its own species; and gives to every different sort of grain such a body, with all its improvements, raised out of itself, as is proper, and peculiar to its own nature; so that what was sown wheat rises wheat. This is indeed a great mystery in nature; and gives us a lively image of a glorious resurrection to life.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but

39 Nor is it to be wondered at, that, out of the very same materials, a body of vastly different qualities,

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* It is with great propriety that the apostle instances in a grain of *wheat*, as our Lord also did to illustrate his own death, and the advantageous consequen-

ces of it, *John* xii. 24.; since there are very few sorts of grain that die in the ground, before they spring up, as the *wheat* does. See the note on that verse.

but *there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.*

39 *There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.*

40 *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

ties, from what it had before, should be produced by the almighty power of God; since we have further instances in nature, that may help to illustrate it*. There are, we know, different sorts of flesh in the world: All, that we call *flesh*, is not of one and the same kind; but there is one sort of flesh, that composes the bodies of *men*; another, of *cattle*; another, of *fishes*; (Lev. xi. 11.) and another, of *fowls*, which, though various in their degrees of excellence, are all formed out of the same original matter, by the wisdom and power of God; though none knows how it is, that these several sorts of flesh are diversified in their qualities, or what contexture of particles it is, that causes the difference, which the great Creator has made between them.

40 And there are, as we all see, other bodies of different forms: There are some *heavenly* luminaries, that appear in the huge expanse of the firmament; and there are innumerable other bodies *inanimate*, as well as *animate*, that present themselves to our view all around us upon earth: But the beauty and the qualities of these are evidently very different; the glory of the *heavenly* bodies is of one sort, and the glory of the *earthly* bodies is of another; *that* being much more refined, and making a more glittering appearance, than the other: And the difference between a clod of earth, and the brightest luminary in the visible heavens, is like that between the present, and the future state of the bodies of the blessed.

41 Yea, even among the *heavenly* bodies themselves, there are different degrees of lustre and magnificence: There is one glory of the *Sun*, which shines, with the brightest rays, by its own native light; and there is another glory of the *Moon*, which borrows its light, by reflection, from the sun, and is of a fainter kind; and there is another glory of the other planets, or *wandering stars*, and of the *fixed stars*; for *the stars* themselves differ in glory; the *fixed stars* shining, like the sun, by their own innate light, and the *wandering stars*, like the moon, by reflected and borrowed light: These are bodies of very different splendour; and yet they were all formed out of the same original mass, which mass itself was created out of nothing, by the mighty power of God,

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* The apostle's reasoning appears to me very conspicuous, if we take the following instances to relate to the difference, that is made between the *present* and the *glorified* state of the bodies of the saints, as that of the *corn* relates to their

rising again with a beauty and glory, vastly surpassing all that it ever had before: But I am otherwise at a loss to see the propriety and design of his introducing these instances, or what connection they have with the preceding.

God, though we cannot conceive *how*. (*Gen. i. 1, &c.*)

42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption:

42 To apply all this to the argument in hand, with respect to glorified bodies at the resurrection from the dead, the same divine wisdom and power, which, in ways unknown to us, make the corn spring up with different beauty and improvement, from what it had, when it was sown, and after it had died in the earth; and that God, who has produced different sorts of flesh, and of earthly and heavenly bodies, out of the same original matter, and knew how to make different sortments and modifications of its particles for that purpose, can doubtless distinguish and separate the proper dust of each human body; and can work such glorious alterations upon its present state, and endue it with such inconceivably excellent qualities, as shall make it a fit and desirable companion for the soul; though we know not *how*. It, like the seed sown in the earth*, is placed in this world a frail mortal body, and is laid into, and buried in the grave, subject to putrefaction; but it shall be raised again free from all corruptibility, dissolution, or decay; immortal, never to die more. (*Luke xx. 35, 36.*)

43 It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power:

43 Whilst it is in this lower world, it is a poor, mean, contemptible thing, liable to deformity and defilement, and needs a covering of some parts, which cannot be exposed without shame; (*chap. xii. 23.*) and when it comes to die, and be laid in the earth, it is a loathsome carcase, and still more than ever the body of our humiliation: But it shall be raised again a beautiful and splendid body, adorned with heavenly qualities, and shining, like the sun and fixed stars, for ever and ever; (*Mat. xiii. 43. and Dan. xii. 3.*) yea, like unto Christ's glorious body. (*Phil. iii. 21.*) It subsists in this world a feeble, infirm, and crazy body, liable to sickness, pain, weariness, faintings, and death, incapable of defending itself from the innumerable evils and dangers that surround it, and too weak to hold out with a willing mind in the lively exercises of reason and religion; (*Matth.*

xxvi.

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* There appears to be considerable weight in Mr. *Locke's* observation, that the time of man's being in this world is his being *sown*, and not when, being dead, he is put into the grave; because dead things are not sown; seeds are sown being alive, and die not till after they are sown: And this I apprehend best agrees with the apostle's calling it a *natural* or *animal* body, (*ψυχικόν*)

ver. 44. But yet as laying, and burying the body in the earth, most naturally bears the resemblance of sowing seed; and as the body is much more remarkable for its *corruption, weakness, and dishonour*, after, than before it dies, I would not exclude a consideration of its state and condition, when it dies and is laid in the grave.

xxvi. 41.) and it is laid in the dust weaker still, utterly defenceless, and an easy prey, even to the worms : (*Job* xix. 26.) But it shall be raised again with such vigorous, strong, and healthy qualities, as will set it above the reach of inward infirmity, and outward mischief or danger ; and as will enable it to keep pace with the glorified soul, and to execute its will, and join with it in all its noble operations and employments, without weariness or fainting ; and to sustain, without the least uneasiness, the *exceeding and eternal weight of glory*, that shall be put upon it. (*2 Cor.* iv. 17.)

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

44 It is brought into, and subsists in this world a merely animal body, (*ψυχικόν*) that is maintained, recruited, and refreshed by food and drink, sleep and air, and has only a sensitive life, like the bodies of brutes ; and, through failure of nourishment by these means, this animal part of man is laid senseless in the grave : But it shall be raised with a much more refined contexture, and endued with such spiritual qualities, as not to need any of these animal refreshments ; (*chap.* vi. 13.) it will be possessed and actuated by the Holy Spirit, who shall raise it from the dead ; (*Rom.* viii. 11.) and will be animated and supported immediately by the soul, without the use of those means that are now necessary for it ; and it will be of so nimble and active a nature, as resembles that of spirits, and is like the angels of God. (*Luke* xx. 36.) As there is a difference between the glory of one, and another sort of earthly and heavenly bodies, in this visible creation ; (*ver.* 39, 40, 41.) so there is an animal body, that is a constituent part of human nature in its present state, and is laid down in the dust ; and there is a sort of rarified body, with more spiritual qualities, which belongs to the human nature of the saints in the celestial world.

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickning spirit.

45 And both these are answerable to their respective originals. Thus it is written, (*Gen.* ii. 7.) of the first man *Adam*, the common Father, and public head of all his posterity, that he was made of an animal frame, and endued with a soul, which gave a natural or sensitive life to his body, and communicated the like to all those, that descend from him : But Christ, who may be called the *last Adam*, as he was the second and last public person and covenant-head of all his seed, is possessed of a quickning spirit, as he *has life in himself*, and *quickens* (*ζωοποιεῖ*) whom he will ; (*John* v. 21, 26.) and so conveys a spiritual and immortal life to the bodies of the saints at the resurrection, by his spirit that dwells in them. (*Rom.* viii. 11.)

46 Howbeit, that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly.

46 However, the method, way, and order of God's operation is, that as this spiritual and immortal state of the risen body is, in all respects, more excellent and glorious, than that animal state, in which it is born into, continues in, and dies out of this world; so this spiritual body is not that, which we are first of all partakers of; but we are first endued with an animal body here, and shall be clothed with a spiritual body at the resurrection of the just hereafter; and the like may be observed with respect to the first and last *Adam*; God herein acting according to his usual course in the works of nature, and of grace, which is to begin with the less perfect products, and carry them on to those that are more perfect.

47 The first man *Adam* was formed, as to his body, out of the dust of the ground, (*Gen. ii. 7.*) and so was of an earthly constitution; * and, by virtue of the covenant made with him, he and his seed were to have enjoyed God, and all their happiness, with immortality upon *earth*, in case he had stood; but by reason of the fall, he became frail and mortal; (*Gen. iii. 19.*) and forfeited all promised happiness for himself and his posterity: But as to Christ, who is fitly called the second man, because, how many generations soever passed between *Adam* and him, he was the second public head and representative; his original is of an heavenly sort, as he is not only that Lord, who is from heaven, with respect to his divine nature; but came from heaven in a way of peculiar operation and manifestation, to assume human nature; and he is the Lord, who is now in heaven with his glorified body, and will come from thence, to raise the dead bodies of the saints, and receive them to himself, that they may be for ever with him. (*John xiv. 3. and 1 Theff. iv. 16, 17.*)

48 Those therefore, whose pedigree is from the earthly man *Adam*, bear his likeness, and derive such an earthly, animal, and mortal body from him, as he himself in his fallen state had; and, on the other hand, they that are of heavenly birth, born of the Spirit, and born from above, and so are formed with heavenly dispositions for heavenly enjoyments, shall derive a spiritual, heavenly, and immortal body from this heavenly

N O T E.

* *Adam's* being of the earth, earthy, may relate, among other things, to the place where he and his descendants were to have received the reward of his obedience in a state of immortal happiness. And Christ's being the Lord from heaven, may answerably include the place to which he would raise his spiritual seed

to be blessed for ever with him; and therefore whoever are raised to heavenly blessedness, it is only in virtue of Christ's headship, and of the covenant made with him, and with them in him. See Dr. Goodwin, Vol. II. part iii. p. 42, &c.

venly Lord, such as he himself now has in his exalted state. (*Phil.* iii. 21.)

49 And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

49 And as we who believe in him, and are quickened by his spirit here, have bore the debased image of our first father and covenant-head, in an earthly, animal, sickly, and mortal state of the body, he having, after his fall, begotten children in his own likeness; (*Gen.* v. 3.) and as we shall continue to bear his despicable image in the rottenness and corruption of the grave; so our bodies will hereafter be raised to such an illustrious and heavenly state, by virtue derived from our second head, as will evidently resemble the glorious body of this heavenly Lord; that we may bear his amiable image in body as well as soul, for ever.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

50 Now, to lead you into the reason of the vast alteration, which has been represented, as to be made upon glorified bodies, I assure you, my Christian brethren, that the human body, as consisting of flesh and blood, in its present gross and animal state, which renders it weak and sluggish, decaying and mortal, is utterly unfit, and incapable to behold the divine visions, enjoy the sublime pleasures, and perform the exalted services, that constitute the glory and delight of the heavenly kingdom, for which it is to be formed at the resurrection of the just; nor is it possible that so frail and corruptible a thing as this body, till it be refined, should be equal to the entertainments and employments of that illustrious world, or be able to bear the majesty and glory of God, when we shall see him as he is, and behold him face to face. (*Matth.* v. 8. and *1 Cor.* xiii. 12. compared with *Exod.* xxxiii. 20.)

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

51 As to this refining change, which is so necessary to be made upon the bodies of the saints, before they can enter the glorious regions of immortality, observe a grand secret, which I am now going to tell you about it; a secret, which has not yet been clearly revealed, and surpasses all present comprehension; I mean that every individual believer shall not die, nor shall their bodies, like the generality of them, sleep in the grave*; for the stage of this world will not

N O T E.

* We are not to suppose that by *we shall not all sleep*, the apostle meant himself and the believers of that age; but he therein personates the whole church, or mystical body of Christ: For elsewhere, speaking of the Christians in those days, he says *their* mortal bodies should be quickened by the Spirit of God, which dwelt in them, (*Rom.* viii. 11.)

and says, including himself, *He that raised up the Lord Jesus, shall raise up us also by Jesus*: (*2 Cor.* iv. 14.) And he speaks of it as a great mistake in them, who thought, the day of Christ's second appearing was at hand; and calls those persons *deceivers*, that suggested any thing like it; he also tells the *Thessalonians*, that *there must be first a falling away*

not be cleared of its inhabitants, before Christ shall come to raise the dead, and judge the world, at the last day : But all of us, who belong to him, whether we be dead before that time or not, shall, in some unknown way, undergo a surprising and glorious alteration, which, in those that shall be then living, will be equivalent to dying and rising again, as to the purpose of refining their bodies, and making them fit for the heavenly inheritance ; that we all together may be ever with the Lord. (1 *Theff.* iv. 17.)

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, (for the trumpet shall found) and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

52 This wonderful change shall be brought about by Divine Omnipotence, in an instant, as it were (*εἰς ατομῶν*) in an atom of time, or as small a moment as can be imagined, even like that of the twinkling of a man's eye, at the final alarm, which shall be given by the voice of Christ, when he shall call forth the dead out of their graves, (*John* v. 28.) as with an exceeding loud sound of a trumpet, like what was heard at mount *Sinai* : (*Exod.* xix. 16.) For such an alarm will be given, as, for its suddenness and solemnity, will be like the sounding of a trumpet, before we are aware, to summon us to an appearance at the judgment-seat of Christ ; and then the dead bodies of the saints shall be raised to immortal life ; and whether we, who believe, be living or dead at that time, all of us shall pass under an amazing and advantageous change of the *qualities*, though not of the materials of our bodies, to fit them for the glory of the celestial world.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

53 For, in order hereunto, (*τὸ φθαρτὸν τῆς*) this very individual decaying and corruptible body, which is now liable to putrefaction, and will soon corrupt in the grave, must of necessity be new built, and formed into a state of strength and vigour, of spiritual and incorruptible qualities* : And this very body (*τὸ θνητὸν τῆς*) which is of mortal frame, and, generally speaking, shall die, must be, not a-new created, but happily altered by a proper resurrection of the same substance, and must put on the form of a glorious immortality.

54 And

N O T E S.

away, and that the *man of sin must be first revealed* ; and that he had acquainted them with these things, while he was with them, before he wrote either of his epistles to them, (2 *Theff.* ii. 1,—6.) and both these epistles are universally allowed to have been written before the first to the *Corinthians*.

* *Putting on incorruption and immortality*, is of like import with being clothed with our house from heaven.

(2 *Cor.* v. 2.) The *Seas* often spoke of the bodies of the just, as to be clothed with the light of glory ; and agreeable to this, it is said that they shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, as the stars for ever and ever, and as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (*Dan.* xii. 3. and *Matth.* xiii. 43.) We have also an emblem of this in Christ's transfiguration, *Matth.* xvii. 2. ; and in his appearance to the apostle *John*, *Rev.* i. 13.—16.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

54 And when the time comes for this corruptible body to be clothed with incorruptible glory, and for this mortal body to be immortalized; then shall that ancient prophecy be completely fulfilled, (*1st Cor. xv. 8.*) where it is written, that the formidable tyrant, Death, which has conquered and reigned over believers, together with the rest of mankind, so as to subject them to its stroke for thousands of generations, shall itself be entirely vanquished, and never have the least dominion or power afterwards over them: That last enemy, which has been such a terror to many of them, shall then be finally and totally destroyed (*ver. 26.*) for ever*; and shall be as absolutely abolished, with respect to every one of them, as if it had never been.

55 In this view of things, all real Christians may take up their joyful triumph before-hand, and sing in full assurance of faith, and with a holy contempt and defiance of death and the grave, according to what is written, *Hos. xiii. 14.* †; and may anticipate their future glorying, in which they will bravely insult over these enemies, with joy and transport, when they shall be actually raised to immortal blessedness; O death, what is now become of your malignant sting? What real harm have you ever been able to do us? Or what can you do any more against us? We despise all your venomous darts. O grave, what are all your conquests over us now come to, which you seemed to have gained with uncontrollable power, and through fear of which we were kept in bondage many times upon earth? (*1st Cor. ii. 15.*) What is now become of all your spoils, which you made of us, but are now forced to deliver up into a state of perfect liberty, never to be seized or touched by you any more?

56 The very worst and most destructive thing in death is the guilt of sin, which, unremoved, causes not only a separation of the soul and body, but of both from God; not merely for a season, but for ever. It is *this*, that fills death with all its terrors, and, like the sting of a serpent, makes it so fearfully hurtful as it is; were it not for *this*, barely dying would be of little consequence, considering what a

poor,

N O T E S.

* Dr. Whitby has shewn that *in victoria* (*ut vivat*) constantly signifies, in the *Septuagint*, for ever: But as this phrase is used in *Matth. xiii. 20.* which, as far as I understand, is the only place besides this, where it occurs in the *New Testament*; and as it is there rendered, and plainly

signifies *unto*, or *in victory*, both these senses are very consistent, and may, with great propriety, be taken into the paraphrase of this verse.

† See how exactly this answers to the *Hebrew* text, *Hos. xiii. 14.* in Dr. *Pococke's* account of that place.

poor, empty, vexatious world we live in: And that which gives such a formidable power to sin, whereby it not only subjects us to the death of the body, but transmits us to a future judgment, and to all the miseries that follow after it, is the righteous and holy law of God, armed with its curse, which condemns to endless death and destruction, as the just wages of sin. (*Rom. vi. 23.*)

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

57 But for ever blessed be the name of our gracious God, who has freed us from, and given us a complete victory over sin, the condemnation of the law, and every thing in death, through the merit and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has taken away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and redeemed us from the curse of the law, by his being made a curse for us, (*Gal. iii. 13.*) and rose again for our justification; (*Rom. iv. 25.*) and so has disarmed death of its sting, and conquered it both for himself, and us who believe in him, that he might raise our bodies from the grave to an incorruptible, unfading, and deathless inheritance of all glory and blessedness, after his example, in conformity to him, and by virtue derived from him.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, soasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

58 In reflection therefore upon, and as a practical improvement of all this, my brethren, who are thus beloved of God, and exceeding dear to me, be ye excited, animated, and encouraged to be (*ἰσχυροί*) firm and stable in the faith, hope, and holy profession of the gospel, and particularly with respect to what has been preached to you, and ye have received, about the atoning death, and resurrection of Christ, as the Head of the church, and about a glorious resurrection of the saints to eternal life through him: (*ver. 3, &c.*) Let the certain evidence ye have of the truth of all this, and of its vast importance, determine you, by divine grace, to *continue grounded and settled in the faith*, that neither the artifices of cunning men, the corruptions of your own hearts, the temptations of Satan, nor the allurements or terrors of this evil world, may ever *move you away from the hope of the gospel*: (*Col. i. 23.*) And let these delightful thoughts engage you to be constantly, perseveringly, and invariably increasing and abounding, yet more and more, in every good work, both in a way of service and suffering, which the Lord Jesus may call you to undergo for his sake, to his glory, and in obedience to his commands, while ye dwell in mortal flesh; as being fully satisfied, in consideration of the power, grace, faithfulness, and promise of God; of the meritorious death, resurrection, and intercession of Christ; and of your vital union, and covenant-relation to him, that your work of faith and labour of love shall not

be lost, or forgotten of God ; (*Heb. vi. 10.*) but that, as he will be with you, to assist and own you in it, living and dying here ; so he will crown it all, with an ample recompence, in the realms of immortal life and honour, at the resurrection of the just, (*Luke xiv. 14.*) through, and on account of the righteousness of the Lord, the Redeemer.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How confirmed, important, and delightful, are the doctrines of the atoning death of Christ, and of his resurrection, and the resurrection of the saints to eternal life through him ! The Scriptures of the Old Testament, and many faithful witnesses of the New, unite their testimony to the resurrection of our Lord from the dead ; and as surely as he rose to a glorious life, all, that are his, shall rise after him, in their proper time and order : For he is the first-fruit of them that sleep in him ; and, considering him as the *second Adam*, and covenant-head, he cannot but have as much virtue to raise them to everlasting life, as the *first Adam*, and covenant-head had, to subject them to corporal death, and all the miseries that attend it. O wonderful contrivance and operation of divine wisdom and grace, that as by man came death ; so by man, who is also the Lord from heaven, came the resurrection of the dead ! How shocking and dangerous are the absurdities of denying these fundamental articles of Christianity ! If there be no truth in these, the apostles, though humble and holy men, who owned themselves to be what they were, by the grace of God, were downright designing and wilful liars ; the death of Christ, and all our faith and hope in him are vain, and we are still under the guilt and power of our sins ; they that have died in the faith of Christ, and suffered martyrdom for his sake, are lost for ever ; and they that have been encouraged, by their example, to make a solemn profession of his name, have been wretchedly deluded ; and Christians, of all men in this world, are the most miserable, and act the most foolish part imaginable, in exposing themselves to disgrace, hardships, and dangers on his account, rather than enjoying the ease and honours, plenty and pleasures of this life, without fear of any thing after death : Farewell then all morality and religion at once. But, whatever may be suggested to the contrary, by men of corrupt minds, there is a future state of glory, and the bodies of believers shall certainly be raised to immortal life, when Christ shall have subdued the last enemy, which is death, and shall deliver up the present administration of his delegated kingdom, and be himself subject as Man and Mediator, to the Father, that every thing may revert to its original order, and God, inclusive of Father, Son, and Spirit, may be all in all heavenly blessedness. And, O how great will be the splendour and excellence of their risen bodies, beyond what they now are ! Behold a lively emblem of it in the corn, that is sown, dies, and revives again with greater gaiety and verdure ! Behold the different bodies of various kinds of flesh, and the different glory of the sun, moon, and stars among themselves, and superior to that of all earthly bodies, though they were all formed, by the power of God, out of the same original materials ! What cannot the omnipotent God, the Author of all this, raise the bodies of the saints to as much greater glory hereafter, than they appear in here, and when they are buried in the grave, as the brightest luminary in heaven outshines a very clod of earth ? One is as easy to him, as the other. They are now corruptible, mean, weak, sluggish, animal and mortal bodies, bearing the despicable image of the earthly *Adam* ; but they shall then be incorruptible, glorious, powerful, active, refined, and immortal bodies, bearing the illustrious image of Christ's glorified body. This surprising change of their present qualities is absolutely necessary to fit them for the heavenly state ; and therefore those believers that shall be alive upon earth, as well as those that shall be dead and rotten in the grave, at the second coming of Christ, shall undergo a like immortalizing and inconceivable change ; it being impossible that flesh and blood, in their present gross, corruptible, weak, and mortal condition, should inherit the kingdom of immortal glory : But when this blessed alteration shall be made upon the body, death will be thoroughly vanquished, and abolished for ever. How joyfully then may believers, in realizing anticipations, triumph over death and the grave, as conquered enemies,

enemies, disarmed of their sting, and of all their power, through the merit and victory of our Lord Jesus Christ! What thankful acknowledgments, with their whole hearts, should they render to God on this account! And how should they, in assured prospects of all this, be animated to the utmost stedfastness, and perseverance in Christ's ways; and go on with holy resolution and courage in his strength, and aboundings in his work; as knowing that their labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

C H A P. XVI.

The apostle gives orders to the church about a collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem, 1,—4. Mentions his design of making them a visit, 5,—9. Recommends Timothy to them, and encourages their hopes of seeing Apollos in due time, 10,—12. Exhorts them to watchfulness and stedfastness in faith and love, and to shew a becoming respect to Stephanas and his family, and to all his fellow-labourers, 13,—18. Sends Christian salutations from himself and others; and concludes with a solemn admonition, benediction, and assurance of his own love to them, 19,—24.

TEXT.

NOW concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

² Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

PARAPHRASE.

AS to the charitable collection, that has been desired of you, for the poor Christians, who, through public calamities, and their sufferings for the gospel, are reduced to extreme necessity in *Judea* and *Jerusalem*, (ver. 3.) I would give the same direction to you, as I have to the churches of Christ in the province of *Galatia*, who readily fell in with it, and whose generous example will, I trust, stir up a noble emulation in you; since ye so far exceed them in temporal riches, as well as in spiritual gifts. (See the notes on *chap. iv. 8.* and *2 Cor. viii. 2.*)

² As ye, according to universal custom in all New Testament churches, constantly meet together for religious worship, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, every first day of the week, which is by way of eminence *the Lord's day*; (see the notes on *John xx. 26.* and *Acts xx. 7.*) and as that is proper time for works of charity, my advice to you is, that every one, who is in any capacity for it, would from week to week freely separate, and lay by him, certain proportions of his worldly substance for this charitable use, and (*ἑταυριζων*) put them into the common stock on that day, as a treasure for the poor, and a treasure that will turn to his own best account; and let this be done according to the revenue of his estate, or according to the gains by business and labour, which God has given him, be it more or less, the week before; that so, when I may have opportunity of coming to you, the contributions may be ready

ready collected, and there may be no need for me to excite you to them then, or to wait for their being brought together.

3 And when I come, whomsoever you shall approve by *your* letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

3 And when, by the will of God, I may have the pleasure, as I hope, of seeing you, I will heartily join with you in sending such brethren, as ye may think most proper, and shall recommend by your letters testimonial, as prudent, compassionate, and faithful persons * ; and I will readily concur in such commendation of them, as worthy to be intrusted with your benevolence, and to carry it to our indigent fellow-Christians at *Jerusalem*, and in the adjacent country of *Judea*, as the free gift, (*χαρισμ*) which God has inclined, and enabled you to bestow upon them, and which ye have cheerfully done, from a sense of his rich love and grace, both to them and you.

4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

4 And if it should be thought needful, convenient, or fit, (*οἰκτιρον*) and might be of any advantage to the pious and benevolent design, for me also to accompany them in that errand, I will take them along with me, when I may go to *Jerusalem*, and give them all the assistance and encouragement, I am capable of, in discharging that important trust.

5 Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: (for I do pass through Macedonia.)

5 In the mean while, ye may be well assured, that, if my affairs admit of it, I fully intend to make you a visit, when I shall have gone through *Macedonia* † : For it is my present purpose to make a tour through that *Grecian* province, as soon as I have finished the work, to which I am called at *Ephesus*. (ver. 8.)

6 And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey, whithersoever I go.

6 And in case Providence shall direct my course, according to my present views, I may probably stay a considerable time, and even spend all the winter-season with you, in hopes of finding such an interest in your friendship, notwithstanding the parties which have been made against me, that, when I take my leave of you in the spring, ye will send some of your brethren, as is customary with the churches, in token of respect and kindness, to accompany, conduct, and supply me in my journey, (*Tit.* iii. 13.) to what place soever I may then be bound.

7 For

N O T E S.

* This passage, as pointed with a *comma*, before, or after, *by letter*, may signify either the apostle's own, or the church's letter of recommendation; but there is no inconsistency in supposing that both might be meant, if thought needful.

† In this and the three following verses, the apostle speaks of the scheme he had laid in his own mind, not under any immediate inspiration or suggestion of

the Spirit; but in the ordinary way of men's forming their purposes, according to the present appearances of things; and therefore he mentions this design with a reserve, *if the Lord permit*; (ver. 7.) and, in the event, it appears from *2 Cor.* i. 15, 16. that he was prevented executing this scheme; and it seems from *Acts* xx. 1. that by means of the uproar at *Ephesus*, he was forced away from thence, sooner than he had intended.

7 For I will not see you now by the way, but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.

8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

10 Now if Timothy come, see that he may be with

7 For such is my affection toward you, and concern for you, and I promise myself so much pleasure in seeing, and conversing with you, that it would not satisfy me to make you only a short transient visit now, as it were *en passant*; (*εν παροδω*) but I hope to continue some length of time with you, to assist you in your spiritual affairs, and set those things to rights, that are amiss among you, (*chap. xi. 34.*) if it shall please the Lord, whose kingdom rules over all, to dispose of me and my services so, as to admit of it. (*Jam. iv. 15.*)

8 But it seems necessary for me to stay yet a while at *Ephesus* *; till it may be full time to set out for *Jerusalem*, to be there at Pentecost, not to celebrate that feast, which is now no longer obligatory to be kept as a religious festival; but to take an opportunity of making known what the Lord has done by me in my travels, and of serving his cause among the vast multitudes of *Jews* and proselytes, which will be there on that occasion: Till that time I think of abiding here.

9 For God has opened a large field of service for me at this place; the word of the Lord runs and is glorified, is freely preached and made effectual to the conversion of many souls, as I also hope, through grace, it will be to still many more: And I am the rather induced to continue here, as long as I well can; because, though I have hot work of it, it is of importance for me to make a stand against, and confute the great numbers of subtle and furious antagonists †, who are prejudiced against Christ and his ways, and who, envying my success, set themselves to oppose me and my ministrations, and to obstruct the progress of the gospel, and pervert those that have received it.

10 Now if the beloved and faithful *Timothy*, whom I have sent, (*chap. iv. 17.*) should arrive safe, as I hope he will, among you; see that ye treat him in such

N O T E S.

* It appears highly probable from this verse, and from the salutations, sent from the churches in *Asia*. (*ver. 19.*) that the apostle wrote this epistle from *Ephesus*, and not, as the postscript says, from *Philippi*: For *Philippi* was a city of *Macedonia* in *Europe*; (*Acts xvi. 12.*) and the apostle was not yet come to *Macedonia*, as appears from *ver. 5.* of this chapter: but *Ephesus* was the Metropolis of the *Proconsular Asia*. And there seems to be another mistake in the postscript, which speaks of this epistle's being sent by *Timothy*; whereas the apostle speaks doubtfully (*ver. 10.*) of *Timothy's*

reaching *Corinth*, though he had sent him thither. (*Chap. iv. 17.*)

† Mr. *Pyie*, on this passage observes, that the apostle seems plainly to allude to the *Ostia Circus Maximi*, from whence the race-horses and chariots were wont to be started. And this is very much countenanced by the phrase (*αυτιμαχιστοι*) those *adversaries* answering to the *antagonists* in the *races*, against whom the apostle was to run, as it were, and strive to out-do. And he refers for further explication of this thought to *Jacobus Lydius*, in his *Agonistica Sacra*, cap. 30.

with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

11 Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

such a friendly, peaceable, and orderly manner, as shall be a comfort, and not a trouble to him; and do all that in you lies to prevent his being discouraged, and to secure him from the danger of insults by the factious parties among you, on account of the just reproofs, which he may be obliged to give to such of you, as walk disorderly: For he is my dear fellow-labourer in the work of the Lord Jesus, and comes to you upon the very same business, with the same spirit, and the same sincere affection to you, as I myself should, were I to be present with you.

11 Let none of you therefore think meanly of him, or behave disrespectfully towards him, or slight what he may say in the name, and by the authority of Christ, because of his youth; (1 *Tim.* iv. 12.) but use him well, while he is with you, and treat him kindly at his leaving you; let some of you attend him in his way, to shew him due respect; to guard him against mischiefs from wicked and unreasonable men; and to supply him with necessaries in his journey, that he may return back to me and other friends, with comfort, before I leave *Ephesus*: For I, and several brethren with me here *, live in expectation and desire of seeing him again, together with such brethren, as may accompany him.

12 As to our dear brother, the eloquent *Apollos*, though some of you have ranked yourselves under him, as the head of a party, in opposition to me, (*chap.* iii. 4.) I was sincerely and very earnestly desirous, and importunate with him, that he would go along with the brethren, who bring this letter to you; as being well satisfied that he would by no means encourage, but do all that in him lies, to discountenance party divisions among you; and as having hope that his interest with such as have sheltered themselves under his name, might put an end to their factious temper and views: But he, bearing the like tender and respectful regard to me, as I do to him, was not willing to come just now; lest it should have a contrary effect, or be interpreted by some, as though he would ingratiate himself with you, at the expence of my character: Nevertheless, such is his affection to you, and concern for you, that he intends, God willing, to pay you a visit, when it may be more seasonable for him and you †.

13 To

N O T E S.

* *With the brethren*, may relate either to those that were with the apostle, or to those that might come with *Timothy*.

† The reasons of *Paul's* desiring *A-*

pollos, and of *Apollos's* not choosing, to go at that time, were very probably those hinted in the paraphrase: and so discover a most excellent and exemplary spirit in them both, as a mutual affection subsisted

13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

13 To conclude my admonitions and advices, Let me entreat you to keep a wakeful and strict guard upon yourselves, against all the designs of those, that would impose upon you, and either by terrors or allurements, or subtiler artifices, would carry you off from the truth and holiness of the gospel; watch against all temptations; watch over your own spirits; watch unto prayer, and for divine assistances in it, as also for returns of mercy in answer to it: See that ye continue stedfast in the belief of those important doctrines, which ye have received from the apostles of Christ; adhere firmly to them; live by faith upon them; stand up for them; and abide unshaken, and with perseverance, in your profession of them: Behave yourselves with wisdom, courage, and holy resolution in your attachment to the truths and ways of the Lord, in the face of all opposition and danger; acquit yourselves in the exercise of every duty, and in resisting every sin and temptation, like men grown up to maturity of judgment and understanding, and to full strength and establishment in Christ.

14 Let all your things be done with charity.

14 And see to it, that whatsoever ye do, in defence of the faith, in worship and discipline, and in common conversation, it be with a spirit of meekness and love, for promoting peace, and purity in doctrine and manners, together with the good and edification of each other, and of the whole church.

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints)

15 I earnestly entreat you, my dear brethren in the Lord, to shew a particular respect to the family of *Stephanas*, which I myself baptized, (see the note on *chap. i. 16.*) and which *, as ye well know, (see the second note on *Rom. xvi. 5.*) were the first family of converts in all *Achaia*, the province in which your city stands; and so, like the first-fruits that were offered to God under the law, they had the honour of being the pledge and earnest of the great harvest of souls, that have been since gathered to Christ there; ye also know that they have remarkably approved themselves sincere disciples, and faithful servants of the Lord Jesus, as having devoted themselves, in an orderly manner, (*εταξαν σωτες*) unto, and laid themselves out in, succouring and supporting his poor members †; in assisting, cherishing, and

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subsisted between them, and neither of them envied, was jealous of, or would detract from the other; how much sooner different parties at *Corinth* might run down one, and cry up the other: Or, perhaps, *Apollos* might have some work at *Ephesus*, or elsewhere, of too great moment for him to neglect just then.

* *Ye know* (*οιδετε*) may be rendered imperatively. *know ye*, in which sense it is considered in the former part of the paraphrase on this verse.

† *The saints* or holy ones may relate to *ministers*, as well as people; and *the ministry of, or rather to, the saints.* (*διακονια τοις αγιοις*) seems to be meant of ministering

and supplying the wants of his holy ministers; and in managing the affairs of the church, and doing every thing that they have been capable of, and called to, for promoting its interests on all occasions.

16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us and laboureth.

16 I beseech you, that, instead of being carried away by your new upstart teachers, ye would reverence, honour, and esteem, be directed by, and copy after the laudable example of these, and such as these, who have signalized themselves as faithful to Christ and his church; and that ye would shew the like acknowledgment and regard to every one, that joins with us, the apostles of Christ, in the same spirit, for supporting and promoting the gospel, and that labours in the work of the Lord; whether it be by preaching, or in any other way, as being embarked in the same glorious cause with us.

17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas, and Fortunatus, and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part, they have supplied.

17 I greatly rejoice that so worthy and prudent brethren, as *Stephanas*, and *Fortunatus*, and *Achaicus*, came from you with your letter to me*: For they have let me into a better and more thorough view of the present affairs of your church, than I ever had before; and have even made up what was wanting in your letter, to set your case in the more favourable light, in which I now see it, and by which I perceive that, bad as things are, they are better with many of you than I feared.

18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

18 For their presence and conversation is extremely agreeable to me; and they have acted so fair and candid a part in representing your temper and conduct, as has been very pleasing to my own mind, and cannot but be so to yours; and ye will doubtless share with me in the joy I have, by means of what they have said to remove some misunderstandings and jealousies that might otherwise have arose between you and me: Ye therefore ought to have the greatest veneration and respect for such excellently spirited men, as put the most charitable construction upon your

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ministring to the saints in a way of pious and charitable assistance, such as belongs to the office of deacons as well as or rather than, in preaching the gospel; but the paraphrase is formed here, and in the next verse, in such a manner, as may be also applied to the last.

* We know nothing of these three persons, more than what is here said of them, and is observed of *Stephanas*, ver. 15. They, it seems, were the messengers that attended the letter from the church to the apostle. (see the note on *chap. vii.*) and their *supplying what was lacking* on the church's part, is not

meant of any *temporal* supply; for the apostle absolutely refused every thing of that kind from them, as appears from *chap. ix.* 12.—18.; but it relates to the fuller and more advantageous representation, these good men had made of the *Corinthians*, than they had given of themselves in their letter, in which (as persons under a humbling sense of sin are apt to do) they had set forth the bad things among them, in such a strong light, as might leave room to think that there was little good left or that the number of those, that walked disorderly, was greater than it really was.

your behaviour, and are willing to make the best of you.

19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

19 The churches of Christ here, in the Lesser Asia, (see the note on *ver.* 8.) cordially wish you the best of blessings from the Lord Jesus. The noted *Aquila* and *Priscilla*, that exemplary and eminently religious pair, who reside at *Ephesus*. (*Acts* xviii. 24, 26. compared with xix. 1.) speak abundantly of their ardent desires, that ye may be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ Jesus; and to do their amiable family, which, like the heads of it, are an ornament to their holy profession. (See the notes on *Rom.* xvi. 3, 5.)

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

20 All the Christian brethren, that are with me, send their religious and affectionate respects to you: See that ye with like spiritual affection, and sincere good will, salute each other in the Lord, with all the usual forms of expressing it, in such a holy manner as becomes saints. (See the note on *Rom.* xvi. 16.)

21 The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand.

21 As to myself, none can be more solicitous for, and heartily desirous of, your soul's prosperity in all things; in testimony of which, I *Paul*, give it under *my own hand-writing*; though in the rest of the epistle I have employed an *amanuensis* to transmit my thoughts to you. (See the note on *Rom.* xvi. 22.)

22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema, Maranatha.

22 Only permit me, at the same time, to leave with you this solemn warning against the false teachers, that trouble, and would pervert you; If any of them, or indeed any one whatsoever, be his character and pretences what they will, prove an enemy to the person, offices and grace, doctrines and commands of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; if he be disaffected to him; if he obstinately reject and oppose him; or if he apostatize from him, and, through the temptations of this world, cast off his love to him and profession of his name, let such an one be looked upon as execrable and abominable; and let him be cast out of the church, and so delivered up, in case of final obstinacy, to the most terrible judgment, and heaviest curse, that the righteous God shall see fit to inflict upon him*; and, unless he be brought to repentance, let him be left to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of his power, when he shall come to judge the world at the last day.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

23 The salutation, which I now add with much greater pleasure, than I find in anathematizing any

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one

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* *Anathema*, signifies a thing devoted to destruction, and *Maranatha*, is a Syriac word, which signifies the Lord coming to judgment.

Christ be with
you.

one whatsoever, and which sums up all my desires for you in a few comprehensive words, is this, May the free favour of Jesus Christ, your Lord and mine, be extended to, and continually abide with all, and every one of you, in the utmost fulness of its ample and distinguishing fruits and effects, to your present establishment and edification in faith, comfort and holiness, and to your eternal salvation.

24 My love be
with you all in
Christ Jesus. A-
men.

24 To conclude, Though I have been obliged in faithfulness to reprove you, with just severity, for many things that have been amiss among you; yet it has been merely in love for your own good; and my heart is so far from being cool toward you, or alienated from you, and prejudiced against you, that my most sincere affection and best wishes, together with the utmost that I am, or ever may be, capable of doing for your spiritual benefit *, attend you all for Christ's sake, on account of your relation to him, and in reflection upon the privileges and blessings, that ye are favoured with in, and through him. To assure you of which, and of my earnest desire and hope, that ye may be abundantly and eternally blessed, I say, *Amen.*

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How incumbent is the duty of giving charitable relief to our fellow-Christians! Good ministers are willing to do all they can to encourage and promote it, and to see that the liberality of churches, under their care, be duly applied; every believer should be ready to join in it, and be continually laying by something for it, in proportion to the prosperity, which God, whose blessing makes rich, is pleased to give him in his temporal affairs; the generosity of some should excite others to a noble emulation, according to their respective abilities; and collections, for such uses, are very proper to attend our works of piety on the Lord's days.—How desirous are the servants of Christ to go, or stay, where-ever he calls them, with an entire submission to the will of God! And what a pleasure is it for them to abide, where an effectual door is opened for them to preach the gospel with success, though they meet with ever so much opposition from their adversaries!—With what brotherly love should fellow-labourers honour one another, free from all jealousy or envy! And with what cheerfulness, esteem, and respect should churches receive all those that are well recommended to them, as engaged in the same work of the Lord with the apostles, and as faithful in devoting themselves to the service of the taints! What need have real Christians to be excited to watchfulness, and steadfastness in faith and love! And while they reject those with detestation, that discover an enmity, or disaffection to Christ, and leave them, though with tender reluctance, to his righteous judgment, at his second coming; how affectionately should his disciples testify their love one to another, in courteous and religious salutations, as well as in all other ways! And how heartily should they say, *Amen.* to the solemn benedictions of those that minister in sacred things, as joining their own desires and prayers, that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may be with all those that love him in sincerity and truth!

N O T E.

* It is with incomparable sweetness and prudent insinuation, that the apostle closes an epistle, in which he had so sharply reproved the *Corinthians* for their faults, with such an assurance of his love, as is not to be found at the end

of any other of his epistles, that he might convince them of his good will in all that he had said; and might take off their prejudices against it, and give it the more easy access to their minds.

A PRACTICAL
E X P O S I T I O N
O F T H E
SECOND EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL
T O T H E
C O R I N T H I A N S,
I N T H E F O R M O F A
P A R A P H R A S E.

THE PREFACE TO THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE
CORINTHIANS.

THIS second epistle of the apostle *Paul* to the *Corinthians* was very probably wrote from *Philippi*, a city of *Macedonia*, about a year after the former: For it was after he had been at *Troas*, and returned to *Macedonia*, and while *Timothy* was with him in his second journey thither, as appears by comparing *chap.* i. 1. and ii. 12; 13. with *Acts* xix. 22. and xx. 1,—4.: And as, at the close of his first epistle, he gave orders concerning a collection for the poor saints at *Jerusalem*; so in this, *chap.* ix. 2. he says that *Achaia*, of which *Corinth* was a principal city, was ready a year ago.

Between that time and this, he, to his great satisfaction, as appears from the *second* and *seventh* chapters, received an account, by *Titus*, of the good effect of his first letter upon the generality of the church, in their repentance, and submission to his apostolic authority; and in their regularly proceeding, as he had directed them, against the incestuous person, who was thereby brought to an humble and contrite sense of his sin.

Hereupon he wrote this *second* letter, in which, after the preface, he begins with apologizing for his not coming to them, so soon as he had given them reason to expect; (1 *Epist.* xvi. 5.) and with recommending the sorrowful penitent to their Christian compassion, and to a restoration of him to his place in the church, *chap.* i. ii. He then enters upon his main point of confuting his adversaries, in which he asserts, and enlarges upon, his own apostolic character, labours, sufferings, encouragements, preaching, and success, with greater freedom and boldness, than in the former epistle, *chap.* iii.—vi. In the *three* following chapters, (vii, viii, ix.) as also here and there in several other places, he urges various duties upon
the

the *Corinthians*, suitable to the state of things among them; but particularly, and most at large, exhorts them to finish their charitable collections in a generous manner, and get them ready to be transmitted to *Jerusalem*, according to their promises the last year; and according to his own good opinion of them, which, he tells them, he had mentioned with pleasure to other churches, for exciting the like liberality among them. In the *tenth* chapter, and so on to the end of the epistle, he re-assumes the subject relating to himself, and to the false apostles, that still audaciously vied with him; and, with a peculiar smartness of stile, sets himself against them, and their adherents, that invidiously reproached him, and even forced him to speak of himself in terms, which carried the face of folly and vanity in self-applause. And he concludes the whole with an affectionate salutation and benediction.

Perhaps, because a great part of this, and the former epistle to the *Corinthians*, refers to the peculiar circumstances of that church, some private Christians may be apt to think these to be less useful, than many others of the sacred writings, especially of the New Testament. But even the things that most immediately and singularly related to them, are of great service in all similar cases, that might fall out in after-ages; and there are so many important doctrines of common concernment interwoven with them, as must render the whole exceeding valuable and edifying to Christians, through all generations. These epistles have also some advantages, that are not to be met with in any other part of the word of God, as they may be deemed the seat of divine directions, relating to the spiritual privileges, rights and powers, worship and discipline of the churches of Christ; to the purity of doctrines, manners, and celebrations of gospel ordinances, and to the unity, peace, and order, mutual watch and care, and religious respect to faithful pastors, that ought to be preserved among them. And therefore these, as well as all other parts of the inspired scriptures, are justly to be esteemed *profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good-works.* (2 Tim. iii. 16, 17.)

C H A P. I.

The apostle introduces this epistle to the Corinthian church, as he did the former, with an assertion of his apostolic office, and a salutation, 1, 2. Blesses God for comforting him in, and delivering him out of, his tribulations; and turns his own experience into an argument for the encouragement of others under their troubles, 3, —11. Professes his own and his fellow-labourers integrity, 12, —14. Assigns the principal reason of his not coming to them so soon, as might have been expected from what he had said in his former letter; and so vindicates himself from the charge of inconsistency on that account, 15,—24.

TEXT.

PAUL an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

PARAPHRASE.

I PAUL, an apostle, whom Jesus Christ immediately called and authorized to that high office, according to the free appointment and good pleasure of God the Father; even I, and the beloved Timothy, whom, notwithstanding his youth, I cheerfully own as a faithful brother in Christ, and in the work of the ministry; we, I say, he concurring with what I write by the dictate of the Holy Ghost, (see the notes on *Rom. i. 1.* and *1 Cor. i. 1.*) heartily join in good will, and in sending this *second* epistle to the church at *Corinth*, which God has chosen, and called by his grace, and collected out of the world, to be his habitation through the Spirit, and the seat of all divine ordinances; as also to all professing believers, who, according to the judgment of charity, are holy ones, that reside in any other part of *Achaia* or *Greece*.

2 Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We salute you in the Lord, earnestly praying that the free love and favour of God, with all its happy fruits and effects, which are usually summed up in the comprehensive term *peace*, may be vouchsafed, and abound toward you from him, who is your as well as our reconciled God and Father; and who, in the economy of salvation, is the fountain of all its blessings, and in his eternal counsels laid out the scheme of conveying them: And we wish you the richest communications of them from the Lord Jesus Christ, our exalted Mediator and Saviour, who has purchased them by his blood, has them all in his hands to dispense, and effectually gives them, in concurrence with the Father, by his Spirit.

3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of

3 For ever magnified and adored, admired, loved, and praised, with all possible thanksgiving and joy, be the blessed and glorious God, even the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ *, who, as such

NOTE.

* *The Father* bears this relation to Christ, with respect to his divine nature, by

of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

6 And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings, which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

such, is full of tender compassion, and the author of all pardoning and relieving mercies; and is the God and giver of all temporal, spiritual, and eternal consolation, through his Son.

4 Inexpressibly great are the kind indulgencies of this gracious God and Father, who, by his Spirit, word, and providence, supports, assists, and comforts me and my companions, in all our troubles and afflictions of every kind, and especially for conscience sake; and he is pleased to do this, in his infinite wisdom and goodness, not only for *our* succour; but likewise for the benefit of others, that we may be the better taught, disposed, and qualified, by our own experience, to sympathize with, and administer suitable words of encouragement and comfort to them, that are in any sort of tribulation. relating to soul or body; and so may be instruments in his hand of raising their faith, and their hope of the like seasonable refreshments and deliverances, as God, for Christ's sake, has favoured us with.

5 For as we have suffered many grievous and heavy trials on Christ's account, and in conformity to him, who sympathizes with us in them, and counts them his own; (*Acts ix. 4.*) so our inward spiritual joys have abounded in proportion to them, by means of that sweet communion, which, at such times especially, he has given us with himself, to allay and counterbalance them, and to fortify us against them.

6 And all this is designed and ordered, and in fact has proved to be, for your advantage; so that whether, on one hand, we be pressed with ever so many calamities, it is with a view to the animating of you under such trials, as may befall you, especially for the gospel's sake, that when ye see with what Christian fortitude, patience, and consolation, we are enabled to bear them, ye, encouraged by our example, may be comforted in your own souls, and emboldened to hold on in your holy profession unto complete salvation: which is effected, in a powerful manner, by means of your being made willing to undergo the same sort of troubles, on the behalf of Christ, that we ourselves have bore, and been supported under: Or whether, on the contrary, we be relieved and comforted, by seasonable deliverances out of our tribulations, it is made

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by an eternal, inconceivable and necessary generation; with respect to his human nature, by an immediate miraculous production; and with respect to his office-character, as God-Man Mediator, by a peculiar covenant-relation; which consideration of God exhibits him to our

faith, under the gospel-state, in a more august, endearing, and encouraging light, than that in which he had made himself known, under the Old Testament, as the God of *Abraham, Isaac,* and *Jacob.*

made effectual for promoting your joy, and your final salvation together with ours.

7 And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

7 And from what has already appeared among you, since ye received my former letter, (vol. 13, 14.) we fully expect a good event with relation to you; being well assured, that as God has now made you willing sharers with us in sufferings, and inclined your hearts to sympathize with us in ours, for the sake of Christ; so, in the riches of his grace and faithfulness, ye are, and shall be likewise sharers with us in present divine comforts, suitable to your day and difficulties, till all shall be perfected in the joys of heaven.

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, in so much that we despaired even of life:

8 For as to our sufferings for Christ, it may be proper to remind you, my dear brethren, of the extreme hardships, which have befallen me and my companions in the *Lesser Asia**, that, while we were desirous to minister the gospel of the grace of God in that country, we were oppressed, and over-loaded with severities to an excess, beyond all bounds, (καὶ ὑπερβολῶν) and more than, merely by our natural strength, we could ever have been able to bear; so that (ἐξ αποροῦν θνήσκειν ἡμᾶς) we were in the utmost perplexity and danger, not knowing which way to turn ourselves; and as far as events could be judged of, by present appearances, we gave up all hope of escaping with our lives.

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.

9 But God, in his providence, suffered us to be reduced to such an extremity, as to conclude in our own minds, like persons under a sentence of death, that, in the ordinary way, we could never survive those cruelties, or evade the decree of our enemies against us, to the end that we might learn to live by faith, and not by sense; and, like *Abraham*, to believe in hope against hope; (*Rom.* iv. 18.) to have no confidence in, or dependence on, our own wisdom and strength, or on any interest that we could make with men, for our preservation and deliverance; but to place it entirely on the wisdom and power, faithfulness and goodness of that God, whose prerogative it is †, and who alone is able, not only to save from the

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* The 14th, 16th, and 19th chapters of the *Acts*, give us a large account of the great troubles, that the apostle met with in *Asia*; and he speaks in *1 Cor.* xvi. 9. of many adversaries, and xv. 32. (see the note there) of fighting with the beasts at *Ephesus*, the Metropolis of that Province: But it is uncertain whether he here refers to those, or some latter troubles that beset him in *Asia*, since he

wrote his former epistle to the *Corinthians*: However, his manner of representing them in this place shews, that they were exceeding dangerous and distressing.

† The apostle here plainly distinguishes the only true God from all others, by this peculiar prerogative of *raising the dead*; and therefore as Christ frequently speaks of raising the dead by his own power, proper deity must needs belong to him.

the most imminent danger, and rescue out of the jaws of death, but even to restore them to life that are actually dead, as he has shewn in several instances already, and will further shew in the general resurrection at the last day.

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us:

10 We were hereby taught to commit ourselves, and all our concerns for time, as well as eternity, to him, who, by wonderful appearances in the mount of difficulty, has interposed between us and death, when it was so visibly impending, and so formidably threatening, as, in all human views, to be absolutely unavoidable; who likewise continues daily to preserve us from the numerous dangers, that still surround us; and in whom, encouraged by all this experience of our God and Father's care and kindness, we humbly trust and hope, that he will go on yet further to *deliver us from every evil work, and preserve us to his heavenly kingdom.* (2 Tim. iv. 18.)

11 You also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons, thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

11 And all this is, in a subordinate manner, owing to, and further hoped for from, the joint assistance of your earnest supplications at a throne of grace for us, in concurrence with our own, which he, who has styled himself a God hearing prayer, has graciously answered, and we trust will still do so; to the end that, as this blessing of a kind preservation and deliverance has been, and we believe will yet be freely bestowed upon us, for the good of multitudes, as well as of our own souls, by means of the prayers of many Christian friends that were concerned for us; so thanksgivings and praises may be likewise offered up to God by them, and by many other believers, on account of his signal favour therein shewn to us, that he may be abundantly glorified. And we cannot but persuade ourselves that we have had, and shall have an interest in your prayers on our behalf.

12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-wards.

12 For, whatever any of our adversaries may invidiously suggest against us, as though we were self-seeking and designing men; and how great soever the troubles of various kinds, from friends and enemies, be, that attend us in our way and work; we have this satisfaction and joy, which rises up to a holy triumph, (*καύχησις*) in our own bosoms, even the witness of our consciences, in every reflection upon our principles, temper and motives, views and conduct, that with an ingenuous undisguised candour and singleness of heart, free from all double dealing; and with integrity and uprightness of soul before God, in single aims at his glory, agreeable to his holy nature and will; and not with the cunning artifices of carnal policy, or with selfish and secular designs and motives; but by a governing principle of grace, which

God

God has wrought in us, and by the gracious guidance and assistance, which in his free favour, he continually affords us, we have conversed and behaved in the ministry, and in the general course of our lives, in the church and in the world, towards all that we have had to do with, and in a particular and remarkable manner toward you, with respect to every thing, that we have said or done to, or about you: And we cannot doubt but that ye must needs be well satisfied of this:

13 For we write none other things unto you, than what you read or acknowledge, and I trust you shall acknowledge even to the end.

13 For what we now write to you about it is frankly and openly, neither more nor less, than is signified by the plain meaning of the words, which ye read in this, and in the former epistle; (1 Cor. i. 13, &c. ii. 1, &c. and iv. 1,—6.) or than ye yourselves know, and, as I hear to the joy of my heart, (*chap.* vii. 6, 7.) do own to be true concerning me, who chiefly mean myself in all that I have said about it; and I humbly hope, that, by the grace of God, (*ver.* 12.) my sincere behaviour toward you will henceforward be always so conspicuous, as to engage you to acknowledge the same continually, to the end of life.

14 As also you have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

14 Even as (*καθως και*) the found or better part of you (see the note on *Rom.* xi. 25.) have already owned, that I and my fellow-labourers, in planting the gospel among you, and being instrumental to your conversion and edification, are just matter of your rejoicing and glorying on our behalf; as ye also are of ours, on account of the gifts and graces bestowed upon you; and we trust will be so, as the seals of our ministry, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he will appear in all his glory to judge the world, at the last day.

15 And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that you might have a second benefit:

15 And being well satisfied concerning your good opinion of my integrity, and that our mutual rejoicings in each other would continue, I intended, and was very desirous to have come, and made you a second visit before now, that ye might have a further advantage for your establishment and joy, (*ver.* 24.) by my conversation and preaching, over and above what ye received, when I was formerly with you, and brought you to the knowledge of Christ.

16 And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judea.

16 And it was my real design, as I told you, (1 Cor. xvi. 5,—8.) not just to call upon you, which was all that I could have done in my journey to Macedonia, whither I was then going, ere long, from Ephesus; but to have passed by you in my way thither, and to have come back again to you in my return from that country, when I hoped to get an opportunity of spending more time with you; and then

to have desired your assistance, and the company of some of you, to help me forward in my journey to *Judea and Jerusalem.* (1 Cor. xvi. 3, 4.)

17 When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea, yea, and nay, nay?

17 When therefore I first took up, and declared this my intention, which hitherto has not been accomplished, was it (as my adversaries would reproach me) with inconsiderate rashness and levity of mind, as not regarding what I said and did, and never concerning myself afterwards about it? Or did I mean one thing, and speak another, to compliment, flatter, and deceive you? Or did I alter my purpose without sufficient cause? Or as to such things, as I desire and propose to do, am I influenced and determined thereunto by carnal and secular considerations, or according to the dictates of the flesh, and of unrenewed men, who make no conscience of what they say, but talk backwards and forwards to serve a turn? Have I behaved at such a rate, as that, in my way of speaking, I should strongly affirm the same thing, at one time, with a yes, yes; and then roundly deny it at another, with a no, no? Far be it from me to think, speak, or act, after this inconstant and fallacious manner.

18 But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

18 But, as certainly as God himself is true to his word and promise, I can appeal to him, that what I said, in that affair, was entirely consistent with truth; and was so far from admitting of an inference, which some would draw from it *, as though my doctrine were likewise too uncertain to be depended upon; that, on the contrary, my preaching and writing to you, in which others of my brethren joined and agreed with me, have not been at one time an affirmation, and at another a denial of one and the same thing, after the manner of those, who, through falshood, or fickleness of temper, contradict themselves; but, through divine grace, it has always been steadily uniform, like him, who is the author, and subject of my ministry.

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus, and Timothy,

19 For as to the eternal Son of God, who is *the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever,* (Heb. xiii. 8.) even Christ the only Saviour, who was preached in his person and offices, crucifixion and benefits, among you, by us his servants, even by myself, and *Silas,* and

N O T E.

* It seems that the apostle's antagonists endeavoured to discredit his doctrine, under pretence that he was an inconstant man, who said and unsaid the same thing at different times, and so was not to be believed in what he taught: Therefore, to take of that imputation, he solemnly ap-

peals to God, that his preaching was all of a piece, invariably the same; and not at one time, *yea, yea,* which was a strong form of *affirming*; and at another *nay, nay,* which was a like form of *denying*.

motheus, was not
yea and nay, but
in him was yea.

and *Timothy*, my dear companions in labour and travail: (*Acts* xv. 40. and xviii. 5.) He is not in himself, or in his word; and what we have said concerning him was not, now one thing, and then another of a contrary strain: But the doctrine which we preached, and constantly stood to, in all our ministrations, was founded on him, as a crucified and risen Redeemer; and was, like himself, uniformly the same, with the highest demonstration of truth and certainty, according to the tenor of the gospel.

20 For all the
promises of God
in him are yea,
and in him amen,
unto the glory of
God by us.

20 For all the great and precious promises of the covenant of grace, which are given forth by the unchangeable God, and are exhibited in the clearest light under the New Testament dispensation, are in Christ, *the Amen, the faithful and true witness*, (*Rev.* iii. 14.) infallibly sure, and invariably the same; and are ratified and confirmed irrevocably by him, as they are all established, and put in force, by his death, that they may be effectually and completely fulfilled, in their proper time and order, to them that are faithfully called, (*Heb.* ix. 15,—17.) unto the praise and glory of the truth, faithfulness, and grace of God, by means of our ministrations.

21 Now he which
stablisheth us with
you in Christ, and
hath anointed us,
is God:

21 And, (*de*) as a further evidence of this, he that has strengthened, and settled us, who preach, and you who believe, that both one and the other may abide in the truth, as it is in Jesus, by virtue of our union with him, according to the promises; and he who has favoured us * with a holy unction of the gifts and graces of the Spirit, whereby we know, and receive all things necessary to salvation, (*1 John* ii. 20, 27.) is no other than the great God himself:

22 Who hath also
sealed us, and
given the earnest
of the Spirit in our
hearts.

22 Who, answerable to various uses of a seal among men, has likewise graciously distinguished, marked, and secured us for his own; confirmed his covenant with us; assured us of our interest in it; and printed his holy image upon us: And he has freely given us his Spirit, who dwells in our hearts, and sheds abroad his influences, and a sense of his love there, as a pledge and earnest of the eternal inheritance. (*Eph.* i. 13, 14.)

23 Moreover, I
call God for a re-
cord

23 But to let you into one great reason of my not visiting you, so soon as was proposed †, I call the heart-searching,

N O T E S.

* As what the apostle here says about God's *anointing, sealing, and giving the earnest of the Spirit*, is of much the same import, with what he and the apostle *John* speak of, as the common privileges of true believers, *Eph.* i. 13, 14. and *1 John* ii. 20, 27.; I have referred all

these passages to them, as well as to himself, and his fellow-labourers.

† Here the apostle insensibly slides back into his vindication of himself, from which he had a little digressed, in the four preceding verses, to give vent to some delightful thoughts on the stability of

cord upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

heart-searching, and sin-avenging God to witness, with all the solemnity of a religious oath, as ever I hope for his blessing on my soul here, and for ever, that it was not from any inconstancy of temper, or carnal motives; but out of peculiar tenderness to you, that I deferred my journey to *Corinth* thus long, as being desirous to come to you, not *with a rod, but in love, and in the spirit of meekness* *. (1 Cor. iv. 21.)

24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

24 Yet I do not speak after this sort, as if we, who are Christ's ministering servants, had any right or authority, to domineer over your faith, by arbitrarily binding any thing upon your consciences, according to our own fancy or humour; or by making any alterations in the doctrines and institutions of Christ, our only Lord and Master; but we are authorized of God, and do sincerely desire and endeavour, to be assistant to your spiritual consolation, by recovering you from those evils that would hinder it; and by establishing your faith in Christ, and in the promises, which are all *yea and amen in him*: (ver. 20.) For it is not by a human, but by a divine faith, which we would promote in you, that ye have hitherto stood (*εστηκατε*) in a state of grace, and must continue to stand, as ever ye would be saved.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How important is it to the success of the gospel, that the characters of Christ's servants be blameless in themselves, and vindicated from false aspersions! And what a noble support and pleasure do they possess in their own souls, who have the testimony of their consciences, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, they have their conversation in the world; and can make a solemn appeal to God about it, amidst all the reproaches of their enemies! They will ordinarily have a witness to their integrity, in the consciences of serious Christians; and blessed be the name of the Lord, that he will own and honour them, and act the part of the Father of Mercies, and the God and Father of Jesus Christ, their Head and Saviour, by comforting them in all their tribulations, and proportioning their consolations to their sufferings, not only for their own personal advantage, but that they may the better know, by their own experience, how to speak reasonable words of relief to others in all their afflictions. Alas! How great and many are the troubles of God's own dear children! They sometimes grow to such an extremity, as to make them despair even of life: But their most sorrowful scenes are wisely, and graciously ordered for the trial and improvement of their faith, that a review of former dangers and deliverances may help to raise their hope in new difficulties, and teach them to renounce all confidence in themselves, and in creature-aids, and to rely entirely on that God, who

raises

N O T E S.

of the promises of God, for helping his people's faith and joy.

* The apostle was willing to wait the event of his former epistle, with respect to the offenders among them, (1 Cor. chaps. v. vi.) in hopes that they might be brought to repentance, and that the things, which were so much amiss among them, might be set to rights by the

church itself; and he was very loth to use that apostolic severity in his proceedings against them, which, in case of continued disaffection and obstinacy, he threatened, (1 Cor. iv. 19.) and could not in faithfulness have avoided; and therefore he was the less in haste to go to *Corinth*. (Chap. ii. 1.)

raises the dead, who has delivered, and doth deliver. and in whom they may still trust for all further needful deliverances. And O how great is the power of prayer, especially of united prayers, for ushering in all seasonable mercies! And when God gives signal answers of peace, what abundant thanksgivings should we render to him!—How affectionately desirous are faithful ministers of their people's happiness! They earnestly wish that grace and peace may be multiplied to them, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ; and they would fain be intruments both of their conversion and edification, that they may joy in them here, and rejoice with them in the day of Christ. For *this* they labour with constant care, and uniform aims, by dealing as tenderly as possible with them; by continuing to preach the same gospel, that was made effectual in their first believing; and by a noble ambition, not to lord it over their faith, but to be helpers of their joy. And O what blessed provision has God made for the present comfort, and everlasting salvation of every true believer! All the promises of the new covenant are ratified in Christ, and made sure to them; they stand by faith, and are established in him; and they have the anointings of the Spirit, who by his enlightning, sanctifying, and comforting influences, seals and secures them unto the day of redemption, and is their earnest of the eternal inheritance.

C H A P. II.

The apostle proceeds to a further account of the reasons of his not coming to the Corinthians, 1,—4. Gives them directions about restoring the incestuous person to his place in the church, 5,—11. And acquaints them with his own labours, success, and joys, in spreading the pure gospel of Christ in several places, 12,—17.

TEXT.

BUT I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.

² For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?

PARAPHRASE.

AS, in the greatness of my affection for you, my heart is chiefly set upon assisting your holy joy, (*chap. i. 24.*) I was unwilling to come to you in circumstances, that might occasion your grief; but rather judged it most expedient, and accordingly concluded in my own mind, to forbear my second visit for some time *, lest I should be obliged to go into such severities against the opposers of my apostolic doctrine and character, and against other offenders among you, as would be very unwelcome, and disagreeable to you, and no less irksome to myself.

² For if I were to do any thing, that would be a trouble to you, whom I so dearly love, nothing but a sense of duty, and hope of rectifying what was amiss among you, could ever reconcile me to it, much less give me any satisfaction in it: And which of you, in that case, could exhilarate my spirit, and make me rejoice again; unless it were the very person or persons, whom I should have made uneasy by sharp rebukes, both of the principal offenders, and of others among

N O T E.

* The apostle was not with them *in heaviness* at the time of his going first among them, but with *great rejoicing*. as appears from *chap. i. 14, 15.*; and there-

fore his coming to them *again*, is not to be understood of his doing it again *in heaviness*, but only of his making them *another visit*.

among you, that were puffed up, and countenanced them, instead of mourning over them, and taking care to purge the church of them? (1 Cor. v. 2, 7.) It is only the repentance of such, and their recovery from the guilt, which they respectively had contracted, that could turn my own sorrow into joy.

3 And I wrote this same unto you, lest when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice, having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

3 And therefore, in my former letter, I wrote to you on this very point; (1 Cor. v. 3, 4, 5.)* and what I have suggested in this epistle, (chap. i. 23.) about my not coming to you, that I might spare you, is to this very purpose, that the disorders in your church might be rectified by yourselves; lest otherwise, in my coming to you, I should find such irregularities, and be forced to take such undefirable measures, as would create a great deal of uneasiness in my own mind, on their account, whom I might have reasonably expected to rejoice in; and who ought to have been matter of joy to me, by reason of their steadfastness in the faith, holiness, and order of the gospel: And I am encouraged to hope, that ye would willingly save me this trouble, from the confidence I have in all those of you, who abide in the doctrines of Christ, that your regard and affection to me is so sincere, according to your former professions, as that what is an occasion of pleasure and delight to me, with reference to the glory of Christ, and the good of the church, will be so likewise to all of you; and that therefore ye would be glad to remove every cause of disquietude to me.

4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart, I wrote unto you with many tears; not that you should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

4 For when I wrote to you before, to proceed to an excommunication of such, as were guilty of shameful miscarriages, and as discovered a disaffection to Christ and his gospel, (1 Cor. v. 4, 5. and xvi. 22.) it was with great trouble and distress of spirit, which produced a flow of bitter tears, in reflection upon their deplorable and dangerous condition: I mention this now, not with a design of awakening any dolorous passions in you, with respect to things that are already mended; but only to let you see what an exceeding hearty love I bear to you, and what a touching concern I have for the good of the whole church, as well as for the humbling and reclaiming of the notorious delinquents themselves, to your comfort, and their own salvation.

5 But if any have caused grief, he

5 But if any one among you, (*εἰ τις τις*) as particularly the incestuous person, whom I ordered you to proceed

N O T E.

* I am inclined to think that the apostle's saying, *I wrote to you*, refers to his former epistle; but as there is room to doubt, whether he might not mean

something, that he had already wrote in a foregoing part of *this* epistle, I have taken both senses, with a due consistency, into the paraphrase.

he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

6 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was* inflicted of many.

7 So that contrariwise, *ye ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

proceed against, has occasioned sadness of heart, on account of his crime, and of what ye were thereupon obliged, in duty, to do to him, for vindicating the honour of Christ, and purging the church from scandal; he, by that means, has given a great deal of uneasiness, not to me only*, but to part of the church itself; I mean to those of you, that were conscientiously concerned for God's glory, and the good of the man's own soul: I say it was a grief to such, that I may not be thought to exceed in my accusation of you, as a body, as though I took all of you to be as unaffected with his case, as those were, whom I had in mine eye, when I reprov'd you for not mourning on his account, nor being ready to exclude him your holy communion.

6 Ye having now discharged your duty in casting him out of the church, as my beloved brother *Titus* informs me; (*chap.* vii. 6,—13.) and Christ having blessed his own institution for bringing him to repentance; this awful censure, which was passed upon him, by the suffrage and approbation of the whole community, or at least of the majority of the brotherhood, is all the rebuke and discountenance, that ye ought now to give him; it having proved sufficient, through divine grace, to humble him, and so to answer its happy and desired end upon him.

7 So that now, instead of carrying it shy and distant, and dealing harshly with him, ye ought, on the contrary, to pass by his offence, as one, whom ye have ground, in the judgment of charity, to believe God himself has pardoned; and it is high time for you to encourage and comfort him, and so restore him to his church-state among you, as one who has seen his sin, who loaths and abhors himself, and is deeply abased in his own eyes, and afflicted for it; and is enabled, to turn from it: The most gentle and compassionate methods should now be taken with him; lest, possibly, one of so contrite a spirit, should be overwhelmed with the excessive distress of his mind, and sink into utter despair.

8 I therefore

N O T E.

* 'Tis no easy matter to fix the just meaning of the latter part of this verse, as appears from the many different interpretations, that have been put upon it, which mostly confound, rather than direct the mind; and therefore I shall not trouble the reader with them. That, which is given in the paraphrase, seems to be more consistent with the *grammar* of the text, and *scope* of the context, than any that I have met with; and I

do not know what can be fairly objected to it: since the words (*ἵνα μὴ*) rendered *in part*, are most commonly used, in the apostle's writings, to distinguish one sort of persons from others; (see the note on *Rom.* xi. 25.) and since it may naturally be supposed, that he here designs to soften what he had said about the *Corinthians* being *puffed up*, and *not mourning*, 1 *Epist.* v. 2. that they might not think he meant it of them all universally.

8 Wherefore I beseech you, that ye would confirm your love towards him.

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgive I it, in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices

8 I therefore would now become as zealous an advocate for this humble penitent, as I was before against him, while he persisted in his vicious course; I earnestly entreat, and exhort you (*παρακαλω*) to behave in such a friendly manner towards him, as shall carry the plainest conviction, that your dealings with him, from first to last, have not proceeded from any hatred to his person, but only to his enormous crime, and from a sincere concern for his spiritual benefit; and I insist upon it, that, notwithstanding his great fall, ye would now demonstrate and ratify (*κυρωσαι*) your love to him, in the most affectionate and public manner, by cordially receiving him again into your holy fellowship, and performing all offices of kindness to him, as a restored brother.

9 For this also is one great end that I have proposed to myself, both in writing to you before, to pass a just censure upon him, and now, to release him from it, (see the note on *ver* 3.) that I might try, and see what evidence ye would give of your regard to my apostolic authority; whether, or not, ye would own, and submit to it in all things, relating to discipline as well as doctrine.

10 And, (2s) to encourage your ready compliance with what I now recommend to you, ye may be well assured, that whomsoever, upon good proof given of his repentance, ye embrace with brotherly affection, and re-admit into fellowship with you, as one whom ye have forgiven, I likewise, cheerfully concurring with you therein, pass by his offence; and, on supposition of the sincerity of his repentance, I solemnly pronounce him to be forgiven of God, who confirms in heaven, what his churches do, according to his mind and will, upon earth: (*Matth.* xviii. 18. and see the note on *Matth.* xvi. 19.) For whatever penitent among you he be, whom I in this manner have forgiven, it has been in the name, and by the authority of Christ, as therein personating him, and, as it were, before his face, in his sight and presence; (*εν προσωτω*) and I have done this, out of a special regard to you, that I might shew you my love, (*ver.* 4.) and my concern for your order, peace, and comfort; and that ye might be satisfied, as to the warrantableness of your procedure in restoring such an one to the church.

11 I am the more solicitous about your receiving him again; lest our great adversary the devil, who envies the success of my ministry, the recovery of backsliders, and your edification and increase, should prejudice any persons minds against us, and make them afraid of joining with us, for being of a rigid, unforgiving,

unforgiving, and severe temper; or lest he should discourage any among yourselves, and hurry them into despair, or into apostacy; and so should, one way or other, over-reach and circumvent us: For we have had so many proofs, and so much experience of his malicious designs, as have shewn us a great deal of his subtile stratagems, who, like an old serpent, lies in wait to deceive, and to obstruct the progress of the gospel, and the peace and prosperity of the church.

12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

12 Now ($\delta\iota$) to acquaint you with another thing, that arose to retard my coming to *Corin b*, and yet shows my affection to you; when I went to *Troas*, in the Lesser *Asia**, to preach the gospel, which Christ has committed to me, and which principally treats of him, and of salvation alone by him; and when, at my arrival thither, I found the Lord Jesus had so disposed men's spirits, by restraining enemies, and inclining many to hear the word, that there was liberty and opportunity of preaching with hopeful prospects of success, I was induced to stay some time in those parts.

13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

13 Nevertheless, such was my anxiety about you, that I could not be easy in my own mind, because I did not meet with my dear brother *Titus* there, as I expected, that I might learn from him, what effect my former letter had upon you, and how things stood with you, as to your spiritual affairs; but, taking my farewell of the church at that place, I travelled from thence into the province of *Macedonia* in search of him; where, at length, I found him, who gave me a very comfortable account of your humbleness of mind, and earnest desire to rectify what had been amiss; and of your affectionate dispositions toward me. (*Chap. vii. 6, 7.*)

14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the favour of his knowledge by us in every place.

14 Now, blessed be the Father of mercies, that notwithstanding the great opposition, and sore tribulations of various kinds, which have befallen me, and other fellow-labourers; he, in his wonderful condescension and grace, always gives us rich occasions for, and carries our souls into, a holy rejoicing in Christ, even unto exultation, as making us more than conquerors over all our enemies, through him, who has loved us, and is the glory of our ministry: And we can never be thankful enough to God, who not only

E e 2

reveals

N O T E.

* This journey to *Troas*, was not that mentioned in *Acts* xvi. 8. which was long before; nor was it that in *Acts* xx. 6. which was from *Philippi* in *Macedonia* to *Troas*; whereas *this* was from *Troas* to *Macedonia* (ver. 13.) But the generality of interpreters think, that

it was when the apostle passed from *Ephesus*, and took *Troas* in his way to *Macedonia*: (*Acts* xv. 1.) And if it was not then, we have no other account, in the *Acts* of the Apostles, to which it can be referred.

reveals Christ by our ministrations; but makes his name and gospel exceeding precious and delightful, like the most fragrant ointment poured forth, which fills the air with a pleasant perfume, and is exceeding grateful to all within its reach; and who makes our labours acceptable to himself, like odours of incense, and sacrifices of a sweet smelling favour, through Jesus Christ, at *Corinth*, as well as among all sorts of people wheresoever we come.

15 For we are unto God a sweet favour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish.

15 For, in the faithful discharge of our commission, we are well-pleasing to God, on Christ's account, and in the reference that our doctrine and services have to him; both with respect to those that are effectually wrought upon by it, and enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, as the glory of his *grace* is exalted in them; and with respect to those that reject the gospel, through their obstinacy and unbelief, to their own perdition, as the glory of his *justice* is displayed in them; and so he favourably accepts our labours in his Son, not according to their success, but according to our right principles, motives and ends, diligence and integrity, in fulfilling them.

16 To the one we are the favour of death unto death; and to the other the favour of life unto life: and who is sufficient for these things?

16 To some indeed, (*οἷς μῆρ*) as the sweetest scent is offensive and pernicious to persons that are sick, or that have an antipathy to it; so our preaching the pure gospel of Christ, which is excellent in itself, and highly acceptable to God, is disagreeable to their carnal minds, which are enmity against God; (*Rom. viii. 7.*) and (as though the gospel were like the ministration of the law, which kills instead of giving life, *chap. iii. 6.*) it eventually increases their spiritual death and condemnation, even to eternal destruction, through the depravity of their own hearts, which obstinately reject, pervert, and abuse it: But to others, (*οἷς θε*) it is a reviving and delightful odour, which, through the attending power of the Spirit, recovers them from the death of sin, to the life of righteousness, and continues to be a sweet refreshment to them afterwards, under all their soul-sicknesses and faintings, troubles and trials, till it issues in their complete enjoyment of eternal life. How affecting and important are these events of our ministry! and how great is the difficulty of fulfilling it, in a wise and faithful manner, with an humble, holy, and disinterested zeal for the glory of Christ, the manifestation of the truth to the consciences of our hearers, and the good of immortal souls; and with a suitable address to different persons and cases, that every one may have his portion in due season! What vain pretender, like your false teachers, can be fit to engage in this arduous and solemn service? Nay, who of himself, be he the best and greatest

man upon earth, (*chap. iii. 5.*) is equal to it, and capable of going through it, with such a temper of spirit, as becomes him; and to such advantage, as is most desirable? And yet I say that our faithful labours are acceptable to God in Christ, whatever the issues of them may be to others.

17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the fight of God speak we in Christ.

17 For we are not like many of the *judaizing* teachers, who adulterate, and debase the pure and glorious gospel of the blessed God, by mingling legal observances, and human inventions with it, to serve their own pride and avarice, as vintners corrupt their neat wines, (*καπηλιωνοίς*) by injurious mixtures for the sake of gain: But we preach the true and genuine gospel of Christ entire, just as we received it from him, without any alterations, additions, or secular views, as with an honest plain-heartedness, free from craft, or deceit; (*chap. iv. 2.*) and as by the authority, guidance, and influence of God himself; and, in all our discourses, we speak conscientiously, as in the sight and presence of the omniscient God, looking for all acceptance with him, in and through the great Mediator, who is the governing subject of our ministry.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

What a tender love and concern have faithful pastors for their flocks! They are exceeding solicitous about their affairs; they make their sorrows and joys their own, and are willing to keep up as good an opinion of them as possible; they are grieved at heart, when any of them fall into sin, and persist with such obstinacy in it, as to oblige the church to cast them out of its communion; they are earnestly desirous that such offenders may be brought to repentance, and, upon good evidence that they are so, would have them restored to the fellowship, and affection of the whole community, lest they should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. And why should not churches take off their censures, when the proper ends, for which they were inflicted, are answered? To be unforgiving to those, whom we have ground to hope God has pardoned, is a disobedience to Christ's authority; and gives Satan an advantage against the humble penitent, to drive him to despair; and against the church, to bring an odium upon it, as though it were uncharitably severe. And alas! How many are the wiles of the devil, for supplanting the cause of Christ, which it is our wisdom and duty to observe, and guard against! But blessed be God, who will make his precious gospel triumphant, to the joy of his servants, whose consciences bear witness to their integrity, in defiance of all opposition; and will take pleasure in its ministrations, whether they issue in the righteous destruction of those, whose carnal hearts are averse to it; or in the spiritual life and eternal salvation of those, that believe through grace. O how awful, on one hand; how delightful, on the other; and how difficult and important, on the whole, is the work of the ministry! We may well cry out, Who is sufficient for these things? And if any are wise and faithful stewards in dispensing them, and *that* with good effect, it is all of God. Wo be to those, the number of which is too great, that corrupt the simplicity of the gospel; but they who, through divine light and influence, preach and maintain the purity of its doctrines, according to the word of God, as in the integrity of their hearts, with disinterested views, and as under his all-seeing eye, may be humbly confident, for their encouragement, that whether their success be more or less, they and their labours shall be graciously accepted of him in the beloved.

C H A P. III.

The apostle appeals to the Corinthians for the good effects of his ministry upon them, the glory of which he ascribes entirely to God, 1,— . Shews the preference of the gospel to the legal administration, 6,— 1. And that his preaching it was suitable to its excellency and evidence, and had an enlightning and transforming efficacy; through the power of the Holy Ghost, 12,—18.

TEXT.

DO we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men :

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ, manifested by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit

PARAPHRASE.

DO we, the Ministers of Christ ; and particularly, do I myself, who am chiefly struck at by the false apostles, and speak with a special eye to my own just and necessary vindication * ; Do we, I say, now again begin, like vain glorious persons, to set out our own praises, by avowing our sincerity and fidelity, (*chap. ii. 17.*) as some may censure us for having done before, in the former epistle, *chap. iv. ?* No, we are far from seeking glory of men ; (*1 Thess. ii. 6.*) but it is for your, and the gospel's sake, that we say any thing of that aspect : (*chap. v. 12.*) Or do we stand in need, as the false apostles do, of any letters of recommendation from other churches, to ingratiate ourselves with you ? Or have we any occasion for your giving us a good character, to introduce us to the favour of others ? No, we neither ask, nor need any such thing of you, or them.

2 Ye yourselves, the dear seals of our ministry, (*1 Cor. ix. 2.*) are our letters testimonial, every way better, and more convincing in themselves, and more desirable in our account, than the highest encomiums, that words could heap upon us ; testimonials so deeply impressed on our hearts, that we can never forget them, nor think of them without joy and praise ; and so evident to all around you, that they cannot but be legible, and known amongst all, that are acquainted with you, or have heard of God's remarkable work, through our labours, upon you.

3 For, by the gifts and graces bestowed upon you, ye are openly manifested to be Christ's own epistle, which he has formed, and published to the world, by means of our ministrations in his name ; an epistle written, not with ink, like those which the false apostles want from you, and which are the only ones,

N O T E.

* Though the apostle principally intends himself, as most directly affected by the reproaches of his adversaries and vindicated against them ; yet he seems to include his brethren, such as *Timothy*,

Silvanus, and *Titus*, who are mentioned, *chap. i. 1, 19.* and *ii. 13.* partly to screen himself from envy, and partly to defend their characters together with his own.

Spirit of the living God: not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

ones, that ye could write for them, or us; but an epistle formed by the powerful operation of the Holy Ghost, who is essentially one with the Father and Son, as a man's soul is with himself*, and is the Spirit of the only true God, who has life necessarily in himself, and is the fountain and giver of it to others; and an epistle written, not like the moral law of ten commandments in tables of stone; (*Exod. xxiv. 12. and xxxiv. 1.*) nor in unregenerate hearts, that are dead and senseless, obdurate and unyielding, as a stone; but in the tender and pliant, living and sensible tables of your souls, which, being renewed by grace, are made susceptible and retentive of every spiritual and holy impression, according to the new covenant promise, that God *will take away the stony heart out of his peoples flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.* (*Ezek. xxxvi. 26.*)

4 And such trust have we through Christ to Godward:

4 And we have hope toward God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that this happy effect, according to the promise, is indeed wrought in you; and that our ministry shall still be owned of him, and made successful, in producing the same good effect upon many others, to his glory, and the further vindication of our character.

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing, as of ourselves: but our sufficiency is of God;

5 Not that we assume any honour to ourselves; no, we frankly acknowledge that, as to any ability of our own, if left to ourselves, we, like other men, are utterly incapable of so much, as thinking one truly good and spiritual thought †; much less are we able, of ourselves, (*λογισασθαι*) to reason at such a rate, as shall be effectual to the conversion of others: But all our sufficiency or fitness, for one and the other, is entirely and alone of God, by the operation of his Spirit in us, and with us: We therefore humbly rely upon him for it, and ascribe the glory of it all to him;

6 Who also hath made us able ministers

6 Who has graciously furnished us with every needful qualification, and gives us all seasonable assistances, to

N O T E S.

* That *Christ* is included in the *living God* here mentioned, appears not only from the *Spirit's* being in other places styled *the Spirit of Christ*, as well as of *the Father*; but likewise from the *Corinthians* being called, in the former part of this verse, *the epistle of Christ*, as the proper author of it; in distinction from the ministerial concern, that the apostle had in forming it: And since *the Spirit* is here spoken of, as the immediate divine agent, who wrote this *living epistle*, we are also to consider him as *essentially* one with, though *personally* dis-

tinged from, the Father and Son. (See the note on *1 Cor. ii. 11.*)

† The apostle seems to argue from the less to the greater; if they were not sufficient of themselves to do so small a thing, as to think a good thought, that should be pleasing to God, and beneficial to their own souls; much less could they inspire others with such thoughts, and produce an effectual and thorough change in their hearts, by all their own reasoning with them; but all must be entirely owing to the power of God, as working in and by them.

nisters of the new testament, not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

to make us faithful and successful ministers of the gospel, which exhibits the new covenant, in its utmost evidence, freeness, and fulness, as it is now confirmed by the death of Christ; ministers, I say, not of the law, which the *judaizing* teachers are so fond of, and which may be called *the letter*, in allusion to God's *literally* writing its moral precepts by his own finger, or extraordinary power; (*Exod.* xxxi. 18. and *Deut.* ix. 10.) and to intimate the weakness of the then present dispensation, as in itself a dead letter: But he has made us Ministers of the *gospel*, which was not only indited by, but is likewise accompanied with the Holy Spirit, as the means by which he works, and in the dispensation of which he is given, to make it efficacious to saving purposes; and therefore takes its denomination of *spirit* from him, in opposition to the law, which was, in great measure at least, destitute of his energy*: For *the law itself*, by shewing a man his duty, and giving him no assistance to perform it, and yet condemning him for every defect, destroys all hope of salvation, and binds him over to destruction, while he continues under it: But the *gospel*, attended with the light and agency of the Holy Spirit, is the means of making dead sinners alive to God, and of bringing them into a state of acceptance with him to eternal life.

7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses, for the glory of his countenance, which glory was

7, 8 And (δε) if the law, which was in itself an administration that tended to death, and issued in endless destruction to all, that were left under it, without looking any further; and which was written (εν γραμμασι) in letters of God's own forming, and engraven on tables of stone; if this law was delivered with a glory, (εν δοξαι) when God appeared in awful solemnity at mount Sinai, and conversed with Moses in such an immediate manner, as impressed so shining a glory upon his countenance, that, when he returned to the people, its lustre was too dazzling for the *Israelites*

N O T E.

* It is apparent to me, that by *the letter*, as in *Rom.* ii. 27. so here, the apostle means the *legal dispensation*, which he afterwards calls *the ministration of death, and of condemnation*, ver. 7, 9; and that by *spirit*, he means the *gospel-dispensation*, which he calls *the ministration of the Spirit, and of righteousness*, ver. 8, 9.: For he all along sets one of these in opposition to the other; the first of which may be called *the letter*, and the second, *the Spirit*, for reasons given in the paraphrase. But though by *the letter*, and *the ministration of death, and of condemnation*, he seems

most immediately to point at the *moral law*, together with its curse, as woven into that administration; yet he designed to include the whole of the *Mosaic* or *legal dispensation*: For when, in another view, he speaks of it as that which is *done away*, and was represented by *the veil which Moses put on his face*, ver. 11. 13. he most directly intends the *ceremonial law*; and so considers the *Old Testament*, ver. 14. or the whole of the *Jewish dispensation*, as obscure, and insufficient of itself, for bringing in righteousness unto life, in opposition to the *gospel administration*.

to be done a-way ;

8 How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious ?

9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

10 For even that which was made glorious, had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

11 For if that which is done a-way was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

raelites to look upon it with steadfastness, because of the more than human brightness that was shed upon it ; which brightness was to last but a little while, to intimate that the dark dispensation, they were then under, must continue, till the accomplishment of its prefigurative design in Christ : If, I say, there was such a visible glory in this terrible dispensation, and such an honour was put upon *Moses* in ministering it, how much greater glory, of a spiritual nature, must there be in the delightful dispensation of the gospel, which is attended with the enlightning and quickning, sanctifying, and saving operations of the blessed Spirit ; and is the means, by which his gifts and graces are conveyed to them that believe ? And how much more excellent and amiable must the glory be, which it puts upon the ministers, who are qualified and authorized to preach it, and upon those that by faith receive it, and are themselves transformed into its glorious likenesses ? (*ver.* 18.)

9 For if there was such a glory, as we plainly see there was a very awful one, in the ministry that left the people under a sentence of condemnation ; surely then, the ministry of the gospel, in which the righteousness of God is revealed, for the justification of every true believer in Christ ; and, by means of which, faith itself, whereby we believe unto righteousness, is wrought in the heart ; (*Rom.* i. 17. and x. 4, 10, 17.) this illustrious and powerful ministry must needs be as much more abundantly transcendent in its endearing excellence and honour, as the divine glory, which shines forth in righteousness to eternal life, surpasses that, which is displayed in condemnation to eternal death.

10 For even the legal dispensation, divinely glorious as it appeared to be, in the external manner of its majestic introduction at mount *Sinai*, loses all its lustre, and fades away, like a lesser light at the rising of a greater, and admits of no comparison with the gospel dispensation of light and grace, because of the superabundant and permanent glory of this, beyond that.

11 For if there really was a glory in the Old Testament dispensation, which, on account of its weakness and imperfection, is now set aside, and brought to its period ; much more must the New Testament dispensation, which is so excellent in itself, and introduces a *kingdom, which cannot be moved*, (*Heb.* xii. 28.) but shall abide without any alteration of its privileges and ordinances to the end of time, be truly, emphatically, and beyond all comparison, glorious.

12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech.

13 And not as Moises, *which* put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished.

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away, in the reading of the old testament; which *veil* is done away in Christ.

12 Being therefore, upon these considerations, fully persuaded of the superior worth and excellency of the *gospel*, above the *legal* dispensation; and having an humble confidence in the Lord, that he will make it effectual to the salvation of many souls; we are emboldened to use great freedom, openness and plainness in our way of preaching the word of his grace, without any shyness, fear, or disguise, on one hand; or any embellishments of human art, and oratory, as though they were needful to recommend it, on the other.

13 And we do not go about in *any manner* to hide or conceal its intrinsic, native beauties, as *Moses* covered his face with a veil, to hide the bright shining of his countenance from the view of the *Israelites*; he thereby intimating, in an emblematical way, that partly through the obscurity of the dispensation they were under, and partly through the carnality of their own hearts, they could not look through it, and behold, by a steady faith, its true and ultimate scope and design; or take in clear conceptions of the antitype and substance of those legal types and shadows, which are now no longer to be used in religious worship, as having been fulfilled in Christ.

14 But their intellectual powers (*παραστάσις*) were stupified and blinded; their hearts being as hard, as the tables of stone, on which the moral law was written, (*ver. 7.*) and their thoughts as obscure, as the types and shadows, which referred to the things of the *gospel*: (*ver. 13.*) And though that gloomy dispensation is now brought to an end, and succeeded by one more excellent, which explains it; yet the *subjective* darkness of the minds of the unbelieving *Jews*, who still adhere to it, effectually hinders their discerning the great and glorious things intended, and prefigured by it: For, to this very day, the same veil of ignorance and blindness still covers their understandings, when they read the Old Testament writings, as if the object lay as much concealed, as ever, under the veil of distant predictions, and obscure types and figures*. This *objective* veil is now removed by the coming of Christ, and by the clear explications of the New Testament, which shew how exactly and completely

N O T E.

* The apostle manifestly speaks in this discourse of a double veil, which spread over the *Israelites*, and might be figuratively indicated by the veil on the face of *Moses*, *ver. 13.*; one *internal* on their minds, as they were blinded; and the other *external* on the object itself, as

that was hid under types and figures. The first of these is certainly intended, *ver. 15, 16.* and in the former part of this verse; but both may be included in the last clause, as also in *ver. 13* according to the sense given in the paraphrase.

pletely all is fulfilled, by what he has done and suffered, who is *the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes*; (Rom. x. 4.) and the *subjective* veil itself is taken off from the minds of true believers, by the illumination of his Spirit, to lead them into the knowledge of Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

15 But I say, with respect to the unbelieving carnal Jew, that even to this very day, amidst so clear a revelation of the object itself in gospel light, there still remains such an internal darkness upon their understandings, through their own pride, lusts, and prejudices, hardness of heart, and fondness for ceremonial observances, and for setting up a righteousness of their own, as makes them so incapable of perceiving things in a just light, that when the law of *Moses* is read, as it is in their synagogues every Sabbath-day, (*Acts* xv. 21.) they can no more discern its true and spiritual meaning, in its reference to Christ, than the *Israelites* could see through the veil on their typical Mediator's face, or could steadfastly behold the glory of his countenance, when the veil was removed from it, at the delivering of the law.

16 Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

16 Nevertheless, as *Moses* took the veil off from his face, when he turned from the people to go in before the Lord; (*Exod.* xxxiv. 34.) so when ever the happy time shall come, for the body of that people to be nationally converted to the Lord Jesus; or when any of their hearts (*ver.* 15.) shall be effectually wrought upon, by his Spirit, to turn to him, and receive him by faith, as the only true Messiah, then that *internal* veil shall be taken off, as the external one is already; so that the eyes of their understandings shall be enlightened to see how all the types, figures, and predictions of the law have a complete and glorious accomplishment in Christ.

17 Now the Lord and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

17 Now the Lord Jesus, who will take away this internal veil, which lies upon their hearts, is himself in his divine nature, by way of eminence, *a spirit*, as God is said to be; (*John* iv. 24.) and, in his office-capacity, he is *a quickning spirit*, (*1 Cor.* xv. 45.) and *the words that he speaks are spirit and life*; (*John* vi. 63.) he having power in himself to *quicken whom he will*, (*John* v. 21.) and to convey the Holy Spirit, for making dead souls live, by means of the gospel: And wherever this divine Spirit of the Lord Jesus dwells, by way of peculiar relation and vital operation in any soul, there is a blessed freedom from the darkness that had overspread its mind, and from the bondage of the legal administration; and a correspondent freedom from the guilt and power of sin, and from the curse and condemnation of the law;

and, in consequence of all this, there is a holy and delightful liberty of spirit, in its access to God, and communion with him, as a reconciled God and Father.

13 But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

18 And ($\delta\epsilon$) all of us who believe in Christ, and have his Spirit dwelling in us, being brought into the open light and full liberty of the gospel-state, and being delivered from that ignorance and blindness, which before covered our minds; now behold by faith the unveiled glory of the Lord Jesus, in whom all the law is fulfilled, and all the divine perfections are illustriously displayed, and harmoniously exalted: And as the face of *Moses* shone with a heavenly likeness, by the impression which he received in seeing the glory of God; (*ver. 7.*) so, by the clear view which faith gives us of Christ's glory in the gospel, as in a mirror, or looking-glass, which distinctly represents the very image of things, in opposition to the dark hints under the law, which were, at best, but an obscure shadow of them*, we are effectually transformed into Christ's own amiable and holy likeness, by a progression from the glory of the Old Testament to the much brighter glory of the New, (*ver. 7.—11.*) and by a glory reflected upon us, and derived to us, from his glory; and *that* from one degree of grace and

N O T E.

* As a shadow gives us a much more indistinct and imperfect representation of a person, than his image doth, the law is said to have a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of them; (*Heb. x. 1.*) and as seeing a man's face in a looking-glass gives us a vastly better idea of him, than any shadow in the world could do, the light of the gospel dispensation is here spoken of, as beholding with open face in a glass; but as looking directly on a person's face gives us a much better notion of him, than merely seeing it in a glass, and is indeed the most exact and perfect way, in which he can be known; the light of heaven is set out, (*1 Cor. xiii. 12.* See the note there) as seeing face to face, and knowing as we are known, and that in opposition to our seeing in a glass, which, compared with the heavenly vision, is but darkly; though, compared with the great obscurities of the legal dispensation, it is seeing with open face, and without a veil; and so this is a beautiful description of the light of the gospel, as exceeding that of the law, but falling vastly short of that, which we shall have in heaven.—The connection of this with the foregoing verse naturally leads us to

apprehend, that when the apostle says, *we all with open face behold*, &c. he does not mean only himself and other ministers, (see the note on *ver. 1.*) but all true believers, or all, whom he had been just speaking of, that *turn to the Lord, have his Spirit*, and are let into the liberty of the gospel; and what he here affirms concerning *this all* is no more, than is included in this liberty, and belongs, as a common privilege and blessing, to every true believer under the gospel state. And, methinks, those paraphrasts, who, all along before and after this verse, consider *we* and *us*, as signifying only the apostle himself, and accordingly render them *I* and *me*, should be ready to allow that by *we all* he means something different, so as to include the Christians he wrote to, and those whom he had just before been describing, as well as the inspired ministers of the gospel; and whenever he speaks in the plural number of things, that are common to faithful ministers and other believers, or that go into the Christian privilege and character, as such, I cannot see why we should not take them in an extensive view, as including both.

and holiness to another, in proportion to the strength and clearness of this realizing view, which is glory begun; and from the beginnings of this divine work upon earth, to the completing of it in heaven, which is grace perfected in glory: And all this is effected by the peculiar agency and impression of the Lord, the Spirit, (*Κυρις πνευματος*) who is himself a divine person, and comes as the Spirit of the Lord Christ, to glorify him, by means of gospel ministrations. (*John xvi. 14.*)

RECOLLECTIONS.

Blessed be God, that our lot is cast under the gospel-state, which so vastly, and beyond all comparison, excels the legal dispensation in glory: *That* of the law was terribly, but *this* of the gospel is amiably glorious; *that* was full of darkness and bondage, but *this* is full of light and holy liberty; *that* was a ministration of death and condemnation, but *this* of spiritual life, and of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, to eternal life; *that* was typical and figurative, but *this* brings in the substance, which answers all that was typified by those obscure modes of instruction; and therefore *that* was to last only for an appointed season, but *this* has abolished it, and excels in duration, as well as in many other respects, it being to continue to the end of time, till it shall issue in all the glory of the better world. What an honour is it to be put into, and made faithful and successful in, such a glorious ministry as this! Who is sufficient for it of himself, or for so much as thinking any thing relating to it, with spiritual advantage to himself, or others? All sufficiency of this kind is entirely of God; and all its saving effects are wrought by his Spirit, who impresses his word with life, energy, and abiding characters on new hearts, which from hearts of stone are turned into hearts of flesh, and become the living epistles of Christ, that are legible to all around them, and are, though not singly and alone, yet the most noble and delightful seals and testimonials, that can be given to ministerial labours. But alas! What will this excellent and glorious dispensation of light and grace avail those, that still remain under their native and contracted blindness, and chosen hardness of heart? How clearly soever the light may shine round about them, the internal veil upon their minds is a darkness that comprehends it not. But, adored be the riches of God's grace, there is room for hope, that, by the power of his Spirit, the *internal* veil itself may be removed; and when we are truly converted to the faith of Christ, by the enlightning and heart-changing operation of his divine Spirit, it is removed, and we are admitted to all the liberties, privileges, and blessings of the New Testament state; and while with unveiled face, like that of *Moses*, when he appeared before the Lord, we by faith behold, in the clear glass of gospel revelation, the glory of the Lord Jesus, as a divine Saviour, and as the fulfiller of the law, we shall be moulded into his holy likeness from one degree of grace to another, till we arrive at eternal glory, by the transforming impression of gospel-truths upon our hearts from the Lord, the Spirit.

C H A P. IV.

The apostle, animated by a consideration of the excellency and power of the gospel-ministry, declares that he and his fellow-labourers discharged it with unwearied diligence, sincerity, and faithfulness, though not with equal success to all, 1,—7. That their sufferings for it were exceeding great, and yet attended with rich supports, and various advantages, 8,—12. And that their prospects of eternal glory were their chief preservative against fainting under their tribulations, 13,—18.

TEXT.

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel shall be hid, it is hid

PARAPHRASE.

SINCE therefore a dispensation of the gospel, which is so glorious in itself, and so efficacious and transforming in the hearts of true believers, by the attending power of the Spirit, is committed to me and my fellow-labourers; we are animated, according to the grace bestowed upon us, and the compassion our God has shewn us, under all our weaknesses and trials, to go on in the discharge of our important trust, without despondency, cowardice, or flinching, amidst all the tribulations and reproaches, that we are loaded with for Christ's sake.

2 But, notwithstanding the many temptations to the contrary, that beset us, we have abandoned with abhorrence, and kept at the remotest distance from all secret, dishonourable, and shameful tricks and contrivances, that will not bear the light; such as the false teachers go into, to conceal themselves and their designs; but would be matter of disgrace to us, as they really are to them: We do not, like them, behave with slyness and subtilty, to over-reach and ensnare the souls of our hearers by false pretences; but with great simplicity and open freedom, to lead them into the way of salvation by Jesus Christ; nor do we corrupt and falsify (*μη δολωσῆς*) the pure word of God, by any additions or alterations of our own, or by attempting to accommodate it to the depraved taste of those that we minister to: But, in preaching the truth of the gospel, and nothing but what we believe to be so, we endeavour, as upright and faithful stewards, to approve ourselves to the consciences of every one, that would judge impartially concerning us, as in the sight and presence of God; and we do this, as considering ourselves to be always under the critical inspection of his all-seeing and heart-searching eye, to whom we must one day give an account of ourselves, and of our ministry.

3 But if after all this plain and faithful publication of the gospel, which indeed is not ours, as though

hid to them that are lost :

we were the inventors and authors of it, or enforced it by our own authority, but the ministry of which we have received from Christ : (*ver. 1.*) If, I say, this excellent and glorious gospel is nevertheless covered, or concealed from the minds of any that hear it, so that they cannot understand or receive it, by means of that veil of ignorance and blindness, which remains on their hearts ; (*chap. iii. 15.*) it is thus hid only from them, that still continue in the lost and perishing condition, into which they were plunged by the fall, and in which they abide by their own wilful obstinacy and unbelief, and, persisting therein, must be inevitably lost and undone for ever.

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

4 In these unhappy creatures, their great adversary the Devil, who is worshipped by the idolatrous *Gentile* as their god, and is tamely submitted to, and served by, men of carnal minds, whom he tempts, as he presumed to do our blessed Lord himself, with the things of this world, as though they were all at his own disposal : (*Matth. iv. 8, 9.*) In these, I say, the great ruler of the darkness of this world (*Eph. vi. 12.*) has had a malignant influence, to increase, and confirm the blindness and stupidity of their minds, who remain in unbelief ; he powerfully works in these children of disobedience, (*Eph. ii. 2.*) by allurements and terrors, and by every false suggestion and delusion, to thicken the darkness of their understandings, and lead them into wrong notions about the things of God, and their own eternal interests : And so, for fear of losing his vassals, he doth his utmost to keep them under the power of darkness, lest the conspicuous discovery, that is made of the glory of Christ (*της δοξης τῆς Χριστοῦ*) in the gospel, as in a glass, (*chap. iii. 18.*) should make its way through the veil of their own natural blindness, and should illuminate and change their minds and hearts, by the knowledge and faith of him, who, in his divine nature, is the essential image of God the Father, and, in the constitution of his person God-Man, is his representative image ; and in whom, as Mediator, all the divine perfections appear to be unitedly exalted, and illustriously displayed with amiable harmony : It is not therefore owing to any defect in the gospel itself, or in our way of preaching it, but only to the criminal disorder of their own minds, which Satan makes an advantage of, that unbelievers do not perceive, nor are affected with its glory.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord ; and ourselves

5 For, as to us, the ministers of this blessed gospel, we do nothing to hide it, or cast a veil over it, by endeavouring to promote our own honour or interests, authority or inventions, passions or prejudices ;

but

elves your ser-
vants for Jesus
Christ.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

but we preach its pure doctrine with all possible plainness, in its full light and glory, relating to the person and offices, righteousness, grace and government of Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of lost sinners, and Lord of all: And we frankly own ourselves to be no more than servants, that are called to study your weaknesses and wants, temptations and dangers, and to labour, by all proper means, for the relief, and the spiritual and eternal welfare of your souls, in love to Christ and you, and in obedience to his commands, and for advancing his kingdom and glory among you.

6 For God, who in the creation of this world said, *Let there be light, and there was light*, (Gen. i. 3.) and so, by his own powerful and efficacious word, caused light to shine out of the dark chaos; this God, in the new creation, while the thickest darkness of a spiritual nature was spread over our own and other souls, has shone by a special illumination of his Spirit in our hearts *, as also in the hearts of all that believe, to enlighten us with discoveries of his glorious Being and perfections, counsels and will, relating to the way of salvation, as they are manifestly displayed, with the brightest and most endearing lustre, in the person and mediation of Jesus Christ, who is *the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person*; (Heb. i. 3.) and in whom his glory is not covered under a veil, as that which shone in the face of *Moses* was; (*chap. iii. 13.*) but is openly manifested in the clear representation, that is now made of it by the gospel.

7 But how wonderful is the wisdom and condescension of God, in his way of dealing with men! This noble treasure of evangelical truth and grace is put into us, and dispensed by us, who dwell in frail, contemptible and perishing bodies, which are but like the *earthen pitchers* of *Gideon's* soldiers, that contained lighted lamps, (*Judg. vii. 16.*) or like mean brittle caskets, that hold the most precious jewels; God so ordering it, that (*ὑπερβολή*) the superabundance and invaluable excellence of the divine energy, which makes his word effectual for the illumination and conversion of lost sinners, might appear with the greater evidence and certainty; and might be the more readily believed and acknowledged, to be entirely

N O T E.

* This *shining in our hearts*, stands opposed to *the god of this world's blinding the minds of them that believe not*, ver. 4; which shews that, though it relates primarily to the apostles, it is likewise to be extended to private Chris-

tians, even to all those, whose minds the god of this world does not continue to blind, and who are God's *workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works*. (*Eph. ii. 10.*)

entirely owing to his gracious supernatural operation by his Spirit ; and not at all to our wisdom and learning, parts and eloquence ; nor to any power that can be exerted by such weak and mortal creatures as ourselves, who are attended with many corporal sufferings, which are the tokens of our own frailty, and under which nothing less than the almighty power of God, could support and preserve us ; as to instance in some of them.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed ; we are perplexed, but not in despair ;

8 We are pressed with afflictions and tribulations from all quarters, in various ways, and by all manner of means, that men or devils can invent and inflict upon us ; but, blessed be God, in the midst of them all, (*κατασχεμασμενοι*) we are not cramped in our own spirits, nor oppressed with anxiety of mind, like persons that are at their wit's end, and have no hope or help in the Lord ; nor are we thrust into corners to hinder our further publication of the gospel, or so shut up, as to find no way of escape : We are sometimes doubtful about what course we should take in present dangers, and what further trials may befall us ; but are not suffered to distrust, much less to despair of the wisdom and power, goodness and faithfulness of our God to uphold us under, carry us through, and, in due time, deliver us out of all our troubles, and to make them work together for our own, and his people's good.

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken ; cast down, but not destroyed ;

9 We are persecuted for righteousness sake, in our persons, characters, liberties, and properties, by all the methods of reproach and violence, that wicked men can furnish out against us ; but are not left to ourselves, or deserted and abandoned of our God ; we are not deprived of his consolations, nor disowned of him, who bears witness to our own souls, and to the world, of his gracious approbation of us : We in our wrestlings against flesh and blood, as well as principalities and powers, (*Εφβ. vi. 12.*) are sometimes, through the workings of human fears, dejected, foiled, and thrown down, like wrestlers in the public games ; but we rise again by faith, and neither we, nor our cause are slain, or defeated, as though we had lost the victory, or were ourselves lost, (*καταλλυμενοι*) as the impenitent and unbelieving are. (*ver. 3.*)

10 Always bearing about in the body, the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

10 In our daily combats we, like the boxers in the Grecian games, undergo such hardships and severities, and retain such marks of them in our mortal bodies, on account of our faith in a crucified Jesus, as carry plain and visible resemblances of the wounds of our dying Lord and Saviour, who was cruelly buffeted and beaten by his enemies, when they were going

to put him to death, and who sympathizes with all his members in their sufferings for his sake, and counts them his own; and we, by our fellowship with him in the virtue of his death, are enabled to bear them with faith and patience, constancy and courage, in conformity to him, and for his glory, that the reality and power of the life also, to which the blessed Jesus was raised, might be illustriously displayed, by animating us with holy fortitude and vigour, to bear up under all our sufferings on his account, in these frail and perishing bodies.

11 For we which live, are always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

11 For we who live spiritually, by quickning influence from him, as our vital Head, and in conformity to him, as our great exemplar, and who, by help obtained from him, continue corporally alive to this very day, are perpetually betrayed and delivered up, by our restless adversaries, into the hands of the secular powers, or of the outrageous populace; and so are surrounded with dangers, and exposed to death itself, for preaching and professing our faith in Christ, as the only Saviour; all which is designed, permitted, and over-ruled, by the providence of God, to this end, that our wonderful preservation and deliverance from the jaws of death, and our continuing, notwithstanding all this, to preach the gospel with divine energy, might be an evident demonstration of the great power and glory, to which our living Redeemer is risen from the dead; and that his holy and heavenly life might be conspicuously exemplified in us, by his enabling us to hold fast our faith, and hold on our way, with humble submission, patience, and undaunted resolution, in imitation of him, amidst all the infirmities and oppressions, that attend our abode in mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

12 So that we, his ministring servants, are exposed to all manner of distresses, and dangers of death, in every form that is hideous to human nature; but ye, my Christian friends, dwell in safety, and enjoy all the comforts of this life; and the troubles, that we endure in preaching the gospel, and for the confirmation of it, are, by the power of Christ, turned into means of spiritual and eternal life to you that believe, as well as to ourselves.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken: we also believe,

13 But ($\delta\epsilon$) how great soever the difference in outward circumstances be, which may occasion contempt from the men of this world to us, and honour to you; yet as we are animated by the same lively principle of faith, which is wrought by the Holy Spirit in us, and in you*, as it also was, by the same spirit in the

N O T E.

* The same spirit of faith is referred, by some, to the same with the *Old Testament*

lieve, and therefore speak ;

the Old Testament saints, according to what is written by one of them, who even while he personated Christ himself, with respect to the great troubles and dangers that encompassed him, said, (*Psal.* cxvi. 6.) I believed what God revealed and promised, and found that it was not in vain ; and therefore have I declared it, to the glory of his mercy, power, and faithfulness, and for the encouragement of others : So we in like manner believe in Christ, according to the revelation, that is now made of him, and according to the exceeding great and precious promises, that are confirmed in him, and are experienced by ourselves to be faithful and true ; and therefore we not only persist in boldly preaching the gospel, through much tribulation ; but likewise openly declare our faith and hope in him, for deliverance out of all our troubles, and for the inheritance of eternal life at the end of them, to his glory and the encouragement of all that do, or shall believe in him :

14 Knowing, that he which raised up the Lord Jesus, shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

14 Being well assured, that *the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant ;* (*Heb.* xiii. 20.) and who did this, in testimony, that divine justice was fully satisfied by his death, will also, at the consummation of all things, quicken our mortal bodies, and raise them up to a blessed immortality, for the sake of Jesus, our great Head and Redeemer, through the merit of his blood, and by the energy of his Spirit ; and will approve of us, together with you that believe, as accepted in the beloved ; and will present both faithful ministers, and all his members, *faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy.* (*Jude ver.* 24.)

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might, through the thanksgiving of many, redound to the glory of God.

15 For all the preaching, labours, and sufferings of Christ's servants, and indeed all things relating to the gospel dispensation, which shall issue in the glory of the heavenly world, are intended, ordered, and made effectual, with a special regard to you that belong to God, for your spiritual edification and eternal salvation ; to the end that the riches of divine grace, which is so exceedingly abounding through

G g 2

our

N O T E.

tament saints, and by others, to the same with that of true believers among the *Corinthians*. I have included both senses, the better to comport with what immediately follows, *I believed, and therefore have I spoken*, in the *Psalms*, and with what the apostle adds at the close of the next verse, *and shall present us with you* ; and have also hinted Mr.

Pierce's thought, who, by the *same spirit of faith*, understands the same spirit of faith, which *Jesus* himself had, who is spoken of in the preceding and following verses, and who this learned writer thinks is the person, that spoke in the words quoted from *Psal.* cxvi. See his second dissertation, at the end of the epistle to the *Hebrews*.

our Lord Jesus Christ, might turn to an overflowing revenue of glory to the God and Father of mercies, by means of the grateful acknowledgments, thanksgivings and praises of vast multitudes, even of all that are, or shall be, converted and saved by our ministrations; and the more there are of them, the higher will his glorious name be exalted.

16 For which cause we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

16 In realizing views and considerations of these happy fruits and effects of our ministry to others, and to our own souls, we, as I said, (*ver. 1.*) are not discouraged by the many difficulties and dangers, that attend our fulfilling it; but though, through numberless fatigues and hardships, our mortal bodies and all our outward enjoyments gradually decline, and waste away, and must soon come to an end; yet our immortal and regenerate souls (see the note on *Rom. vii. 22.*) are daily revived, strengthened and improved in all grace, comfort, and holiness, by fresh supplies of the Spirit, and manifestations of God's love; and are sensibly growing more and more in desire and meetness, for the perfection of a better world.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

17 For though, in the judgment of flesh and sense, our multiplied tribulations may seem exceeding burdensome, and tedious to be borne; yet in the account of faith, and compared with the vast importance, and endless duration of the happiness we hope for, the heaviest and longest of them are but light and momentary, inconsiderable in themselves, and soon over and gone, like things that pass away in an instant: And we cheerfully bear up under them; because, not by any virtue or merit in them, but by the special sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, they turn to such noble improvements of a heavenly nature here, as proportionably form and fit us for, and shall surely issue in, and give a peculiar relish to, and be graciously owned and honoured with superior degrees of*, an unutterable state of all that is completely happy and glorious hereafter; a state which, in opposition to *light afflictions* †, is an accumulation of the most sublime dignities and ravishing delights, that

N O T E S.

* This *working for us a far more exceeding weight of glory*, intimates, that they who suffer as well as do, much for Christ in this world, shall, in the order of God's gracious dispensations, be made partakers of higher degrees of glory, than others in the next.

† The beauty, sublimity, and grandeur of these expressions, as descriptive of heavenly glory. (*Καὶ ὑπερβολὴν εἰς ὑπερβολὴν, αἰωνίον βραβεῖον δόξης*) and the

opposition in which they are set to temporal afflictions, surpasses all imagination, and are incapable of being preserved, answerable to their dignity, in any translation or paraphrase, which, after all, sink infinitely below the astonishing original, and the aggrandizing thoughts suggested by it. What a fulness of sentiment, language, and transport is here! See *Blarkswall's Sacred Classics*, Vol. I. p. 335, &c.

that can be enjoyed, and sustained by human nature, in its utmost exaltation; and which, in opposition to a *moment* of disagreeables, is an incessant everlasting confluence of joy and grandeur, equal to our utmost wishes, and capacities of receiving, and infinitely transcending all that can be represented, by the strongest and most vigorous metaphors taken from crowns and kingdoms, and the most dazzling glories of this world; so that all the sufferings of the present transitory life, are not worth once mentioning, when compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. (*Rom. viii. 18.*)

15 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen, are temporal; but the things which are not seen, are eternal.

18 Experience and faith prove all this *, while, like archers intently looking at their mark in shooting, we attend, not to earthly things, that are visible to an eye of sense, nor direct our aim at them, as though we rated our happiness by them; but are chiefly mindful of, influenced by, and carefully aiming at, those heavenly things, as our grand mark, that cannot be perceived by a corporal eye, and yet are realized and appropriated by faith, and are of the highest importance to us: For all sensitive objects, whether they be comfortable or afflictive, are of exceeding short and uncertain continuance, like shadows that flee away; but the invisible objects of faith and hope, which are all substantial and satisfying, are, like the eternal and unchangeable God himself, perpetually enduring, through and beyond millions of millions of ages, yea, beyond all computation by thought, or numbers, without interruption, abatement, or end.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How great is their mercy, who are put into the gospel ministry, qualified for it, and supported and made faithful in it; and who, notwithstanding all opposition and reproach, hold on their way without fainting, and seek to be approved of God, and recommended to the consciences of their hearers, by an open publication of the truth, without sinister views, and without craft or guile! They do not preach themselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord in all his characters, and take pleasure in serving the spiritual and eternal interests of the church, for his sake. And O how excellent is the evangelical treasure, which is put into such weak, despicable, and mortal creatures, for the enriching of others, as well as of their own souls, that all the good found in them, and done by them, may the better appear to be entirely of God, and not at all of themselves! If any, that enjoy a clear ministrations of the gospel, continue to be ignorant of its important truths, and unimpressed by them; it is because they are still wandering in the lost state of nature, under the power of the prince of darkness, whose great business and design is to keep them stupid and blind, lest he should lose his vassals, through the illumination of their minds, by the glorious gospel of Christ, who is both the essential and representative image of God the Father: But O with what convincing evidence, power, and advantage, doth this blessed gospel appear, when God by his Spirit unveils its glory, and sheds its illustrious, amiable, and penetrating light, in the hearts of his servants and people!

N O T E.

* *While we look, &c.* may refer to the influence of their faith, with regard to all the particulars mentioned in the two preceding verses.

people! They may indeed be in deep distress, through fears within, and fightings without; but they shall not be utterly overwhelmed, or forsaken of their God: They may resemble their great Lord and Master in sufferings for his sake; but, by their holy fellowship with him in his death, they shall be supported under them, and carried through them; and the powerful life of Christ, shall be manifested in their preservation, till at length, like their exalted Head and Saviour, they shall be raised up, in high favour and acceptance with God, to a blessed immortality, together with the whole multitude of believers, that glory may redound to his name, through their united praises. They that are fully persuaded of these things by the faith of the operation of his Spirit, which, for substance, is the same in ministers and private Christians, and in Old and New Testament-saints, will neither be ashamed to speak of them, nor faint under any difficulties or discouragements that surround themselves. O how invaluable are the spiritual improvements, and final issues of all our present tribulations, when, as the outward man perishes, the inward man is daily renewed, and grace is ripening apace for glory! And how light and momentary are all the afflictions of this life, compared with that superabounding and eternal weight of glory, which lies beyond them; and for the highest enjoyment of which, God, in the riches of his free favour and love, through Jesus Christ, prepares us, by means of what we endure in the body! Experience will help our faith, with respect to these real and vast importances, whilst our governing views and regards are, not to the transitory things of this visible world; but to the infinite, though unseen felicities of the heavenly state, which abide the same, without diminution or alloy, for ever.

C H A P. V.

The apostle, in further setting forth the grounds of his, and his brethren's not fainting under their troubles, insists on their assured hope, and earnest desire of heavenly glory, 1,—8. Shews how they were excited thereby to diligence in their work, 9,—11. Gives the reasons of his seeming to commend himself, and of his being so much transported with zeal for the Corinthians, who were mostly Gentile-converts, on account of which the Jewish zealots censured him, as though he were besides himself, 12,—16. And shews the necessity of regeneration, and of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ, the ministry of which was committed to him and his brethren, 17,—21.

TEXT.

FOR we know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

PARAPHRASE.

WE, as has been said but now, having eternal glory in view, do not flag in our work, nor faint under our manifold afflictions: For we are not only persuaded upon the testimony of God in his word, that there is a rest provided for his people; but by the witness of his Spirit with our spirits, as his children, we are likewise fully assured, that we ourselves have a personal interest in it; and that when ever these frail bodies, in which our souls now dwell, as in their house and home, (*ver. 6.*) during our state of pilgrimage and warfare upon earth; and which were originally formed out of it, and are like mean and moveable tents, that are erected but for a little while, and must quickly be taken to pieces, and pulled down: As soon, I say, as this mortal frame shall be dissolved,

ved, whether by a natural or violent death, we make no doubt but that *our spirits*, which will then *return to God, who gave them*, (Ecclef. xii. 7.) shall be immediately possessed of a much more glorious habitation; which we already have in title, and sure reversion, by the free gift of God, through Jesus Christ, and which he has graciously prepared for us; even a secure, firm, and delightful mansion for our souls, in the immediate presence of Christ; (*ver. 8.*) * a mansion not of human, temporary fabric, like tents and tabernacles that are made by the hands of men, but built, like a celestial palace, on immoveable foundations by the immediate power of God himself, (*Heb. xi. 10.*) for our eternal residence, in a manner suitable to his own excellent greatness and goodness, past all danger of remove, or decay, in the highest heaven: And we are satisfied that, at Christ's second appearing, this *mortal body* shall be fashioned like unto his glorious body, by his Almighty power; and that then we shall be clothed again with our immortalized bodies, and so in our whole persons be ever with the Lord. (*Phil. iii. 21. and 1 Theff. iv. 17.*)

2 For in this we groan earnestly, desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

2 Our believing prospect of this blessedness has a powerful influence upon us, and is animated by what we feel in ourselves: For, while we sojourn in this tabernacle, (*ver. 4.*) we are oppressed with so many afflictions, and with such sad remainders of the body of sin, as make us sigh and mourn, with extreme anguish, under their burden; and excite our vehement desires after our heavenly home, where we shall be covered with light, holiness, and joy, as with a garment; and where, at the resurrection of the just, this mortal body shall put on immortality.

3 We,

N O T E.

* The apostle was so far from thinking that he, or his brethren in the ministry, any more than other Christians, should not die, that, on the contrary he speaks of their being *absent from the body*, as well as others, (*ver. 5.*) and had expressed his confidence, (*chap. iv. 14*) that he, who raised up the Lord Jesus, would raise them up also by Jesus and present them with the believing Corinthians: And therefore, *If our earthly house were dissolved*, is not to be understood in a way of doubting, but of supposing what, sooner or latter, would be, much in the same manner as this particle *If* was used by our Lord, when he said, *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, &c.* (*John xiv. 3.*) And *the house not made with hands e-*

ternal in the heavens, seems to signify the blessed mansions, to which the souls of believers shall go, to dwell with Christ, and with the spirits of the just made perfect, (*Heb. xii. 22, 23*) in his Father's house, immediately after death: For the apostle speaks of a happiness in his presence, which would commence instantly upon their being *absent from the body*, and from which they were detained only by their *being at home in the body*, *ver. 6, 8.* And yet as the happiness of the soul in heaven, will be followed and completed by the resurrection of the body, he might also have that in his ultimate view; and therefore I have added it in the paraphrase on this, and several following verses.

3 If so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the self-same thing, is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

3 We, I say, are earnestly, though not impatiently, longing for this; since (*εὐρα ναι*) we are fully satisfied, that being thus invested with robes of glory, and repossessed of our immortalized bodies, we shall not be destitute of any happiness, nor exposed to any miseries or defilements, as we now are, much less, as the impatient and unbelieving will be in the other world for ever.

4 For we that now dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, (*Job* iv. 19.) have strong desires to be set at liberty from the distressing troubles, that cannot but be very trying to flesh and blood; and especially from indwelling corruption, which is our most grievous burden, as it is offensive and dishonourable to God, and interrupts and hinders us in his service, and in our communion with him: *Not that we are so cool in our affection to the body itself, as to wish to be rid of it, merely for the sake of being so, or to part with it by *dying*, rather than to carry it along with us to heaven; No, were it the will of God, we should be glad to be translated, as *Enoch* and *Elias* were, and as those believers, that shall be alive at the second coming of Christ, will be: (*1 Theff.* iv. 17.) But the grand point, to which the holy aspirations of our souls tend, is that, in God's own way and time, we may arrive at the bright and glorious regions above; and that all the natural and sinful infirmities, which attend us in this frail and mortal state, may be ingulphed, and as it were drowned and lost, in the transcendent, undefiled felicities of an immortal life, which the soul shall enter upon, as soon as ever it is separated from the body; and which shall be perfected in a vital re-union of both, at the resurrection.

5 And, for the further confirmation of our faith, God himself has not only revealed, and promised all this future blessedness; but has formed our souls, by his renewing and sanctifying grace, into spiritual and holy dispositions, desires and propensions heavenward, to make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light: (*Col.* i. 12.) It is the work, the peculiar prerogative, and the glory of a God to do this*; and none could be the author of it, but the only living and true God, who has likewise given us a pledge, token, and foretaste, and the beginnings of that glorious inheritance, (*Eph.* i. 14.) in the graces, consolations, witnessings, and abiding residence of his Holy Spirit,

N O T E.

* Mr. *Howe* observes, that *God* here is not the subject, but the predicate, q. d. This is the work of a Deity; none but God could be the author of such desires. *Blessedness of the righteous*, p. 461.

Spirit, which he has freely given us, by way of earnest before-hand, as a part, to secure the possession of the whole, and to assure us of a certain arrival, in due season, to a complete enjoyment of it.

6 Therefore *we* are always confident, knowing that whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord :

6 In consideration therefore of these things, we are enabled, on all occasions, to face our trials, sufferings, and death itself, with undaunted courage ; and are raised to an entire satisfaction in our own souls, and to an humble trust in the Lord, that we shall get through them all to the mansions of eternal glory ; as knowing that while we dwell in mortal flesh, as the tabernacle of our present abode, we are only, like persons in a state of pilgrimage and warfare, in a strange country, at a great distance from the immediate presence of the Lord, our dear Redeemer, and from our Father's house.

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight :)

7 For the life we now live in the flesh, and according to which we regulate all our behaviour, is by the faith of the Son of God, and by that faith which overcomes the world, and is the evidence of things not seen ; and so it is a life of joyful expectation and hope, amidst all our afflictions ; but not of beatific vision and full fruition, as it soon will be.

8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

8 In this situation, we bear up, with life and vigour, under all our present hardships and dangers, and with unshaken hopes of their happy issues ; and not only so, but are desirous, and should be much pleased, (*ευδοκουμεν*) were it the will of God, to depart from the body ; and, leaving all our natural and moral imperfections behind us, to go into the immediate presence of Christ, that we may be with him, where he is, to behold his glory, and may be entirely transformed into his likeness, by seeing him as he is.

9 Wherefore we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

9 Having therefore this satisfying hope, and earnest desire, we studiously endeavour, by divine grace, and are inspired with a holy ambition, that, whether we continue to live in the body, or whether our souls depart from it by death, all our labours, services and sufferings *, as well as our persons, may find gracious acceptance with the Lord Jesus, through the merit of his own blood and righteousness ; and that he, as the great Judge of all, may say to each of us, at last, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant ; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.* (Matth. xxv. 21.)

10 For

N O T E.

* *We labour that we may be accepted*, seems most directly to be meant of the acceptance of their services, together with their persons : For the apostle had all along supposed them to be already thoroughly satisfied about their *personal*

acceptance with God to eternal life ; and in the next verse he speaks of appearing before the judgment-seat of Christ, to receive *according to the things done in the body.*

10 For we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done in his body*, according to *that* he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God, and I trust also, are made manifest in your consciences.

10 For the time is coming apace, when all of us, ministers and people, *Jews* and *Gentiles*, with every individual of mankind, must, whether we will or not, make our solemn personal appearance, and be laid open to the view of our own consciences, men and angels, and *that* without the least disguise, before the strict tribunal of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, as the great Judge of the whole world, will critically examine into, and finally decide, all causes; that every one, be he saint or sinner, may then receive in *, and through the body, in its state of re-union with the soul, the gracious reward, or the just punishment, of his own ways and works, which he went into, and acted by the body, together with all the iniquities he committed, in thought as well as deed, while he was here in the body, according to the nature and kind, and proportionable to the degree of his habitual and governing thoughts, words and actions, in which he lived and died, whether they were good and holy, or unprofitable and wicked.

11 Being therefore thoroughly convinced from the word of God, from the reasons of things, and from the sense we ourselves have had of the evil of sin, and of the tremendous wrath due to it; that this will be an inexpressibly dreadful day to every hypocrite and unbeliever; we, from a compassionate concern for the sinful sons of men, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, faithfully endeavour, by all awakning and alluring considerations that are proper, and, through divine influence, may be effectual, to convince them, as rational creatures, of the certainty of a future judgment; of their own guilt and danger; and of the necessity of faith in Christ, and of turning from their iniquities to God through him; (*ver. 17.*) and we earnestly beseech them to receive the message of peace and reconciliation which we, as Christ's ambassadors, bring to them, (*ver. 19, 20.*) that they may believe through grace, and live like those that must be judged by him, as ever they would have boldness before him at his coming: (*δε*) And whether they will hear or forbear; and go on to discredit us, or not; we can humbly appeal to God, who knows our hearts, that we are sincere

N O T E.

* The words (*τα δια του σωματος*) here rendered *the things done in his body*, signify *things by or through the body*, neither the word, *done*; nor *his* being in the *Greek*; and so it may relate to the rewards and punishments, that shall be fully received by the *body*, as well as soul, and by the soul through the body, at the day of judgment, and includes the

retribution, which shall then be made, according to the *good* and *bad*, that has been done in this world, *by the body*, as the instrument of them, as well as according to the spiritual virtues and graces on one hand, and mental sins and spiritual wickedness on the other, which the body has no agency in.

sincere herein; and I cannot but persuade myself, that we have a testimony of our being so, in many of your own consciences, from what ye have known of our preaching, sufferings, and behaviour, and from the happy effects of our ministry upon you.

12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that you may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

12 For we have no need of saying any thing again to recommend ourselves, and our labours, to your good opinion, as if ye were not witnesses of our faithfulness; nor is it our aim, as some reproach us, to set off our own character, in an undue manner, to ingratiate ourselves with you: (see the paraphrase and note on *chap. iii. 1.*) But we only suggest a proper occasion for you to rejoice and glory in the favour, which God has shewn to us, and to you by us, that ye may be furnished with sufficient arguments to confute the calumnies, and silence the vain boastings of those *judaizing* teachers, who make a fair show in the flesh, and would run us down by exalting themselves; and yet must know, in their own consciences, that they have no just ground of glorying in themselves, or of insulting over us.

13 For whether we be besides ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

13 For whether, as they and their followers would insinuate, we are transported quite beyond ourselves, and talk like foolish and distracted men, not only in vindicating our own character, but especially in the zeal and fervour, with which we earnestly contend for an admission of believing *Gentiles**, equally with the *Jews*, to all the privileges of the gospel-church; it is merely from a conscience toward God, and with a sincere design of advancing his glory, in supporting the credit of the gospel, and displaying the riches of his grace, as now extended to the *Gentiles*; and God knows that we are not besides ourselves: Or whether, as others more justly think, we herein act the part of rational and good men, who speak the words of truth and soberness, and *that* sometimes in the more calm and sedate way, it is with the like concern for his glory, in your edification and salvation, who are the *Gentile* part of the church.

H h 2

14 For

N O T E.

* It is generally allowed that a great part of the *Corinthian* church were *Gentiles*, and that the grand prejudice of the *judaizing* zealots against the apostle *Paul*, was on account of his admitting even uncircumcised *Gentile* believers into the gospel church, without distinction from the *Jews*; and all the verses that follow this, and are brought in as the reasons of what he here says of himself, seem in a special manner to speak of the grace of God toward *them*: And therefore I understand this verse (with Mr.

Pyle) to relate to the apostle's preaching and behaviour with respect to these, rather than to his commendation of himself, as it is most commonly interpreted. In this view his whole argument here, and in what follows, stands in the closest connection; and if we consider him, as having also an eye upon what he had said in *commending himself*, and his *communing* brethren, or, as some suppose, upon his speaking of his *efficacies* and *visions*, they may still be taken in, subservient to this principal view.

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead :

15 And that he died for all, that they which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

14 For a sense of the exceeding greatness, freeness, and endearments of Christ's dying love, which kindles a sacred flame of love in our souls to him again, has a sweet and powerful influence to excite, incline, and oblige us, as to do all we can in imitation of, and obedience to him, for the glory of God, and the good of the church; so particularly to preach the gospel to *Gentile* sinners, as well as to the *Jews*, for promoting these ends: And this we do under a sort of holy and delightful constraint; because we reason and conclude after this manner, that if, according to gospel-revelation, the one only Saviour died in the room and stead of all sorts of sinners*, whether they be *Jews* or *Gentiles*; this plainly supposes, that they were all equally and alike, by nature, children of wrath, dead in trespasses and sins, (*Eph. ii. 1, 3.*) and under a law sentence of condemnation and death; so that, in this respect, one has no better claim to gospel privileges and blessings, than another.

15 And we further argue and consider, that our blessed Lord died, as the substitute of sinners of all nations, to this very end and purpose, that those of them, who, in virtue of his death, are made supernaturally alive, by his quickning Spirit, and through faith in him, should from that time forward no longer pursue their own carnal, selfish, and secular interests, nor indulge their own lusts and passions, nor make their own honour, ease, and pleasure, the chief end of their living in this world; but should devote their redeemed and recovered lives unto the service, interest, and glory of their great Lord and Saviour, who died in their law-place, to take away their sins by

N O T E.

* The term *all* is often used, not *universally*, for every individual, but *distributively*, for all sorts, or for some of every sort, as when it is said, *One believes that he may eat all things*; (*Rom. xiv. 2.*) and the *Pharisees tithed all herbs*, (*τὰ πάντα χερσίν*) which is justly translated *all manner of herbs*; (*Luke xi. 42.*) and *Hazael's present to Elisha* is said in the *Hebrew* to be *every good thing*, (*כל־טוב*) but is truly rendered, *Of every good thing of Damascus*, (*2 Kings viii. 9.*) And as the design of the apostle, in what he here says, is to vindicate his zeal for the *Gentiles*, against the cavils of his chief opposers among the *Jews*; it seems every way natural to understand him as speaking of *all*, in the *distributive*, rather than in the *universal* sense. And in other places the *application*, as well as merit of Christ's death, is spoken of in

terms as *universal* as this; but cannot possibly be understood in an absolutely unlimited sense; as in *Luke iii. 6. All flesh shall see the salvation of God*; *John iii. 17. God sent his Son, that the world through him might be saved*; and *vi. 33. The bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world*; and *xii. 32. I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me*; and *Acts ii. 17. I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh*. (See also the notes on *John i. 7, 29.*) But some understand, *then were all dead*, to mean, agreeable to the preceding and following context, then were all obliged to die to sin, or to die to themselves, that they might live to Christ; and so make it a parallel place to *Rom. xiv. 7, 8, 9. Vid. Est. in loc.*

by the sacrifice of himself; and rose again, as a public person, for their justification.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

16 For this reason therefore we, the ministers of the gospel of reconciliation, think ourselves bound to preach it to all nations, without regarding any man, as better or worse, on account of his pedigree and external privileges, or of his being circumcised in the flesh, or not. Nay, though those of us *, who were the disciples of Jesus, in the days of his flesh, then considered and valued him, principally under the notion of a temporal Messiah (*Luke ix. 46.* and *Acts i. 6.*) of *Jewish* extract, who came to enrich and aggrandize their nation, and to establish their civil and religious privileges, and was circumcised in the flesh, to put an honour upon that ordinance among them; yet now, under the clearer revelation of the gospel, in consequence of his death and resurrection, ascension to heaven, and effusion of his Spirit, we no longer, like the false apostles and their adherents, consider and esteem him under any such carnal view; but have more spiritual and exalted regards to him, and more heavenly and holy conceptions of the design of all, that he has done and suffered, as laying a solid foundation for advancing the divine glory, and true religion and godliness, among *Gentile*, as well as *Jews*.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are past away. behold, all things are become new.

17 The main thing therefore in Christian religion is, that if any man, of what country soever, be in Christ, not merely by external profession, but by internal, vital union to him, and personal interest in him, through faith in his blood; though such an one doth not cease to be a man of the same essential powers and faculties, which he had before; yet, in a moral and spiritual sense, there is such a thorough change in his understanding, will, and affections, and manner of life, by the renewing influence, which he is under from Christ, his Head, as amounts to a new creation after his own image; (*Eph. ii. 10.*) inasmuch that his old principles, inclinations, motives, governing ends, and course of conversation, which were all corrupt, worldly, and carnal before, are laid aside, and done with, as no longer chosen by him, or maintaining their dominion over him: And, instead of them, behold the wonderful and happy alteration; a new divine light is diffused in his mind; a new spiritual bias is set upon his heart; and a new

N O T E.

* The apostle being a stranger to our Lord, during his abode upon earth, could not speak of him'self as having *known Christ after the flesh*; but others of his

fellow-apostles so knew him, in the sense here intended; and therefore we must suppose, that he included, or rather principally meant them.

new holy turn is given to his life ; so that his prevailing sense of things, relating to himself, God and Christ, earth and heaven ; his rule and measures of conduct ; and his settled principles, views, and ways of acting, are all entirely new, and directly contrary to what they were before.

15 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation ;

18 And as God is the creator of this world, and every good and perfect gift is from above ; (*Jam. i. 17.*) so all the great and important things relating to the new creation, and the whole scheme of the gospel, in all its extent and glory, relating to *Jews* and *Gentiles*, are entirely of him, as their author, who of his own will begets us with the word of truth, (*Jam. i. 18.*) and who has found out an amazing expedient, and made it effectual, for repairing the breach, which sin had caused, and restoring friendship between him and us that believe, by the atoning death and sufferings of Jesus Christ : God also, in the greatness of his condescension and grace, has honoured and entrusted us, his apostles and ministers, with a dispensation of the gospel, which holds forth this way of reconciliation between his offended Majesty and offending sinners.

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them ; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

19 The tenor of which ministry is, that the blessed God, according to the eternal counsels of his adorable wisdom and grace, has been *first* in this grand affair of reconciling sinners of the *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, to himself, (see the note on *John iii. 16.*) by the mediation and propitiatory sacrifice of his incarnate Son, which he himself appointed, provided, and accepted, for the satisfaction of his law and justice, and making peace, that he might not charge any of their iniquities, nor inflict their deserved punishment, upon those of them, who by faith receive the atonement ; and, as I said, (*ver. 18.*) he has appointed, commissioned, and sent us to preach this glorious gospel of reconciliation and peace, in all the world, even to every rational creature, of what nation soever, as we have opportunity for it. (*Mark xvi. 15.*)

20 Now then we are

20 We are therefore (*ev*) embassadors of peace *, whom

N O T E.

* The apostle sometimes speaks of himself and his brethren in the ministry, as *Servants, Watchmen, Husbandmen, Labourers*, and the like, to avoid all appearance of ostentation, and to intimate that they thought no employment in Christ's service, too mean or laborious for them to go into, for the honour and interest of their great Lord and Master, and for the good of immortal souls : But at other times, when their characters

were insulted, run down and vilified, as among some of the *Corinthians*, he magnified their office, to support their esteem in the churches, and vindicate them against the unjust reproaches, and contemptuous treatment of their enemies. With this view he spoke of them as *Stewards*, *1 Cor. iv. 1.* which is one of the highest offices in a household ; and here he speaks of them as *Embassadors*, which is one of the most honourable offices

are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

whom Christ has sent to transact for him, in his name and stead, with men, (*ver. 11.*) that are in a dangerous state of variance with the great God, and to preach the gospel of reconciliation to a lost world, (*ver. 19.*) consisting of *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*: And as ambassadors are public ministers, that personate the sovereign princes and states, from which they are sent, and that negotiate the affairs of their principals; so in the discharge of our divine commission, not to fallen angels, but to fallen men*, to sinners of this lower world, we speak from God, as if he himself were visibly present, to entreat them with all endearing condescension and kindness, and to exhort them (*παρακαλεῖντος*) with all authority, to attend unto, regard, and accept of the gracious proposals, which he makes to them, by means of our ministry: We use all proper arguments, in the name of Christ, and for his sake, as personating him, and pleading for him, to persuade the sinful sons of men; and we affectionately desire them, as they would value their own souls, to embrace him, as the only Saviour now, who will be their judge at the last day: (*ver. 10, 11.*) And the sum of our address to them, in hope that

N O T E S.

sices in a kingdom: And though none are so *immediately ambassadors* now, as the apostles were, who received their commission personally from Christ himself; yet gospel ministers are *mediately* ambassadors still, as they are put into their office by his authority, according to the rules of his word; and come on his message to negotiate the affairs of his kingdom in his name, and ministerially to carry on a treaty of peace through him.

* It is to be observed, that in the two middle clauses of this verse, the pronoun *you* is not in the *Greek*, nor is found for several verses in the preceding context; and as the apostle had said, *ver. 11.* *Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade MEN,* we may naturally suppose, that he here refers to *men*, whom, as he there said, they *persuaded*, and so we may supply the words wanting; to fill up the original, thus, *As though God did beseech men by us, we pray them, in Christ's stead, saying, Be ye reconciled to God:* Or else, as the apostle had in the verse, immediately before this, spoke of God's reconciling *the world*, inclusive of *Gentiles*, to himself, the words wanting in the *Greek* may very properly, and easily be supplied thus, *As though God did beseech the world by us, we pray them, in Christ's stead, saying, Be ye reconci-*

led to God; and so it seems to me, that the apostle was not here so directly addressing himself to the *Corinthians*, according to their then present character, who were supposed to be already actually reconciled to God, as giving them an account of the general tenor of his ministry, according to what he preached to them, when he first came among them, as he likewise did to all others, in their state of unregeneracy, where ever he came, saying to them, *Be ye reconciled to God.* However, were we to suppose that he meant any of the *Corinthians*, when he said, *Be ye reconciled to God;* we may consider it as relating, not to the better part of the church, who were already brought into a state of reconciliation and friendship with God through Christ, but to the worst part of them, who had too much fondness for the false apostles, and had discovered too great disaffection to the pure doctrine of salvation alone by Jesus Christ: For he immediately after said to these, (*chap. vi. 1.*) *We beseech you, that ye receive not the grace of God,* that is, the doctrine of his grace, *in vain:* (see the note there) And he told them, that he was *jealous over them with godly jealousy, lest their minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* (*Chap. xi. 2, 3.*)

that the Lord will make it effectual, is this, Since satisfaction is already made to the justice of God by the death of his Son, that he may pardon and shew favour to all sorts of sinners through faith in him; let these gracious encouragements engage you to throw down your arms of rebellion, to submit to mercy, and to God's own way of salvation by a Redeemer, as also to yield yourselves up, by divine assistance, entirely, and without reserve, to God, that peace and friendship on both sides may be established between him and you.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

21 For God the Father, in justice to himself, and to his law and government, and in the riches of his love and grace to us, whether we be *Jewish* or *Gen- tile* believers, has laid our iniquities in such a manner upon his own Son, that though he was perfectly holy and unspottedly pure in himself, as having no sin in his temper or practice, nor the least consciousness of guilt on any such account, and though no iniquity of others was infused into him; yet our sins were judicially imputed to him, by way of law-charge, and in a sacrificial sense, as our substitute, who had freely undertaken to answer for them *; and thereupon he bore the legal punishment due to them, by being made a sacrifice for sin, when *through the eternal Spirit he offered himself without spot to God*; (Heb. ix. 14.) to the end that (*viz.*) what he voluntarily suffered, in our room and stead, might be imputed for justification to us through faith in him; and that we, by virtue of our union with him, might be constituted righteous in the sight of God, in a way correspondent to that, in which Christ was made sin; even by the imputation of his righteousness, which God himself has contrived and provided, approves of, accepts,

N O T E.

* The word (*αμαρτια*) *Sin*, was commonly used in the *Septuagint* to signify a *sin-offering*, in which the guilt of the offender was ceremonially transferred to the sacrifice; in token whereof, he laid his hand upon its head, and it was killed before the Lord to make an atonement, (*Lev. iv. 22,—26.*) with a typical reference to the great atoning sacrifice of Christ; and unless the guilt of our iniquities, or the law-obligation to punishment for them, had been judicially charged upon him, it seems to me that he could not, by any rule of justice, have bore their punishment: For, in the order of justice, our sins must first be supposed to be placed to his account to answer for them, before he could undergo the proper punishment due to them,

since divine justice can no more punish the entirely, and in all respects, guiltless, than clear the guilty. Hence the scripture so often speaks of Christ, as *made under the law*, as *redeeming from the curse of the law*. (which contains all the punishment due to sin) by his *being made a curse for us*, and as *bearing our sins*, and *suffering for sins*, *the just for the unjust*, and the like. And as Christ was *made sin*, not by infusion or inheritance, but by *imputation*, that he might bear the punishment due to it; so *we are made the righteousness of God in him*, for justification to eternal life, not by an inherent righteousness, but by the *imputation* of his righteousness to us, that being placed to our account, as our sins were to his.

accepts, and makes over to us for that purpose ; and which he, who is God in our nature, worked out, and brought in for us, by his obedience and sufferings unto death ; but which, nevertheless, is not transferred *away* from him to us, as our sins were from us to him ; but which everlastingly remains in him, as in its original subject, to whom alone belongs all the glory of having been the author of it ; and which is imputed to us, to free us from condemnation, and entitle us to life, only as we are found *in him*. (Rom. viii. 1. and Phil. iii. 9.)

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

What a blessed assurance are some believers favoured with, who know that, whenever death pulls down this mortal frame, they have a heavenly mansion of God's own providing, and that their souls shall be no sooner absent from the body, than present with the Lord, to abide with him in his Father's house for ever ! How strong are their breathings and pantings after that magnificent and delightful world ! Not that they want to be rid of the body, or had rather go to heaven without, than with it ; but they look and long for an admission into Christ's immediate presence, that this mortal state, with all its imperfections, may be swallowed up in a glorious and immortal life. For *this* God has formed them by his grace ; of *this* he has given them a certain, earnest, and assuring pledge by his Spirit ; and, in realizing views of *this*, they now walk by faith, till they shall arrive at the beatific vision. But, O what an awful day will that be, when the whole world must appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, and every one shall receive gracious rewards, or righteous punishments, in a proper correspondence to the nature and degree of what they have done in the present life, whether it be good or bad ! How conscientious and careful then should we be, that, living and dying, all our services, together with our persons, may be accepted of God in the Son of his love, and that we may have boldness before him at his coming ! We should now no longer think of Christ, as the Saviour of the *Jews* only, but of the *Gentiles* also ; nor conceive of the blessings of his kingdom, as temporal and carnal, but as spiritual and heavenly ; and should take heed of resting in external privileges and professions, since nothing short of vital union with him will be of any saving advantage to us ; and if any man be thus in him, he is a new creature, in a spiritual and moral sense, with respect to which old things are passed away, and all things become new. Who, that knows the necessity of regeneration, and the terrors that will seize the unbelieving and ungodly in the day of judgment ? And who, that has felt the sweet and powerful constraints of Christ's dying love to all sorts of sinners, and has hopes of heaven for his own soul, would not count himself obliged to live no longer to himself, but to him that died for his sins, and rose again for his justification ; or would not, with humble and single aims at the glory of God, and the good of immortal souls, be desirous to use all ways and means, which, under the influence of divine grace, may be effectual to persuade men, as rational creatures, to consider their danger, and the hope there is in Christ for them, and to fall in with the method of reconciliation by him, which God himself has contrived ? And blessed be his name, that he has set it on foot, and committed the ministry of it to his servants, whom he has sent, as ambassadors of peace, to promote and enforce it, with all earnestness and endearments, in the name of Christ, as though the great and offended God himself so far condescended, as by them to beseech the most contemptible and unworthy rebels to be reconciled to him. And how great is the sinner's encouragement to come in to God through a Redeemer ; since he exhibits himself in the gospel, as reconciled by the atoning sacrifice of his Son between whom and every true believer, there is such a law-change of persons, as has transferred their guilt and punishment to him, that, instead of their trespasses being imputed to them for condemnation, his righteousness might be imputed for justification to eternal life !

C H A P. VI.

The apostle shews the Corinthians how he, with others of his brethren, approved themselves to be faithful ministers of Christ, by their exhorting them to entertain the gospel of reconciliation with due regard, 1, 2. By their unblameable life, and behaviour under sufferings for Christ, 3,—10. By their affection for them, which he hoped would be answered with the like towards themselves, 11,—13. And by his own, together with his brethren's earnest concern, that they might have no fellowship with unbelievers and idolaters, 14,—18.

TEXT.

WE therefore, as workers together with him, beseech you also, that ye receive not the grace of God in vain :

PARAPHRASE.

BEING therefore embassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech men by us ; (*chap. v. 20.*) and so being joint-labourers one with another in the ministry of reconciliation *, and instrumentally under-labourers to him, and in our order together with him, for his glory and the good of souls ; we not only insist on this great article of our ministry, among Jews and Gentiles, wherever we come ; but lest any of you should not be in heart, what ye are in outward profession, we, in godly jealousy over you, (*chap. xi. 2.*) tenderly entreat, (*παρακαλεῖν*) and earnestly exhort you also †, to take heed that ye do not lightly esteem the gospel of reconciliation, and receive it in notion only, and so render it unfruitful in yourselves, and ineffectual to answer the beneficial design of a doctrine, which may be called *the grace of God*, (*Tit. ii. 11.*) and *the word of his grace*, (*Acts xiv. 3.*) as it is the effect of his free favour ; displays its glorious scheme ; and is his appointed means of conveying its rich blessings, with all the gifts and graces of the Spirit, to the saving of the soul.

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accept'd, and in the day of sal-

2 For in a prophecy of Christ, and of what we now preach, as taking place upon *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, God the Father says to him in his office-character, (*Isa. xlix. 8.*) ‡ I have heard and answer-

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N O T E S.

* With him, not being in the Greek, we may consider the apostle, as intimating, that he and his brethren in the ministry were joint labourers, *one with another*, as well as labourers together with God, in their work.

† We beseech you also, seems plainly to suggest, that what the apostle had mentioned of this kind, *chap. v. 20.* was not directed immediately to the church at Corinth, as this is ; but was

rather an account of the general tenor of his ministry. See the note there.

‡ The words here quoted from *Isaiah* being so plain a prophecy of Christ, and of the calling of the *Gentiles*, I have considered the use that the apostle makes of them, in this direct view, rather than, as many have done, in a way of accommodation only to gospel-times ; and this casts further light upon his foregoing discourse, as having a reference to the *Gentiles*,

salvation have I
succoured thee :
behold, now *is*
the accepted time ;
behold, now *is*
the day of salva-
tion)

ed all thy desires of assistance in thy labours and sufferings, and of success in their rewards, (*Isa.* xlix. 4,—6.) at a time, in which thou wast peculiarly accepted of, and grateful to me, (*καὶ ἕνεκα*) on account of thy performing the work which I gave thee to do ; and, in consequence of this, I have heard thy intercessory pleas, that the fruit of thy redeeming death may be applied to *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, by means of the gospel, which ought to be as acceptable to all that hear it, and will be so to them that believe, as the year of *Jubilee* was to those that were then delivered from their servitude, and restored to their inheritances : And I have been seasonably at hand to help and uphold thee, in the day of thy greatest trial and difficulty, (*Ira.* l. 7,—9.) wherein thou wroughtest out salvation for my people, and wert victorious, in thy suffering and dying conflicts, for reconciling the world to myself. (*Chap.* v. 19.) Since therefore God has thus accepted his Son, in what he has done and suffered to reconcile sinners of all nations to himself, behold, with attention, wonder, and joy, that now, while ye are under the gospel ministry, is the highly acceptable time (*καὶ νῦν εὐπρόσδεκτος*) for you to put in for a share in this reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ : Now is the time, in which he will graciously accept you in your coming to him by his Son, and which is worthy of all acceptance : Observe it, now is the day ; and, considering the precariousness of your lives, this may be the only day, in which salvation from sin and wrath is to be found ; in which God proposes it to your acceptance, by the gospel ; and in which ye, by his grace, may hope to be made partakers of it, through faith in the reconciling death of the great Redeemer.

3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed :

3 In fulfilling this our excellent ministry, we are enabled, by divine assistance, to behave so circumspectly, and so cautiously, toward *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as to give no just occasion of offence in any place, or by any means whatsoever, to those that seek all advantages against us ; lest our sacred and important office itself should fall under reproach, to the dishonour of Christ and his gospel, and to the hindrance of its success in our preaching it.

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in

4 But in every circumstance, and wherever we come, we labour, with an humble dependence on help from heaven, to act up to character, in approving ourselves to Christ, and the consciences of his

I i 2

people,

N O T E.

tiles, according to the sense given all along in the paraphrase, from *chap.* v. 13. to this place.

in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in difficulties,

people, as diligent and faithful ministers, that have our commission from God, are employed and owned in his service, and pursue the great designs of his glory, by our abundant meekness and patience toward men, and calm resignation and submission to the will of God, in the various pressing tribulations of all sorts *, (*ἐν θλίψεσι*) which we suffer for Christ's sake; as particularly, in the extreme wants, (*ἐν ἀνάγκαις*) with respect to the things of this life, that we endure; in the great straits (*ἐν στενοχωρίαις*) that we are often reduced to, as not knowing which way to turn ourselves.

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults in labours, in watchings, in fastings,

5 Our patience in afflictions, has been further exemplified in the ignominious and painful scourgings, by rods and thongs, that we endure from *Jews* and *Gentiles*; (chap. xi. 23, 24, 25.) in our being cast into jails and dungeons, and committed to the custody of cruel officers; (*Acts* xvi. 23, 24.) in outrageous insurrections and riots of insulting and furious mobs; (*Acts* xiv. 5. and xvi. 22. and xvii. 5. and xviii. 12. and xix. 29. and xxii. 22.) in being broke of our natural rest by innumerable hardships, as well as sometimes by devotional services; and in suffering denials of our ordinary daily food, for want of proper supplies, as well as by voluntary fastings on religious accounts.

6 By patience, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

6 Our patience, under all these troubles, is assisted and supported †, by the following means, namely, by the integrity which governs our hearts and lives, in preaching the pure gospel of Christ, with single aims at the glory of God, and the good of precious souls, and by a chaste and modest behaviour, and all purity in doctrine and manners, suitable to our holy function; by that believing acquaintance with gospel truths, and spiritual wisdom and understanding, which we receive from God, and are the means of conveying to others; by that lenity and forbearance, whereby we are enabled to put up affronts, to govern

our

N O T E S.

* *Afflictions* seem to be here used as a general term, comprehending all the particulars, which are specified in the remainder of this, and in the next verse, as the things, in the bearing of which, with a becoming temper, their *meekness* and *patience* were conspicuous. This, in my humble apprehension, sets the sentiments of both these verses in a more beautiful order, than if we were, with some others, to consider *afflictions*, as importing afflictions in general; *necessities*, as signifying more grievous troubles; and *distresses*, such pressures, as reduce one

to the greatest straits: For though the gradation would be strong and regular so far; yet it could not be continued through the next verse; but there the thought would sink and flatten, after it had been raised to the highest pitch imaginable.

† Here the apostle seems to intimate how it came to pass, that they were so remarkably and exemplarily patient under their multiplied afflictions. It was by means of what he mentions in this and the next verse.

our passions and resentments under all provocations, and to possess our own souls with quietness and peace, in humble hope of divine consolations to support us under present trials, and of heavenly blessedness to put an end to them; by that affability and benignity of temper, which gives us a noble pleasure in doing good to all, and even to those that abuse us; by the special assistance of the Holy Spirit in his gifts and graces, which furnish us for usefulness, and guide and animate us in the work of the Lord; by our sincere and undisguised love to Christ, to the souls of men, and to the doctrines of divine revelation:

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

7 By the light and comfort of the gospel, which we believe to be infallibly true, as the word of that God who cannot lie, and which we preach according to its truth, without mixture of error; by the almighty power of God, which strengthens us for, upholds us under, and is manifested in, all our sufferings and ministrations, and enables us to work miracles in confirmation of what we preach: It is through, or by means of these *, and such like offensive, and defensive weapons of righteousness, (*δια των οπλων της δικαιοσυνης*) that we are *strengthened with all might, according to God's glorious power, unto all patience, and long-suffering with joyfulness*: (Col. i. 11.) He has furnished us with this spiritual armour, that we might fight valiantly, acceptably, and successfully, in our holy warfare, as persons completely armed and defended on every side, against all assaults, that can be made upon us from any quarter whatsoever; whether it be by temptations of ease and prosperity on the right hand, or of fatigue and adversity on the left.

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

8 Being thus fortified against all our trials †, we pass with a steady temper of mind through different scenes that open before us; (*δια*) through the good esteem and honourable respect of some, without being puffed up or elated by them; and through the contempt and shameful usage of others, without being depressed in spirit by them; through all the hard speeches,

N O T E S.

* *The armour of righteousness* appears to me to be rather a summing up, under this title, what the apostle had been speaking of in this, and the foregoing verse, than any thing distinct from it: And if we compare those particulars with his account of *the whole armour of God*, in *Eph. vi. 13, &c.* we shall find a very great agreement between them. It is likewise observable, that all the *prepositions*, which in this, and the foregoing verse, are rendered *by*, are here alter-

ed in the *Greek* from one, which signifies *in* or *by*. (*τι*) to another, which signifies *by*, or *through* (*δια*).

† In this verse, as I take it, the apostle returns to the detail, especially of his own, inclusive of some of his brethren's, unblameable and becoming behaviour, in every circumstance of life, by means of those spiritual advantages, which he had recited in the two preceding verses.

speeches, and infamous slanders of our enemies, to sink our character, without being discouraged, or moved at them; and through the commendations and applauses of our friends, to raise our reputation, without being proud of them, or valuing ourselves upon them: God, in his wise and holy providence, has permitted, that we should be looked upon, spoken of, and treated by many, as hypocritical impostors, that cheat and seduce the people; and yet we, as the true servants of Christ, are sincere and faithful in preaching the gospel, and in all that we say, and do.

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

9 We are represented by men of figure, and high pretenders to wisdom and learning, as mean, worthless, and obscure persons, of little or no account, and many are ignorant of our real character; and yet others have seen so much of the wisdom, power, and grace of God in our ministrations, conversation, and patience in sufferings, and have had so much experience of spiritual benefit by our means, that they well know us to be honoured of God, and persons of importance to themselves; and we are known and approved of, far and wide, among all the churches of the saints: We are in perpetual jeopardy from our enemies, like persons that seem to be every day in the jaws of death; and yet, behold how wonderfully God appears on our behalf! we are still in the land of the living, and are lively in our own souls: We are trained up, as under the severest discipline from the hands of men, which we likewise consider as the chastisements of the Lord; and yet we are neither brought down to the dust of death, by the extremity of our sufferings; nor do our reviving hopes and confidences fail.

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

10 We seem to be in a very melancholy and miserable condition, as to all outward appearance; and yet we are full of the joys of faith, and of a good conscience within, and are daily rejoicing in hope of the glory of God: We are indeed poor, as to the things of this world, having none of its affluence, or comfortable accommodations; and yet we are instruments, in Christ's hand, of making many rich toward God; rich in faith, and in good works, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven, together with ourselves: Yea, we are so extremely necessitous, as to have none of the enjoyments of this life, that we can properly call our own, and we look with such an holy indifference upon them, as not to desire to have our portion in them; and yet we have all things in Christ, our Head, who is possessed of them for our use: As to temporal good things, we hold all, that his providence deals out to us, with his blessing, and in a covenant way; and we

have

have as much of them, as he sees best and fittest for us, and are as fully satisfied with *that*, as if we had ever so great a fulness of them; and as to spiritual and eternal blessings, we have the most excellent and durable riches in Christ, some already in hand, and all the rest in present title, and sure reversion, as our inheritance in him, which we, in a little time, shall actually enjoy with him, in all its extent and glory.

11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

11 O my dear *Corinthian* friends, we open ourselves thus freely to you, that ye may be encouraged, by what ye hear of our behaviour, supports, and consolations, under all our sufferings for Christ; and that ye may be able to vindicate our character against those, that would traduce it: And our heart is so full of love and affection to you, and concern for your spiritual edification and eternal salvation, that we think nothing too much to say, or do, to promote them.

12 Ye are not straitned in us, but ye are straitned in your own bowels.

12 There is no want of kindness in our souls toward you, nor of endeavours to do all, that in us lies, to subserve your establishment and growth in light, faith and love, comfort and holiness; nor is there any deficiency in the gracious doctrines, promises, and privileges of the gospel, to promote them, which we minister to you; but, alas! There is reason to fear, concerning some of you at least, that your own hearts are too much shut up, through the workings of unbelief, carnality, and coolness of affection, against us, and against the consolations, which are in Christ for you; which suit your circumstances; and which we would fain have you partakers of.

13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children) be ye also enlarged.

13 And, ($\delta\epsilon$) in return for the great love we bear to you, and for our desire and labour after your spiritual welfare, let us have the pleasure (I beseech you, as a father would his dear children) of finding that your hearts are enlarged in the same reciprocal affection to us, and in a cheerful reception of the truths and blessings of the gospel, according to the utmost benevolence, with which we dilate upon them, and recommend them to your acceptance.

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

14 In order hereunto, I would earnestly exhort and charge you, as a father doth his children, (*ver.* 13.) and especially the *Gentile* converts, among you, (who are most in danger, and most need the caution) that ye by no means intermarry with any, that are strangers to the grace of God, and continue in heathenism and unbelief, which would be more disagreeable, incongruous, and disproportionate, than yoking an ox and an ass, to plow together, was under the law: (*Deut.* xxii. 10.) Nay, I would not, that ye should cultivate an unnecessary intimacy of society with them, which

which might corrupt your minds and manners; and above all, see to it, that ye never join with them in any of their idolatrous practices, which would be, in effect, to renounce communion with Christ himself, directly contrary to your own happiness, duty, and profession: For what intercourse or partnership (*μεσσοχη*) can there be, in holy and delightful friendship, between one, that is renewed and sanctified by the Spirit of God, and one, that is under the dominion of sin? And what religious society and communication (*κοινωνια*) can there be between an understanding Christian, who is made light in the Lord, and one, who knows not God, nor any thing of the gospel of Christ, but remains under the power, and in the kingdom of darkness? These are as contrary one to the other, in their sentiments and dispositions, as light is to darkness itself.

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

15 And what harmony, or mutual consent, (*συμφωνησις*) can there be between those that belong to Christ, as members of his mystical body, and those that are the children of the devil, that arch-rebel against God, who, for his lawless wickedness, may be emphatically stiled * *Belial*? Or what desirable lot and portion (*μερος*) can one that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ have, in common, with an unbeliever, (*απιστα*) that disowns or practically rejects him?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

16 And what suitable accord (*συμπατρισις*) can there be, between the temple of the only true God, which he has consecrated for himself, and the temples of false gods, whom the heathens adore, and are devoted to? *Dagon* and *the Ark* might stand together, as well as these; and yet thus wide is the difference and contrariety between you, and those that are without Christ, and strangers to the covenant of promises: For ye are the habitation of God, through the Spirit; (*Eph. ii. 22.*) and so are, in a much nobler sense, a temple separated for the service, and honoured with the special presence of that God, who has life in himself, and is the fountain of natural, spiritual, and eternal life to others, than ever the stately edifice at *Jerusalem* was; as appears from what God himself has declared in ancient promises, which, though primarily given to the *Israelites*, may ultimately and eminently be applied to the New Testament church, and to every true believer in it, saying, (*Lev. xxvi. 11, 12.* and *Ezek. xxxvii. 27.*) I will tabernacle

N O T E.

* *Belial* is a compound word, which, according to one etymology, (*בלי יעל*) signifies *without profit*, and according to another (*בלי עול*) *without yoke*, that

is, says the learned *Ainsworth* on *Deut. xiii. 13.* *lawless, rebellious and wicked*; and he speaks of this name, as given to *Satan* in the passage we are upon.

bernacle with them, and fix my abode in, and among them, by way of special relation and gracious influence; and will commune with them, like a friend that keeps them company, and walks with them, to hear and answer their petitions, and to manifest myself in distinguishing tokens of love and favour to them; and I will be their God in an everlasting covenant, to make over myself and all my perfections to them for their portion; to form them for myself; to own them for my people, and delight in them as such; and to perform all things for them; and they hereupon shall be my covenant-people and peculiar property, to surrender themselves up to me; to own me for their God, and themselves for my people; to serve and delight in me; and to shew forth my praise.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

17 As therefore peculiar privileges of this sort obliged God's ancient people, the *Jews*, to abstain from intermarriages, and unnecessary familiarity with the heathens, and especially from symbolizing with them in their superstitious and idolatrous rites, and from defiling themselves with any thing that was unclean; and as ye, who are still more abundantly favoured with these high and glorious blessings, are under stronger obligations to act in a correspondence to them; so ye may think ye hear God saying to you, in language like that, which he formerly used to persons of a sacred character, (*Isa. lii. 11.*) Have no fellowship with unbelievers and idolaters, beyond what the civil duties of life call you to; (*1 Cor. v. 9, 10.*) renounce all their sinful customs and practices, together with every thing that would endanger your compliance with them; and keep at the remotest distance from them, that ye may adhere entirely to me, as the only object of your faith and love, worship and obedience; and do not meddle, in the least degree, with any of their abominations, which are so defiling to conscience, and loathsome in my sight: And, for your encouragement hereunto, be assured that whatever ye may suffer in your names, and outward estate, on this account, I will take you into my favour and protection, and into the most delightful and advantageous communion with myself here; and will receive you to my kingdom and glory hereafter.

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

18 And I will not only be, but manifest myself, in the most gracious and endearing manner, to be your heavenly Father; and will be a better relation to you, than any that ye can have, or lose upon earth; and ye shall be my children, a family of beloved sons and daughters to me; and shall accordingly be dealt with, owned, and blessed, as such, here and for ever,

says the Lord Jehovah *, (*Jer. xxxi. 1, 9. and 2 Sam. vii. 14.*) who is faithful to his promises, and is infinitely able to make them good.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

What an honour and encouragement is it to the faithful servants of Christ, that God and they, in a proper order, are embarked and employed in the same glorious cause, which is founded on Christ's acceptance with the Father, that sinners might be accepted through him! The day of gospel grace, is the only day for finding acceptance with God; and therefore every one should see to it, that he receive it without delay, and do not hear of its glad tidings in vain. But how careful should ministers be, to behave in so unblameable a manner, as not to disgrace their sacred office, nor prejudice their hearers against the doctrines they preach! They are to approve themselves faithful, by their purity and knowledge, patience, kindness, and unfeigned love, in all their sufferings, trials, and labours, by the assistance of the Holy Ghost; by a right use of the word of truth and the armour of righteousness, to guard them against temptations on every side, even such as arise from honour and dishonour, from evil report and good report: And they should labour, by divine grace, to behave as true and faithful persons, and to be made manifest, as such, in the consciences and esteem of real Christians, while they are traduced as deceivers, or are treated as mean and insignificant wretches, by others. In this way of acquitting themselves, behold how signally God appears for them! How much soever they may be chastened, they are wonderfully kept alive, till their Lord has done his work by them: How sad soever their outward condition may seem to be, they are filled with all joy and peace in believing: And how poor soever they be in this world, they possess all things in Christ, their Head, and are instruments of making many rich toward God. O how freely and affectionately are their hearts and mouths open to their flocks; and what a reasonable return is it, that their people's hearts should be enlarged in like love to them! For they are neither straitened in the love of their pastors, nor in their ministrations of the promises; but all their straitness lies within themselves, in their own carnality and unbelief. And how concerned should believers be for grace, to enable them to live answerable to the exalted privileges, by which God has honoured and distinguished them; to abstain from every thing, that has the least aspect of falling in with any corruptions, that lie in opposition to the purity of their faith, worship, and obedience; and to take heed that they be not unequally yoked with unbelievers in any relation, or in any sense, that tends to enslave and defile them. For they can no more have Christian fellowship with others in sinful, superstitious, and idolatrous customs, than righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and *Belial*, or the temple of God and idols can be reconciled and harmonize. And, to encourage the people of God to separate from every thing polluting, and offensive to him, he, who is the Lord Almighty, has promised that, in their relinquishing such things, they shall be no losers; but that he will dwell in them, and commune with them; will receive them into his special care and protection; and will be the best of Fathers to them, and treat them as his sons and daughters, whom he has made heirs of eternal life.

N O T E.

* The substance of this promise is found in the places referred to in the paraphrase; one relating to the New Testament church; and the other immediately to *Solomon*, which the apostle may be supposed to apply to all true believers, in like manner as the promise, made particularly to *Joshua*, is applied to them in *Heb. xiii. 5.*

C H A P. VII.

The apostle shuts up his last argument with an exhortation to universal holiness, 1. Entreats the whole church to bear the like affection to him, as he did to them, 2,—4. Tells them how greatly he rejoiced, amidst all his tribulations, in the account, which Titus gave him, of their ready compliance with the orders of his former letter, and of its happy effect, as it produced their sorrowing to repentance, 5,—12. And in the comfort that they and Titus had together, who found a kind reception, and saw such things among them. as answered the good report, which the apostle had made of them, 13,—16.

TEXT.

HAVING therefore these promises, (dearly beloved) let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

PARAPHRASE.

BEING therefore favoured with such exceeding great and precious promises, as have been but now mentioned: (*chap. vi. 16,—18.*) let us, my dearly beloved brethren, be excited and encouraged to labour, in a dependence on promised grace, and in hopes of promised glory, to purify ourselves, by believing applications to the blood and Spirit of Christ for deliverance, and by a conscientious departure in heart and life, from all and every kind of iniquity, which is the worst of defilement; both from those sins, that are committed by, and infect the body, such as uncleanness, drunkenness, intemperance, &c. which make us like the beasts that perish; (*Psal. xlix. 12.*) and from those sins, that are most immediately acted by, and pollute the soul, such as falsehood, pride, malice, &c. which form us into the odious likeness of the devil, that father of lies, and proud, implacable enemy to God and man: (*John viii. 44. 1 Tim. iii. 6. and 1 Pet. v. 8.*) and let us not only, through the Spirit, mortify the evil deeds of the body of sin; (see the paraphrase on *Rom. viii. 13.*) but likewise press after universal holiness, as those that are not already perfect, but are reaching forth to those things which are before, till we shall have completed our course of obedience, and arrived at sinless perfection, (*Phil. iii. 12, 13.*) by maintaining a solemn reverence of God, and by the powerful workings of his new covenant-fear, which he, as our God, has put into our hearts, that we might not depart from him. (*Jer. xxxii. 40.*)

2 Receive us: we

2 But, to return *, I earnestly entreat you to receive

K k 2

N O T E.

* It would have been a juster division of the chapters, if this verse had been made the first of the seventh chapter, and the first of this had closed the sixth:

For the first verse manifestly shuts up that part of the discourse which the apostle was then upon; and there appears to be little or no connection between this verse

verse

we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

5 I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that you are in our hearts to die and live with you.

6 Great is my sollicitude of speech toward you, most is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

ceive me, together with my other faithful brethren, into your good opinion, and cordial affection; to embrace the doctrine we preach in the name of Christ; and to own and submit to the authority, we have received from him. To engage you hereunto, be pleased to consider, that we have never given you occasion to do otherwise; but can appeal to God, and to our own and your consciences, that we have never injured the reputation of any of you, nor any way hurt you, but always aimed at doing you good; nor have ever corrupted any of your minds with errors, or by flattering speeches, gifts, or bribes; nor have ever over-reached you, or made a gain of you, as your false teachers have endeavoured to do. (*Chap. xi. 3, 20.*)

3 I do not insist on these things from any ill-will toward you, or as though I suspected, or would charge and condemn you, in the bulk, for having slandered us with insinuations, that we had wronged, corrupted, or defrauded you; no, I cannot entertain such an unkind and uncharitable thought of you: For I have already told you, (*chap. iii. 2.*) that *ye are our recommendatory epistle, written in our hearts*; and such is our ardent affection to the generality of you, and entire confidence in you, that we could not only venture our reputation in your hands, with the greatest satisfaction; but, were we not called to important services in other places, we could very gladly spend, and be spent entirely for you, (*chap. xii. 15.*) and could cheerfully live and die with you, as a people heartily loving us, and beloved by us.

4 It is from my affectionate concern for you, that I use the utmost freedom and plainness in writing to you, about the disorders that have sprung up among you; and it is from the confidence I have in the major part of you, that I so greatly rejoice and glory in you, while I think of you as obedient children, whom I have ministerially begotten to Christ through the gospel; (*1 Cor. iv. 15.*) and that I speak so highly, even to a sort of boasting of you, wheresoever I come: (*chap. ix. 2.*) I am filled with abundant consolation, in every review of what God has done by me among you; and it is, beyond expression, the joy

N O T E.

But here he brings in again what he every now and then had touched upon before, as particularly in *chap. iii. 1, &c.* and *iv. 1, &c.* and *v. 12, 13.* and what he had much in his thoughts, as the main drift in *this*, as

well as in his former epistle, which was to take off the factious part of the church from their false teachers, and to preserve his interest, as an apostle of Christ, in their affections, and assure them of his own toward them.

joy of my heart, amidst all the reproaches and heavy afflictions, that have befallen me, and my companions in labour, from professed friends, and from secret and open enemies, to hear that things are now so much better with you, than I feared.

5 For when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *zere* fightings, within *were* fears.

5 For as when I came to *Troas*, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not *Titus*, my brother, there, to give me an account of the state of your affairs; (*chap. ii. 12, 13.*) so when we came into *Macedonia*, we had no rest, night or day, in body or mind, both because, for some time, we could not meet with him there neither, and because additional troubles attacked us from every quarter: We had warm contentions and struggles with many surrounding adversaries, that violently opposed us and our doctrine; and, at the same time, we were full of anxious and distressing thoughts in our own minds, lest your false teachers should gain ground, and pervert any of you; and so both we, and the gospel should lose credit among you. (*Chap. xi. 2, 3.*)

6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of *Titus*:

6 But, at length, our gracious God, the Father of mercies, (*chap. i. 3, 4.*) whose endearing character it is, to comfort them that are dejected and brought low, and who only knows how and when, and is both willing and able, to do it, was pleased to relieve, encourage, and comfort us by means of the happy arrival of our beloved and faithful brother *Titus*, who came, by the good hand of the Lord, just in season to us.

7 And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

7 And this consolation was occasioned, not only by his safe return to us, which we had been long wishing and praying for; but, in a special manner, by the delightful account, which he gave us of the great satisfaction and pleasure he received, in conversing with you, and in finding things to be in so good a state among you: As for instance, when he rehearsed to us, at large, what he had seen and heard of your strong desire to comply with the counsels and warnings, that I had sent you for rectifying various disorders, and particularly in what related to the incestuous person; (*1 Cor. v.*) when he further told us of your deep and humble lamentation, that such scandal should be thereby brought on the name and ways of Christ, and so much connived at by the church, and that such offence and grief should be thereby caused to myself, as well as many others; and when he assured us of your affectionate zeal and concern for my person, reputation, and authority, as an apostle of Christ, after all the sharp rebukes, which in faithfulness I had given you: These were the things, that exceedingly heightened the pleasure of his good company,

pany, and gave me more abundant joy, than I before had fear, concerning you.

8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle made you sorrow, though it were but for a season.

8 For though what I wrote in my former letter with some severity, as the circumstances of things then required, did occasion great grief and trouble to you; yet since, by the blessing of God, it has produced these happy effects, I do not regret my dealing so roundly with you; though, I must confess, so great was my love and tenderness of spirit for you, that, as I said, (*chap. ii. 4.*) I wrote it *with many tears*, and could not but be heartily grieved to think what a necessity I was under of using so much sharpness with you; and I was afterwards concerned, for fear it might wound some truly gracious souls, to whom it did not belong, and who ought rather to have been comforted; and had it, after all, failed of its desired success, and had I thereupon only consulted what might be agreeable to my own friendly dispositions toward you, I should have repented that I had given you any disturbance*: For, as I then apprehended, so I now find, by what *Titus* tells me, that the fore-mentioned epistle affected you with extreme distress and trouble; though, blessed be God, it was only for a little while, inasmuch as ye were soon influenced by it to set to rights what was amiss among you; and so that short sorrow was turned into lasting joy.

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye borrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

9 I now heartily rejoice, not because ye were made uneasy, as though I took pleasure in your grief for its own sake; but because your sorrow worked in an ingenious manner, to humble and prove you, and bring you to sincere repentance, for the evils, that had been found among you: For ye were afflicted, and mourned with a religious frame of spirit, like true penitents, with a self-abasing, contrite sense of the evil of sin, as committed against God, with humble confessions of it, and with full purpose of heart, to have no further fellowship with it; but to put it away in such a manner, as is according to the mind and will of God, (*κατὰ Θεοῦ*) by the assistance of his Spirit, and to the honour of his great and holy name: These kindly workings of godly sorrow were wrought in you, to the end that, (*ὡς*) instead of being provoked

N O T E.

* It is not to be supposed that the apostle ever did properly repent of any thing, that he had wrote under divine inspiration: and therefore we are to understand what he here says about it, as signifying only such a sort of sorrow, as one would have, were he to repent of what he had done, or only what would be natural for him to go into, as he ten-

derly loved them, in case any irksome measures, which he had taken with them, should not answer their desired end: Accordingly the original words, (*οὐ μεταμελομαι εἰ καὶ μετεμελοῦν*) are rendered by some critics, and the latitude of the tense will bear it, *I do not repent, though I should have repented.*

ed and enraged on one hand, or discouraged on the other, to the injury of your own souls, by what I had said, (*ver.* 8, 12.) ye might make so good an improvement of it, as to receive no hurt in any respect whatsoever, but all desirable advantage by it.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

10 For spiritual grief and contrition of soul, like yours, godward, and according to his will, on account of offences committed against him, has the happiest tendencies and effects: It produces that evangelical repentance, under apprehensions of the mercy of God in Christ, which consists in a thorough change of the mind, heart, and life, with regard to sin and duty; and is connected with, and will certainly issue in, a complete deliverance from sin and wrath, and advancement to eternal glory; yea, in the very nature of things, as well as by the ordination of God, it always goes before, and is practised, more or less, till an actual enjoyment of final salvation; and so this is an excellent sort of repentance, that need not, ought not, nor ever was, or will be, repented of: There can be no cause for repenting of this; on the contrary there is the highest reason to choose and cherish it, to rejoice in it, and bless God for it. But the anxiety, trouble, and impatient vexation of spirit, which men of carnal minds have, relating to the present world*, on account of their losses and disappointments, disgrace and troubles, especially when they have brought them upon themselves; and the distress and anguish, that the awakened consciences of the men of this world feel, in terrible and despairing reflections on their folly, guilt, and danger, merely on account of the mischief, their evil doings have exposed them to, increase their sin and torment, impair their health, (*Prov.* xvii. 22.) and sometimes, as in the case of *Ahitophel* and *Judas*, (*2 Sam.* xvii. 23. and *Matth.* xxvii. 5.) make them lay violent hands upon themselves; or, at least, one way or other, hasten their death and ruin, both as to the life which now is, and that which is to come.

11 For behold, this self-same thing that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought

11 Now it is the first, and not the last of these kinds of sorrow and repentance, that my letter was the means of producing in you: For observe, as I myself do, with great pleasure and thankfulness to God, your ingenuous mourning on account of what ye

N O T E.

* Since *the world* may be taken either for *the things of the world*, as in *Matth.* xvi. 26. and *1 John* ii. 15,—17.; or for *the carnal men of the world*, as in *John* xvii. 6, 9, 14, 16, 24. and *1 John* v. 19. the paraphrase is formed with a view to both: And methinks the temper

of the *men of the world*, in their sorrowing, which *works* eternal, as well as temporal *death*, stands in a beautiful opposition to the better spirit that the *Corinthians* had discovered in their sorrowing, which *worked* repentance to *salvation*.

wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

ye have done, and of what has been found among you, against him, has, through divine grace, wrought in a holy manner, and brought forth fruits meet for repentance*. Observe what thoughtfulness, care, and diligence it worked in you, to comply with my orders, and to approve yourselves to God in rectifying what was amiss: Yea, what happy influence it had upon you to take such measures, as might furnish out a plea (*απολογιαν*) against any accusation, as if ye would partake with the incestuous person in his guilt, or would allow of, indulge, or connive at any sin in yourselves or others: Yea, what holy indignation and warm resentment it raised in your souls against your own iniquities, and against the sins of that delinquent and his abettors, who had so notoriously dishonoured the name of Christ, and both troubled and defiled the church: Yea, what an awful reverential fear of God, and of his displeasure and fore rebukes, it worked in you, together with an humble jealousy over yourselves, and cautious fear and concern, lest any accursed thing should still be found with you; or lest, through the power of temptation, ye should fall into the like, or any other sin again, to provoke the Lord to anger: Yea, what earnest desire it excited in you after a thorough reformation, by putting away that evil person, and every evil thing from among you; (1 Cor. v. 13.) and by doing what might be well pleasing to God through Jesus Christ, and might be to your own and others edification, satisfaction, advantage, and comfort: Yea, what sacred zeal it inflamed you with for the glory of God, the credit of religion and of my apostolic authority, and for the peace and order of the church: Yea, behold, how it made you take a sort of holy vengeance upon yourselves, like persons that could not tell how to forgive yourselves, in reflection on your own defaults; and how it engaged you to inflict deserved punishment on the scandalous offender, by casting him out of your holy communion. In all these penitential and commendable ways of expressing your

N O T E.

* It appears from what follows in this, and the next verses, that the *godly sorrow* here spoken of, has a particular reference to its influence on the conduct of the church, for the correcting of their sin and error, with respect to the incestuous person, while, instead of continuing to be puffed up, and not to mourn on his account, 1 Cor. v. 2. they now were deeply humbled in reflection upon his gross miscarriage, and upon their former unconcernedness about it, and according-

ly had proceeded to pass a proper censure upon him for it. And yet as, in the preceding verse, the apostle calls it *godly sorrow, which worked repentance to salvation*, we may likewise consider his description of it in this verse, with a reference to that evangelical repentance, which is unto salvation, or *unto life*, as it is expressed, Acts xi. 18.; and therefore I have managed the paraphrase so, as to take in both these views; though it may be thought too long.

your godly sorrow, with regard to what has been so faulty among you, ye have shewn that your consciences have been purged from its guilt by the blood of Christ; and that ye, as a church, stand clear from all further charges on that account, as being forgiven of God, and no longer to be reproached, or reprov'd for it, by men.

12 Wherefore though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

12 This cannot but be an extreme satisfaction to me: For though I wrote to you with some smartness, particularly about the incestuous person, it was not from any pique or prejudice against him, who had dealt so injuriously in defiling his father's wife, (see the note on 1 *Cor.* v. 1.) nor from any pleasure, that I had in the thought of his being chastised for it; nor was it from any partiality, through favour or affection, toward the father himself, who had been so ill used by him; no, nor was it *barely* to reclaim the one, and, as far as in me lay, to do justice to the other, though this is what I had much at heart; but it principally proceeded from the sincere concern, which I had for you, as in the sight and presence of the heart-searching God, and from an earnest desire of discovering it in the most effectual manner to you, that ye might be preserved from the infection and the blast, which such a person's continuing among you might have brought upon you; and that the glory of Christ, and the honour and purity of the whole church might not suffer, through their neglect of doing the duty, which in that case was incumbent upon them.

13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

13 When therefore I and others of my brethren heard, that ye had in such a laudable manner acquitted yourselves, by casting that infamous sinner out of the church, to your own great peace and comfort; we exceedingly rejoiced at it, and were greatly refreshed with the comfort, which ye thereby have given us: And this our joy was the more abundantly increased, on account of the satisfaction, which our dear brother Titus found in what ye had done; because his soul, who is affectionately and solicitously careful about you, (*ver.* 15. and *chap.* viii. 16.) was mightily revived and cheered, under all his grief and concern for you, when he saw what an excellent spirit, and becoming behaviour appeared in the whole church; and when he related it to us. This, I say, adds greatly, and in a special manner, to my joy.

14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all

14 For if in my former conversation with him, I spoke of you with high commendation and confidence, concerning your faith, and your affectionate regards to me, as your spiritual father, I have now no cause to be ashamed of it, as though I had said more of

all things to you in truth, even to our boasting which I made before Titus is found a truth.

15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.

16 I rejoice therefore, that I have confidence in you in all things.

you than ye deserved; but as I have always preached the truth of the gospel, and spoke in sincerity, and nothing but the truth to you; so I am exceeding glad to find that ye have so fully answered my character of you, and that the fact now proves, that I kept within the bounds of modesty and truth, in all the encomiums I gave of you to Titus.

15 And his (*σπλαγχνά*) inmost bowels of love toward you are most abundantly warmed, and tenderly moved, in every reflection on your ready compliance, as a church, with my apostolic orders and admonitions; which discovered itself in the respectful manner, with which ye received him, as coming from me to enforce them; and in your solicitous watchfulness, care and caution, and deep concern, lest he should find any thing among you, that might offend and grieve him; and lest, through the treachery of your own hearts, and the subtilty of Satan, ye should not duly improve his faithful, kind, and tender counsel and advice.

16 It is therefore an unspeakable pleasure to me, that I have not been deceived in my expectations from you; and that I have now still so much further ground of confidence, that ye will pay a dutiful respect to my character, and a religious regard to all that I, as an apostle of Jesus Christ, may hereafter enjoin upon you.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

What blessed assistances and encouragements do the gracious promises of a heavenly Father afford his children, for engaging them to depart from all iniquity in heart and life, and to go on in the fear of the Lord, till their sanctification be perfected! With what freedom and boldness may ministers claim an attention to their message in the name of Christ, while they can appeal to the consciences of their people, as witnesses to their integrity, disinterestedness, and affectionate concern for the good of their souls, in delivering it! With what pleasure do they receive all notices of the success of their labours! And what a noble support is this to them under all their tribulations, whether they arise from sightings without, or fears within! It is exceeding grievous to them to be under a necessity of speaking severe things to the distressing of those, whom they had much rather comfort: But, O the joy! when it produces in communities, or in particular persons, not the sorrow of this world, which works death; but godly sorrow, which works repentance to salvation, and which is every way worth having, and appears with such distinguishing evidence, as proves it to be sincere: And how convincing are the tokens of this, when it works in professed penitents, with a conscientious carefulness against all sin; with an utter disallowance of it; with holy indignation against themselves for it; with an awful reverence of God, and humble fear of relapses; with earnest desire to have no more fellowship with it; with an ardent zeal for the glory of God; and with such a religious revenge upon *that*, which has been so dishonourable and provoking to him, as to pursue it in acts of mortification, till it be utterly slain within them! And how happy is it when gospel churches, with a like temper of spirit, and with an obediential subjection to the authority of Christ, as made known by his servants, clear themselves from scandalous members; and *that* to the bringing of them to true repentance! This puts an honour upon churches, and confirms the good opinion, which their ministers at any time had entertained, and expressed concerning them; and gives both pastors and people a sweet partnership and communion in each others joys. But, after all, it is God alone, who comforts them that are cast down.

C H A P. VIII.

The apostle having vindicated his character, and expressed his satisfaction in the regard that the Corinthian church had shewn to him, takes that occasion to remind them of his exhortation, in the former epistle, to charitable contributions for the relief of the poor saints at Jerusalem: This he enforces upon them, by the laudable example of the Macedonian churches, 1,—8. By the love and grace of Christ to them, 9. By the willingness, which they themselves had shewn to this good work a year ago, and the advantage that would accrue to themselves by it, 10,—15. And then he recommends Titus and two other brethren, who, at his request, came to them upon this very business, 16,—24.

TEXT.

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

PARAPHRASE.

NOW, brethren, according to the confidence I have in your love and obedience, (*chap. vii. 15, 16.*) I would again recommend the poor saints at Jerusalem to your Christian compassion: (*1 Cor. xvi. 2, 3.*) And in order to the engaging of your charitable contributions for their relief, who, through the original poverty of some, and through persecutions, wars, and the late famine, (*Acts xi. 28, 29.*) that have affected them all, are reduced to very necessitous circumstances; it may be proper that we acquaint you (*προειδοζουμεν υμιν*) with the powerful influence of the grace of God*, which was wrought effectually in the Gentile-churches of Macedonia, such as those at *Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea*, (*Acts chaps. xvi. and xvii.*) to incline them to exercise their Christian love toward their Jewish brethren, in largely contributing to their help, notwithstanding the difference, that there is in some sentiments between them, and the prejudices, which they have too much entertained on that account, one against the other.

L I 2

2 Ye

N O T E.

* *The grace of God* (*την χαριν του Θεου*) here undoubtedly refers to the liberality of the Macedonians; and with the like reference it is afterwards in this chapter rendered a gift, ver. 4. and at other times *grace*, ver. 6, 7, 19. This being called *the grace of God*, by a *metonymy*, which puts the cause for the effect, in the very entrance on this subject, seems to be with a design to lead our thoughts both here, and all along afterwards, to the free favour or grace of God, as the spring and cause of the liberality itself, and of that Christian grace of love, which was its principle in the Macedonian churches, and distinguish-

ed it from merely common humanity, whereby persons are inclined to relieve their fellow-creatures in distress: Accordingly, at the close of the apostle's discourse on this point, *chap. ix. 14.* speaking of the like charity of the *Corinthians*, he calls it *the grace of God in them*; and as what is here rendered *bestowed on the churches*, properly signifies *given in, or by the churches*, (*διδουμεν εν ταις εκκλησιας*) it may intimate that this effect of the grace of God was wrought in the *Macedonians*, and was his gift by them to the poor saints at *Jerusalem*. The paraphrase is therefore formed to admit of both senses.

2 How that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy, and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, (I bear record) yea, and beyond their power, they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much entreaty, that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God:

2 Ye must know then, that, amidst the fore persecutions of these *Macedonian* churches themselves, (*Acts* xvi. 19, &c. and xvii. 5, 13.) which are the trials of their faith and patience; the greatness of their joy in the Holy Ghost, (*1 Theff.* i. 6.) and the exceeding straitness of their own worldly circumstances have concurred, with rich advantage, to the producing of a noble generosity in them; their joy exciting them to it, and their own poverty putting such a lustre upon it *, as may well provoke others, of greater wealth, to be still more abundantly liberal.

3 For, as I can witness for them, and now mention it to their honour, they voluntarily, and out of choice, went into this generous and compassionate benevolence, to the utmost of their ability; yea, so heartily zealous and earnest were they in it, that they even did more than they could well spare, from the spontaneous motion of their own liberal souls, under divine influence.

4 So far were they from needing to be pressed to it, that, of their own accord, they desired me and others of my fellow-servants, with great importunity, to take their free-will-offering, which the grace of God had excited them to, under our care; and to give ourselves the trouble of performing, what is indeed properly the office of *deacons* †, by conveying and distributing their bounty, in token of our fellowship with them, and of the communion which they had, and desired to have, with the poor afflicted Christians of *Judea*, whom they esteem as sanctified in Christ Jesus, and holy in resemblance of him.

5 And this they did with a freedom, cheerfulness, and generosity, not barely answerable to the highest hopes, that we could have from them, considering the scantiness of their circumstances; but, over and above all this, to shew that they acted herein, upon truly religious principles, they first of all, even before

N O T E S.

* The apostle's mentioning the *Macedonian's* poverty, to enhance their liberality, is very beautiful, and carries a genteel insinuation to the *Corinthians*, that they, who so much exceeded the *Macedonians* in riches, (see the note on *1 Cor.* iv. 8.) ought to exceed them also in bounty.

† As it is well known that the *deacon's* office takes its name from the words, (*διακονα* and *διακονω*) that are used here, and in *ver.* 19, 20, and are rendered *ministering* and *administer*; and as the service, which the apostle in all these places speaks of, properly belongs

to that office, I have kept up this view of the expressions, where they occur in the present discourse, to shew that though *deacons* were chosen, (*Acts* vi.) to take care of the poor Christians; yet as that work originally belonged to the apostles, it was not, by the institution of a peculiar office to aid them in it, so alienated from them, but that they had still a right to act in it, as opportunity offered, and their principal employment would permit. The same may also be said of the ordinary pastors of churches. See *Dr. Owen's* true nature of a gospel church, Part II. pag. 131, &c.

fore they put their contributions into our hands, jointly surrendered up and devoted their own selves, as a church, with all that they are and have, in a solemn manner to the honour and service, influence, government, and disposal of the Lord Jesus, as their Head, Saviour, and King; and then, God directing and moving them to it by his Spirit, they with one consent committed themselves to us, as his ministering servants, to conduct them and all their affairs, according to his holy will, as revealed in his word, and notified by the openings of his providence.

6 Inasmuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

6 This excellent spirit, which appeared in them, moved us to entreat our brother *Titus*, that as, when he last visited you, he was so very acceptable to you, and had begun to stir you up to the exercise of this Christian grace of liberality, in making collections for the same charitable use; so he would undertake the business of coming to you again, to counsel, admonish, and encourage you to go on with this good work, till it be completed among you, as far as you purpose, and are able to contribute towards it.

7 Therefore as ye abound in every thing, in faith, in utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us; see that ye abound in this grace also.

7 But as * many of you are remarkably eminent in every other gift, as for instance, in the faith of Christ, which is fundamental to all the rest, in eloquence of speech, and in understanding the mysteries of the gospel, (1 Cor. i. 5, 7.) and in all studious endeavours to promote its interests, and the purity of your own church, (chap. vii. 11.) and particularly in your love to us, the ministers of Christ, which ye have given some signal testimonies of already; (chap. vii. 13,—16.) so I only entreat that ye would act like yourselves, and like persons thus highly favoured of the Lord, with proportionable abounding in this grace of Christian benevolence also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

8 I do not, in this case, lay any absolute command upon you by my apostolic authority; nor do I impose any certain sum to be raised among you; no, I much rather choose that it should be a free-will-offering, as God may incline your hearts to it, in proportion to your own circumstances: But I thought proper to take an occasion of recommending this noble duty to you, from the great readiness, that other Christians and

N O T E.

* I know not how the particles, (*αλλ' ουσαυτε*) which properly signify *but as*, come to be here translated *therefore as*, which is a very rare construction, and, instead of being necessary, seems to obscure the connection, and to sink the beauty of the admirable insinuation contained in this verse; and as something

must be supplied to complete the sentence, as it lies in the *Greek*, what I have substituted instead of *see*, toward the close of the verse, seems to keep up the spirit of the argument with much greater light and perspicuity, and to bring in the next verse with greater force of eloquence.

and churches have shewn to it, of their own accord, (*ver. 3.*) that ye might not come behind them in this, any more than in other spiritual attainments; and that by this fruit I might further try, prove, and know the genuineness of your professed affection to me, and of your love to Christ himself, and to the saints for his sake, in imitation of, and return for, his matchless, exemplary, and endearing love to you.

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

9 For ye cannot be utter strangers to, and I trust ye experimentally know, and seriously reflect upon, the surprising greatness of the free favour, love, and bounty of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who though, as the eternal Son of God, he was originally possessed of all the riches, glory and blessedness of the Deity, (*Rom. ix. 5.* and *Col. ii. 9.*) and as the former of the world, *by whom, and for whom, all things were created*, (*Col. i. 16.*) he was the rightful Lord and Proprietor of all the riches of the universe; and though, in his office-capacity, he was the appointed heir of all things; (*Heb. i. 2.*) yet, in his tender compassion to you, for your salvation, he assumed human nature, and in that nature veiled his glory, and divested himself, as it were, of all his riches, with respect to his own use of them; and submitted, in the form of a servant, to the deepest poverty, amongst all his other sufferings unto death; insomuch that in his *birth*, he came of poor and mean parentage, was brought forth in a stable, *wrapt in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger*; (*Luke ii. 7.*) and in his *life*, though *the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests*; yet he had not *where to lay his head*: (*Matth. viii. 20.*) The Lord of glory thus humbled, emptied, and denied himself, to the end that, on account, and by means of his extreme and voluntary poverty, ye might be enriched with all the blessings of grace and glory, and with as many of the good things of this life, as ye enjoy, or as he sees to be best for you. Surely then ye ought to be constrained by this wonderful love of Christ, and to be influenced by such a striking example of bounty and goodness, to spare what ye can out of your temporal possessions for the comfort of your poor brethren, for whom he willingly condescended to undergo all this, as well as for you.

10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

10 And as your own honour and advantage, as well as duty, are nearly concerned in this affair, I would advise you to finish it out of hand: For this is in a special manner fit and becoming, proper and useful for you; and will shew that ye are rather examples to others herein, than they to you, (*chap. ix. 2.*) who according to my directions, when I wrote to

you last, (1 Cor. xvi. 2.) set on foot collections of this sort, and began not only to lay by something in store for them, but also to discover the greatest willingness, like persons in good earnest to engage in them, about a year ago; it being so long since I recommended this service, and ye cheerfully consented to it.

11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as *there was* a readiness to will, so *there may be* a performance also out of that which you have.

11 Now therefore let me entreat you to act up to character, and consummate what ye then so well began, that as, at that time, ye discovered great freedom and alacrity of mind for it; so the like pleasing readiness may now be shewn, in collecting together into one common stock, what ye have laid by, from week to week, for that purpose, according to your respective abilities, *as God has prospered you; that there may be no gatherings when I come.* (1 Cor. xvi. 2.)

12 For if there be first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

12 For if, as has happily appeared in you, there be before-hand, a cheerful and determinate propensity of mind to charitable acts; and sincere contrivances and endeavours, that ye may have wherewith to distribute out of your temporal substance, to the glory of God, and the necessities of his poor; it is acceptable, not only to the churches, and to me, but, which is best of all, to Christ himself, when it is done in proportion to a man's own circumstances, be they larger, or straiter, like the poor widow's who cast two mites into the treasury; (*Luke xxi. 2, 3.*) and not with vain glorious prodigality, or inconsiderate profuseness, that would be manifestly injurious to ones self and family, and especially that would be a giving of other peoples property, and running so far in debt, as to have no reasonable prospects of ever being able to discharge it.

13 For *I mean* not that other men be eased, and you burdened;

13 For nothing is farther from my intention, than to desire that other Christians, who are now in want, should be enriched, or raised above the low rank in which Providence has placed them, by the abundance of your alms, and that at the same time ye yourselves should be overloaded, and so reduced and impoverished by an excess in your exhibitions to them; nor do I mean that the whole weight of supplying the exigencies of the poor saints should lie upon you, and that other churches, who are capable of assisting, should be excused from it.

14 But by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be*

14 But what I aim at is, that there may be a proper proportion in your, and their distributions to them that are in want, even such as is equal and fit for you severally to give, and for the poor to receive *, that

N O T E.

* By an equality, as it is explained in the latter part of this, and in the next verse,

a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want, that there may be equality;

15 As it is written. He that had gathered much, had nothing over: and he that had gathered little, had no lack.

16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation, but being

that by this means, in the present situation of things, your affluence may afford a suitable and sufficient supply to their necessities: And this I desire of you now, in hope that, if ever the providence of God should change hands, as it often does in the vicissitudes of this uncertain world, by raising them up, and casting you down, he will also incline their hearts to return the favour, in due season, when out of their greater abundance, they may minister a proper relief to your wants; that so, upon the whole, there may be an equality in beneficence on both sides; and ye and they may be equally beholden to the brotherly love and bounty one of another, and all may be well provided for, in their turns, according to their respective occasions, as the *Israelites* were in the wilderness, by the wise and kind disposal of an immediate providence, for our instruction and imitation;

15 As it is divinely recorded (*Exod. xvi. 18.*) concerning the *manna*, which God gave them, in a miraculous way, for their subsistence, *he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack*, the surplus of each person's gatherings being applied to the use of those, who, through infirmity or age, could not gather an homer-full for themselves, which was the prescribed measure for every single person; so that there was neither superfluity, nor want, to either of them; but all were sufficiently supplied according to their exigencies: In like manner, they that have more of this world's goods, than they really need for themselves, and their families, should be ready to distribute to their poor brethren, and not suffer them to lack necessary food, as remembering that God gives them their larger stores for this very purpose; and that the happiness of a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses. (*Luke xii. 15.*)

16 And (ðs) blessed be God, that he has inspired our beloved brother *Titus* with the same fervent desire and diligent concern, as I myself had, to engage you in this excellent and important service, for your own sakes, as well as theirs that may be relieved by it.

17 For truly in his abundant affection to you, and confidence of his interest in your love; in his earnest desire that ye might share in the honour of this service;

N O T E.

verse, is apparently meant, not a leveling scheme, which takes away personal property, but an equality with respect to the degrees of the benefactions, and the wants of the poor: And yet, considering it in connection with the preceding ver-

ses, there may possibly be some reference to an equality of proportion between the contributors themselves, in their giving according to their respective circumstances; and therefore I have glanced at that interpretation also.

ing more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.

18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel, throughout all the churches;

19 (And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind)

20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us;

21 Providing for honest

vice; and in his great zeal for the common cause of Christ, and compassion for the poor saints, he not only fell in at once with the very first motion, that was made to him to go, and excite you to the finishing of this charity; (*ver. 6.*) but, being more eager for it of himself, than to need any exhortations to it, he of his own free choice *, (*αὐθαίρετος*) under divine influence, (*ver. 16.*) set out upon this errand to you.

18 We, who are concerned in this affair, have also sent with him, upon the same business, another eminent brother †, who is well known, and has obtained great reputation, in all the churches, that have seen or heard of him, for his light in the gospel; for his hearty attachment to it; and for his faithfulness, judgment, and zeal in preaching, and promoting it, by all possible means:

19 And who is not only esteemed and honoured at a high rate, wherever he comes; but was likewise chosen by the common suffrage of the churches, that had made collections on this occasion, which they testified, according to their known custom, by the lifting up of their hands; (*χειροτονησῆς*) he was, I say, in this manner chosen, by them, to accompany us to Jerusalem with their free gift, which the grace of God stirred them up to, and which is to be distributed by us, who are willing to perform the office of deacons therein for a time, (see the note on *ver. 4.*) to the honour of one and the same Lord Jesus, both theirs, yours, and ours; and to the giving you an opportunity of shewing your readiness of mind to concur with them in that design, as supposing that we should be equally acceptable to you.

20 Our desire of having other reputable servants of Christ joined with us in this office is, that we might be freed from all suspicion of fraud, or partiality, in the disposal of so large a charity; and might avoid the ill natured censures of our adversaries, as though we would embezzle, or misapply any part of this liberal fund, which is now put into our hands, in order to its being duly distributed by us.

21 In this method of proceeding, we have taken all

N O T E S.

* What *Titus* is here said to do of his own accord, God is said to have put into his heart, *ver. 16.*; which shews that the way of God's working upon, and determining a man's heart, is so far from making any infringement upon the liberty of his will, that it rather strengthens and secures it.

† It is not certain, nor is it of any importance for us to know, who this, and

the other brother mentioned, *ver. 22.* were; whether *Barnabas, Silas, Mark, Apollus, Epenetus, Sophrenes*, or *Lube*, as has been variously conjectured: The church at *Corinth* could be at no loss about it; but, whoever they were, they seem to have been *ministers*, because it is here said of one of them, that his praise is in the gospel; and both are said to be *the glory of Christ.* *ver. 23.*

honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

23 Whether any enquire of Titus, he is my partner, and fellow-helper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

all imaginable care to execute this great trust, in such an honourable and disinterested manner, as may approve itself, not only to God, who knows our hearts, and whose eye is upon all our ways; but likewise to the consciences of all mankind, whether friends or enemies, that shall see and observe our conduct in it.

22 And as in *the mouth of two, or at most three witnesses*, every word is established, (*Matth. xviii. 16.*) we have sent to you, along with the above mentioned, (*see the note on ver. 18.*) a third excellent brother, who has often been tried, and proved to be very active and industrious, as well as faithful, in his management of several other affairs, that have been committed to him; but, in this case, is animated to more than ordinary diligence, upon the recommendation he has heard me give of you, as a church of Christ, in whom I have the greatest satisfaction, that ye will not be behind-hand with other churches; but will cheerfully receive, and attend to what he may say, in conjunction with his other brethren, to excite your liberality in perfecting this free-will-offering.

23 As to the characters of all these persons, if any that are strangers to them, or would invidiously carp at one or another of them, should enquire after them, or raise any dispute about them; let such know that, as to *Titus*, he is my associate in the work of the ministry, and my fellow-labourer in those things, that relate to your assistance, comfort, and edification: Or if any question be asked about the two other of our brethren, that are sent with him; it is sufficient to say, that they are approved messengers of the *Macedonian-churches*, who have deputed them to transact this affair, as persons every way qualified for it; and they are Christians and ministers, (*see the note on ver. 18.*) that have behaved themselves in a manner, which has already brought great honour to the name of Christ, and are instruments of promoting his glory, who has made them faithful to himself.

24 Therefore ye need make no difficulty of receiving them, with the greatest affection, respect, and confidence; and I beseech you to do it in such a manner, as shall give to them, and to the churches that have sent them, an evident demonstration of the sincerity of your love (*ver. 8.*) to Christ, to them, to me, and to the poor saints at *Jerusalem*, for his sake; and as shall shew that the great things I have said of you, and my glorying in you, as a generous, faithful, and affectionate people, is not a vain boast, but exactly according to truth.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

What an excellent grace is Christian benevolence, in relieving the poor, and especially such as are of the household of faith! It is wrought in us by the power of divine grace; it proves the sincerity of our love to Christ, and to his members for his sake; it is strongly recommended by the matchless grace of our Lord Jesus, who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich; and it turns to the spiritual account of the pious benefactors themselves, who may likewise hope that, if ever they should be reduced, God will incline the hearts of others to be assistant to them, in a return of equal kindness. How pleasant is it to see a forwardness in this, and every other good work, while some of their own accord, and yet under divine influence, set an example of it to other Christians, according to the utmost of their ability; and others are equally ready to encourage it, and assist in finishing it, according to the pressing occasions that call for it! A little that is given in love, and with a willing mind, by those that are in strait circumstances, is a high commendation of their liberality; and yet, as the proportion of alms-deeds is accepted according to what a man has; so some ought not to be unreasonably burdened, to the easing, much less to the enriching of others; nor ought any to give what is not their own: But all charity, as well as every thing else, ought to be managed with such prudence and faithfulness, and in such a disinterested and honourable way, as may approve itself to God, as done in his sight, and even to the consciences of the whole world; and as may cut off all occasions of blame, or even of suspicions of fraud, partiality, or selfish designs. How happy is it when ministers and private Christians behave at such a rate, as is to the glory of Christ, and as spreads their praises among the saints, and begets a mutual affection to, and confidence in one another! What a beauty is there in the order of the churches, that first gave their own selves to the Lord with joint consent, and then to the conduct of his servants, according to the will of God! And how sweet is their harmony and communion, when the messengers of some churches are well recommended to, and are received, with respect and honour, by others!

C H A P. IX.

The apostle excuses his sending Titus, and the two other brethren that accompanied him, to collect their alms, notwithstanding the confidence he had in their own readiness to that good work, 1,—5. He further encourages them by several arguments to be liberal and chearful in it, 6,—14. And shuts up his discourse, on this head, with a thanksgiving to God for his unspeakable gift, 15.

T E X T.

P A R A P H R A S E.

FOR, as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you.

I Desire nothing more, relating to your proposed benevolence, than that ye would act according to my just expectations from you: (*chap. viii. 24.*) For as to your charitable collection, which is to be conveyed and distributed to the poor saints at Jerusalem, the generosity, piety, and compassion of your temper render it needless for me to write so many things, as might easily be offered to stir you up to it*, or to trouble you with any other letter about it.

M m 2

2 For

N O T E.

* As the apostle afterwards urges several arguments to excite the *Corinthians* to this charity, ver. 6. *Sc.* his saying, *It is superfluous for me to write to*

2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready:

4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not you) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might

2 For I am fully satisfied, with respect to the strong propensions, resolutions, and alacrity of your own minds, to engage in this excellent service; on account of which I have spoke of you, with pleasure and confidence, to the churches of Macedonia, telling them that the Christians in Achaia, of which Corinth is a principal city, were extremely willing, and had begun to make their contributions, for the use of those poor brethren, the last year; (*chap. viii. 10.*) and the fame of your laudable and fervent zeal herein, has raised a noble ambition in many of them, that heard me speak of it, to follow your good example.

3 But, notwithstanding all my confidence in you, I thought proper to join in sending Titus, and his two companions aforementioned, (*chap. viii. 17, 18, 22.*) not from any remaining suspicion of you, as if ye would be backward to finish what ye have so well begun; but that our glorying in you, with regard to this particular point, may not in any degree be made void; my meaning is, that according to what I have told them, (*ver. 2.*) and have now suggested to you, (*chap. viii. 11.*) ye may be indeed thoroughly prepared to put your money, as ready gathered, into our hands, when I and other messengers may call upon you for it.

4 So that the design of sending these brethren is chiefly to acquaint you with our intended journey for this purpose; lest, if any of our Macedonian friends accompany me, it should happen that, through your not knowing when to expect us, or not apprehending the need of haste, they should find that the work is still depending, and not completed; and lest, in that case, I and others of my brethren should meet with a disappointment of our hopes, and so be confounded before them, on account of the honourable things, that we have said to them, with the utmost assurance on this head, concerning you: This would turn greatly to our reproach, not to say also to yours.

5 I therefore judged it necessary, for your sakes, as well for our own, and the common credit of Christianity, to entreat the above-mentioned brethren, that they would make you a visit before-hand, to let you know when ye may look for us; and to assist you in dispatching every thing, that may be requisite for getting together the whole of your beneficence, which may be called a blessing, (*ευλογίαν*) as it is by the blessing of God, that ye are enabled, and inclin-

ed

N O T E.

you about it, must be understood in some such restrained sense, as is given in the paraphrase.

be ready as a *mat-
ter of bounty*, and
not as of covetous-
ness.

ed to do so much good to others ; as he will conti-
nue to bless you in, and after it ; and as his poor
bless his name, speak honourably and affectionately
of you, and implore his blessing upon you, for it :
The design, I say, of these brethren's coming is, that
ye receiving previous notice by them, against what
time this bounty of yours should be ready gathered,
it may be so, before we come ; and may thereby e-
vidently appear to be, as I make no doubt but it is,
freely given, as a grateful acknowledgment of the
favour of God to yourselves, and with a desire of be-
ing blessings to others ; and that it is not extorted
from you by our presence and importunity, as though
ye were a covetous people, loth to part with it.

6 But this I *say*,
He which soweth
sparingly, shall reap
also sparingly : and
he which soweth
bountifully, shall
reap also bountiful-
ly.

6 But as to the sum to be raised among you, *that*
must be left to your own conscience and discretion ;
only to prevent disheartning and unbelieving objec-
tions, as though what ye give to others were all lots to
yourselves, I desire you to remember, that, as in the
husbandman's casting his seed into the earth, he, who
sows with a niggardly sparing hand, can expect but
a very small crop, when he comes to reap it ; but
he, who freely scatters his seed abroad, may hope, by
the blessing of God, for a plentiful harvest : So *to*
the merciful, God will shew himself merciful ; (Psal.
xviii. 25.) and, in the ordinary dispensations of pro-
vidence, he will proportion his blessings to the strait-
ness, or liberality of your charitable contributions ;
inasmuch that *there is that scatters, and yet increa-
ses ; and there is that with-holds more than is meet,*
but it tends to poverty. (Prov. xi. 24.)

7 Every man ac-
cording as he pur-
poteh in his heart,
so let him give ;
not grudgingly, or
of necessity : for
God loveth a
cheerful giver.

7 Let every one seriously consider this ; and then
let him give according to what he deliberately thinks,
in his own heart and conscience, is fit and proper for
one in his circumstances ; and let him do it with a
free and cheerful spirit, and not with reluctance or
secret repining, like one that grieves at what he parts
with ; nor by constraint, like one who, through
shame, or over-pressing, or some sinister motive, can-
not tell how to avoid it : For the great and blessed
God, whose goodness is his glory, takes pleasure in
one, that imitates his own free bounty, by giving
with an open heart and hand ; that *draws out his soul*
to the hungry, (Isa. lviii. 10.) and cheerfully lays
hold on every opportunity of making them comfort-
able.

8 And God *is*
able to make all
grace abound to-
wards you ; that
ye always, having
all

8 And the all-sufficient God, who delights in
mercy, is undoubtedly every way able to cause your
liberality, as well as every other grace of his Spirit, to
increase abundantly in you, to the end that, being
contented with such things as ye have, and being
plentifully

all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work;

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministrerth seed to the sower, both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

plentifully supplied with all the good things, that pertain to life and godliness, ye may be still more and more capable of, and heartily engaged in, this and every other good work, to which he calls you: And ye have no room to doubt but that he will do it, since he has given his own promise to encourage your faith herein;

9 As it is written in the sacred oracles, concerning the merciful man, (*Psal.* cxii. 9.) He has scattered abroad, with a liberal hand, out of his worldly substance, for the good of others; he has cheerfully given to the relief of the poor and needy, which may be called his *personal* righteousness, because it is one great part of moral righteousness, and because he only acts, as a just and faithful steward, in distributing his Lord's goods for the noble purposes, for which he entrusted them with him: And this sort of righteousness perpetually abides, in its *exercise*, as God will continue to dispose him to it, and make him capable of it; and in its happy *fruits* and *effects*, as the objects of his pity, will receive lasting benefit by it; as he himself *shall not be forsaken* of his God, or of good men, *and his seed shall be blessed*; (*Psal.* xxxvii. 25, 26.) and as he shall be had in honourable remembrance upon earth, and for ever in heaven. (*Psal.* cxii. 6.)

10 Now my heart's desire and prayer of faith to God is, that he, whose blessing makes rich, and who, in the world of nature, not only provides food for the current year, but gives seed to the husbandman for sowing again; and who, in the moral world, gives the liberal man, not only enough for a supply of his own wants, but also ability and a heart to do good in distributions to others; my earnest and believing prayer, I say, for you, my generous friends and brethren, is, that he would continue to feed you with food convenient for you; and would turn what ye give to others to the best account, and even restore it an hundred-fold into your own bosoms, both as to spirituals and temporals; and that he would enable you to abound yet more and more in this, and every other *fruit of righteousness, which is, by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God*: (*Phil.* i. 11.)
* Faithful is he that has promised, who also will do it.

11 And

N O T E.

* One of *Stephanas's* copies, and the *Alermont*, with several others, read *minister, multiply, and increase*, in the *future* tense; and so make them promises of what God will do. (*Vid. Mill. Nov. Test.*) But whether we follow those

readings or not, an apostolic prayer may be considered as containing the nature of a promise, especially when supported by other promises, such as are found in the preceding context.

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

11 And may he plentifully bestow upon you every blessing of this world and a better, that shall dispose you for, and make you capable of persevering and increasing in, all liberality, (*απλοτητα*) with rich abundance, and with simplicity and singleness of heart, free from any sinister views, according to what appears in your good beginnings, which engage many souls in great thankfulness to God, for raising up such instruments of seasonable supplies, through our means, who excited you to them, and are to distribute them!

12 For the administration of this service, not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

12 For our officiating in preparing, and disposing of this public collection, is not only an ample relief of the necessities of the poor saints, which cannot but be a great satisfaction to a benevolent, generous, and compassionate mind; but it likewise abundantly redounds to the glory of God, through the manifold thanksgivings that are, and will be offered to him on that account, by myself, by those that share in your bounty, and by all that are friends to Christ, and his poor.

13 (Whiles by the experiment of this ministration, they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;)

13 This revenue of glory accrues to God, while by the proof and experience (*δια την δοκιμην*) of your brotherly love, in this distribution of your charity through our hands, they who hear of it, and especially they who receive the benefit of it, adore and bless his holy name, for that unfeigned submission and obedience to the authority of Christ in his gospel, which in this, as in other instances, ye practically, as well as verbally, make an honourable profession of, in your affectionate regard to his poor members, according to his will and command; as also for your great generosity in liberal communications to them, and even to all that need your help, according to your ability, as opportunities and occasions offer.

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you, for the exceeding grace of God in you.

14 And it abounds to your own advantage, as well as to the glory of God, through their earnest prayers to him, that every blessing may be returned into your own bosoms for the Christian-kindness, which ye shew to them, who are affectionately desirous of your happiness for time and eternity, and of having a personal acquaintance with you, because of the superabundant grace of God, which is found in you, and has manifested itself in this fruit of it toward them.

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

15 My heart sincerely joins in their praises, as well as prayers: Blessed be God for this free and bountiful alms, which turns so inexpressibly to his glory, and to your own and others good; and for the unutterable gift of his grace, in that he has made you both willing and able to honour him with your substance, and to refresh the bowels of his poor, and has filled them with so much gratitude to him and you,

in their thankful acknowledgments of it; and above all, blessed be God for Jesus Christ, to whose gospel ye have shewn such an entire subjection, (*ver.* 13.) through whom the abundant riches of this grace, and all blessings come to you; (*chap.* viii. 9.) and who is, by way of eminence, *the gift of God*, (see the note on *John* iv. 10.) even such a transcendent and all-comprehensive gift, as exceeds the power of language to express.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

What an amiable and exemplary temper is it to be so forward for acts of charity, as not to need excitations to them! And yet there may be occasion for the most liberal soul to be reminded of them, and directed about them, that they may be performed in a due manner, according to his ability, and in proper season. How unreasonable, as well as sinful, are all the cavils of unbelief, and all grudgings of mind, against a well advised charity in such proportions, as, upon serious consideration, we purpose in our own hearts to go into! For God, who loves a cheerful giver, is able to make all grace abound towards us, and to multiply our store, that we may have a sufficiency for ourselves and ours, and may be enriched in every thing, that is requisite to dispose and enable us for every work of benevolence, which he calls us to; and he has assured us, that, according to our sowing, we shall reap, either sparingly, or bountifully: We may therefore depend upon it, that he who disperses abroad, and gives to the poor, from a principle of love to God and them, shall be no loser by it: This sort of righteousness shall abide in its happy fruits to others, and in its everlasting benefit, through grace, to his own soul, who is thereby recommended to the affection and prayers of his brethren, and particularly of the poor saints, that the blessing of them, that were ready to perish, may come upon him; and whose praises are in all the churches of Christ. And, O what an eminent glory is brought to God and his gospel, when alms-deeds are performed with a ready mind, in obedience to his commands, and when they engage the thanksgivings of many to him! Blessed be God for the unspeakable gift of his grace, whereby he enables and inclines some of his people to communicate, and others to be grateful in their acknowledgments of it: And blessed be his glorious name to all eternity for Jesus Christ, that superlative, inestimable gift of his love, through whom this, and every other good thing, pertaining to life and godliness, is freely bestowed upon us, beyond all expression, measure, or bounds.

C H A P. X.

The apostle returning to a necessary vindication of himself, and confutation of the invidious suggestions of false teachers that set themselves against him, asserts his authority with great meekness and humility, 1,—6. Reasons with the Corinthians about it, 7,—11. Rejects the vaunting methods of those teachers in recommending themselves, and claiming the honour of other men's labours; and lays down the better rule, by which he proceeded in his ministrations, with an aim at the glory of God, and at being approved of him, 12,—18.

TEXT.

NOW I Paul myself beseech you, by the meekness and gentleness

PARAPHRASE.

NOW, to return to my necessary self-defence against the mean insinuations of your false apostles to degrade me, I, that same Paul, who am reviled by them (*ver.* 10.) as an abject, pusillanimous creature,

ness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent, am bold toward you.

2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present, with that confidence wherewith I think to be bold against some which think of us, as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

creature, of low stature, and despicable aspect, in my appearance among you, but as very assuming, magisterial, and severe in my writings, when absent from you; even I, to shew how little I am discomposed at these invidious representations of me, exhort you (*παρακαλω υμας*) with all lenity, calmness, and benevolence of temper, to regard my admonitions; and this I do with so much clemency and tenderness, according to, and as influenced by, the amiable example of my great Lord and Master, who was meek and lowly in heart, (*Matth. xi. 29.*) whom I would fain have you also imitate herein, together with myself.

2 But, though mine enemies take occasion from my mild and humble behaviour, when I was with you, to speak contemptuously of me, I earnestly entreat, (*δουρωμαι*) as well as exhort you, that ye would not side with them, and thereby force me, contrary to my own inclination, to exercise my apostolic authority, when I come to you again, with such severity as, unless things be mended, I purpose, and think it my duty to use, without fear of any man's face, for the correcting of those among you, who judge and talk * of me particularly, together with others of my brethren, as if I were influenced by secular views of interest, or honour, and conducted my ministry by maxims of carnal reason; than which no reflection can be more unjust.

3 For though indeed I, as well as the rest of my fellow-labourers, do dwell in mortal flesh, and we all are liable to the common infirmities and calamities, that attend our being in the body, while we preach the gospel; (*Gal. iv. 13.*) yet I can appeal to God, who knows my heart; (*chap. ii. 17.*) and the manner of my life and labours plainly shews, that the exercise of my ministry, in which I am called to war a good warfare, (*1 Tim. i. 18.*) and that my conversation in the world, and especially to you-ward, (*chap. i. 12.*) is not with fleshly wisdom, under the government of selfish and sinful principles, by carnal means, to carnal ends; but with simplicity and godly sincerity, by the grace of God.

4 For

N O T E.

* Though the apostle here, and most-ly throughout this chapter, as it has been observed he likewise doth in various other parts of the epistle, (see the notes on *chap. iii. 1.* and *v. 16.*) speaks in the plural number, for the sake of modesty and decency, in treating the subject that lay before him; yet he principally means himself; and, in several parts of the following discourse, it

is evident that he points at things, which only related to himself: I have therefore in the paraphrase on this chapter, as also elsewhere, all along either included others with him, or not, according as I apprehend may be most suitable to the nature of the things he is speaking of, as either common to him and others, or as peculiar to himself.

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strong holds:)

4 For as, like good soldiers of Jesus Christ, we are lifted into his service, which may be called a warfare, on account of the difficulties, hardships, and dangers that belong to it, (2 *Tim.* ii. 3, 4.) and the many great and formidable enemies, that are to be opposed and vanquished; the arms, with which we militate, are not of a worldly nature, to carry things by external force; nor are they such as the wisdom of the flesh furnishes out, or as are suited to promote the interests of the flesh; but, in opposition to these, they are of a spiritual nature*, such as *the gospel of peace*, and *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*, (*Eph.* vi. 15, 17.) as dispensed with light, zeal, and courage, in their native simplicity, without human art or eloquence; (*chap.* iv. 2, 7. and 1 *Cor.* i. 23. and ii. 1,—7.) and, in opposition to the *weakness* of carnal means, they are wonderfully prevalent, through the mighty operation of God with, and by them, to demolish the strongest forts of sin, Satan, and the world, and all the darkness, rebellion, pride, and prejudices, unbelief, stubbornness, sensuality, and enmity, which lie in the heart of man, and fortify themselves in it, as in a strong hold, against God: And all this is done, as easily and effectually by these weapons, as the walls of *Jericho* were thrown down with the blowing of rams horns. (*Josh.* vi. 4,—20.)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

5 These means, used in this spiritual warfare, are successful, not by human might or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord, (*Zech.* iv. 6, 7.) to confute and overthrow the corrupt reasonings (*λογισμους*) of *Jeros* and *Gentiles*, and every proud conceit of self-wisdom, righteousness, and strength, together with all the power and policy of hell and earth, that naturally rise up in rebellion against, and would hinder the propagation of the light, grace, and holiness of the gospel, and the various discoveries, that are made of the perfections of the divine nature, and of the mind and will of God therein: And he renders these means effectual to subdue every opposing thought and passion; to captivate and overcome them by a sweet, and yet all-conquering energy; and to reduce them to a cheerful and obediential subjection to the authority and commands of the Lord Christ, that he may have a willing people in the day of his power. (*Psal.* cx. 3.)

6 And having in

6 And as to those among you, who, after all proper

N O T E.

* Though *faith* and *prayer*, and other graces and accountments, are also to be chiefly intended here, as to reckoned to the *Christian's armour*; the means of *pulling down strong* (*Eph.* vi. 13,—18.) yet the *gospel of holds*, &c.

a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

7 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? if any man trust to himself, that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, (which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your

per methods have been used to reclaim them, continue obstinate and refractory, and do what in them lies to degrade me and my office, I am furnished with powers, and am ready, to inflict such exemplary punishments upon them, by my apostolic rod, as they deserve * : Only I am willing to defer this, till the utmost has been tried by gentler treatment, and it may be seen how many of you shall pay obedience to Christ, and to his authority in me; and how far ye shall fulfil the orders, which I have given you, by the Lord Jesus, to cast incorrigible offenders out of the church.

7 How disadvantageously soever my inveterate opposers may pretend to judge of me, from the meanness of my corporal presence, the lowness of my worldly circumstances, and the humility and mildness of my behaviour, when among you; are ye so weak, and inconsiderate, as to form your judgment and esteem of me and them, merely from external show and appearances? If there be any one†, even the most leading man of the faction that has been raised among you, who vaunts, and pretends to be confident in his own mind, and, like a self-righteous person, trusts in himself, that he is a member and servant of Christ, united to him, guided by his Spirit, and commissioned and owned by him; let such an one, however, reckon again with himself, and reflect often and seriously upon it, to make him humble, and prevent his contemptuous thoughts of me, that, admitting he were what he pretends to, I am every way as much Christ's, and am honoured with as many evident tokens of it, as he possibly can be.

8 For if, being forced to it on this occasion for vindicating my own public character, I should speak with something of an air of boasting, beyond what I ever have done, or like and choose, or otherwise would do, or beyond what the vainest of *them* can reasonably presume to do, concerning the apostolic powers,

N n 2

ers,

N O T E S.

* This *revengeing all disobedience*, seems to be something different from *the weapons of warfare* before-mentioned, *ver.* 4. and to relate to what he would do by the apostolic rod, rather than merely by a church-censure, which he had directed the church itself to pass upon obstinate offenders, *1 Cor.* v. 3.—13. and which he here intimates he would vindicate and confirm, in case of continued impenitence, by inflicting further punishments upon them; (see the note on *1 Cor.* iv. 21.) though, doubtless, had he been present, he would have presided in their

church assemblies, and passed the censure, with their concurrence, by virtue of his apostolic authority, which gave him the power of an universal pastor.

† *Mr. Locke* thinks that one *particular* man is here, and in some following verses, pointed at, as the false apostle, who had raised a faction among the *Corinthians* against the apostle *Paul*. But it seems pretty evident from *ver.* 2, 10, 12. that there were *more* than one false teacher, or apostle, that opposed him; though perhaps one might be more leading and famous than the rest.

your destruction) I should not be ashamed;

ers, which the Lord Jesus has entrusted me with, for building you up in the faith, holiness, and order of the gospel, and not for the destruction of any of your souls; and for bringing offenders among you to repentance, and not for driving them into despair, no, not by the severest exercise of my authority: Yet, were I to enlarge upon this head, more than I shall, I should have no reason to be ashamed of it, as if it were groundless, untimely, or indecent, in my present situation; the truth would bear me out, and none could confute me.

9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.

9 But I forbear saying so much of this, especially of my power to inflict punishments, as I justly might, that I may not seem to conduct, as though I intended to frighten you, by writing in my epistles, while absent from you, what I dare not do, when present with you, as is objected against me by my antagonists.

10 For his letters (say they) are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

10 For they do not sly to say, in a reviling manner concerning me, His epistles indeed are wrote in a high, solemn, authoritative and threatening strain, as if he were *some body*; but when he is personally present with us, he appears to be a poor, weak, contemptible animal, of a spirit as low as his stature; and his discourse is quite despicable, without eloquence, or graceful utterance, or any thing to support the vast authority he pretends to in his writings. (See the note on *chap.* xi. 6.)

11 Let such an one think this, that such as we are in word by letters, when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.

11 But whoever speaks of me at this detracting rate; let such an one reckon, and depend upon it, that whatever I threaten in words by writing, when I am not with you, I will certainly execute in fact, as far as there may be occasion for it, whenever I have the opportunity, as I design, God willing, (*chap.* xiii. 1.) of coming to you again; I then will not spare to punish such, as shall continue disobedient, (*ver.* 6.) according to the authority which Christ has given me.

12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves amongst

12 This is all that I, at present, shall say of that matter: For, surely, such a contemptible wretch, as I am represented to be, must not presume to think myself fit to vie, or to be ranked and joined, with that party among you, who speak great swelling words of vanity; nor to compare myself with such mighty boasters, as fancy that none can come up, near to them*: Nor indeed would my conscience allow me to be so conceited and vain-glorious, as to vaunt

N O T E.

* As some valuable expositors take the former part of this verse in the *ironical*, and others in the *serious* view, I have considered it both ways, that the reader may take his choice.

mongst themselves,
are not wise.

vaunt beyond all bounds, like them, or to go into an ostentatious detail, and *that* beyond *the truth*, of all my qualifications, powers, and performances, in order to my comparing them with theirs, who excessively magnify their own pretended gifts and achievements, to the running down of others, that are every way better and greater men, than themselves: But this I must say, that while, in forming their fond opinion and esteem of themselves, they take their measure, rule, and standard, only from such imaginary excellencies and services, as they fancy belong to themselves; and while, instead of being duly humbled, in consideration of the much superior character and usefulness of others, they compare themselves only with persons of their own temper and party, and of inferior, or at least of equally insignificant endowments, they act a very weak and foolish part, and can never in that way come at a true knowledge of themselves; nor do they indeed understand the proper boundaries of their own sphere and province, so as not to thrust themselves upon churches, and lord it over them, which were seduced by the ministry of others, and not of themselves.

12 But we will not boast of things without *our* measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

13 But, for my own part, I will not attempt, like them, to assume to myself the honour of other men's labours, (*ver.* 15.) nor to glory in things, that God has not commissioned me for, and wrought by me, within those bounds, which his providence has plainly marked out to me*: But I shall only speak of those things, that have been done in a regular exercise of my ministry, not by skipping about from place to place, according to my own humour, and for serving party-views, as the false apostles do; but according to the measure and limits of that commission and call, which God has given me, and assist-

ed

N O T E.

* It may very much help us to understand this and the following verses, if, with Dr. Hammond, and some other critics, we consider the terms, that are mostly used in them, as *agonistical*. In this view of them, *the measure of the rule* (το μετρον του κανονος) alludes to the path marked out, and bounded by a white line for racers in the *Isthmian* games, that were observed among the *Corinthians*; and so the apostle represents his work in preaching the gospel, as his spiritual race; and the province, to which he was appointed, as the compass or stage of ground, which God had distributed or measured out (εμερισεν αυτω) for him to run in. Accordingly, to boast *without his measure* (εις τα

αμετρα) in the former part of this verse, and *ver.* 15. and to *stretch himself beyond his measure*, or over extend himself, *ver.* 14. (υπερ εκτεινισθαι) refer to one that ran beyond, or out of his line: *We are come as far to you* (αχρη υμων εφθασαμεν) alludes to him that came foremost to the goal; and *in another man's line*, *ver.* 16. (εν αλλοτρω κανωνι) signifies in the province, that was marked out for some body else, in allusion to the line, by which the race was bounded; each of the racers having the path, which he ought to run, chalked out to him; and if one stepped over into the other's path, he extended himself over his line.

ed and owned me in, for preaching the gospel in many regions through which I travelled, in an orderly course, for that purpose, (*Rom. xv. 18, 19.*) till, by the favour of God, and according to the rule of my commission, I came as far as *Corinth*, even to you ; where, as in various other places, I planted the gospel, and a church-state among you. (*1 Cor. iii. 6, 10.*)

14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you ; for we are come as far as to you also, in preaching the gospel of Christ :

14 For I am not chargeable, as your new preachers are, with extending my course beyond its appointed bounds, as if, without proceeding gradually, I had passed by other towns and cities that lay in my way, or had not come to you, till after ye had received the gospel by some other hand : For I took all other places, far and near, that were within the compass of my travels ; and when I had fulfilled the necessary parts of my ministry in them severally, I advanced forward, till, at length, I reached as far as *Corinth* also, where I was the first that preached the glad tidings of salvation by Jesus Christ to you ; and, blessed be God, it was attended with great success. (*Acts xviii. 1,—11.*)

15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours ; but having hope when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly.

15 I do not herein vaunt of things that I have done, without observing the bounds, which God has marked out to me, as your new teachers do ; nor do I, like them, pretend, as though Christ had wrote those things by me, which were done by others ; and so take the credit of their labours to myself : No, I have always striven to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named before, lest I should build upon another man's foundation : (*Rom. xv. 18, 20.*) And (*de*) I hope in the Lord, that when your faith, which has been shaken by false apostles, is re-established, regulated, and improved, I shall be greatly encouraged, and assisted by you, to extend my province still farther, than the goal which has hitherto been set me ; and that without going over another man's line, but according to the commission, which the Lord has given me, as the apostle of the *Gentiles*.

16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

16 My hope is that, by your means, I shall be enabled to hold on my course, so as to carry the gospel of Christ to distant countries, that lie beyond you, for the conversion of many there, where it has not yet been preached ; and so shall continue to glory in what further service my great Master shall mark out for me, and do by me, more than has yet been allotted to me, and that without leaping over my own bounds, and encroaching upon another minister's province, or bragging of things done by any, that have gone there before me, as if I would take the honour of their labours to myself.

17 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

17 But, after all, instead of glorying in ourselves, or in our own accomplishments, labours, and success; and, much more, instead of boasting of what has been done by others, as though it had been performed by ourselves; let every one, that is minded to exult and triumph, glory only in the Lord Jesus, by whose grace he is what he is, and doth what he doth, for the honour of God, and the good of others, that he alone may be exalted.

18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

18 For whocver he be that, having a high conceit of his own abilities and performances, and of the good done thereby, ascribes them to himself, and seeks the applause of men, is far from being accepted of that God, who *resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble*: (1 Pet. v. 5.) But he, whom the Lord honours with his gifts and graces, presence and blessing, and bears witness to, as sincere, humble, and faithful in his work, is highly approved in his sight; and shall have praise of God, when he shall make manifest the counsels of the heart. (1 Cor. iv. 5.)

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

With what meekness and condescension, in imitation of our blessed Lord, should his servants labour to win over such, as are unreasonably prejudiced against them and their ministrations; and yet with what authority should they vindicate the honour of Christ, in rebuking those that, after all, continue obstinate in their disobedience to him, as speaking by them! Though faithful ministers are men of like passions and infirmities with others, and make but a mean figure in the world, while they dwell in mortal flesh; yet they are not to be judged of by outward appearance; nor are they governed by carnal principles and views in their work and warfare, as many false pretenders are. And, O how victorious and triumphant is the gospel, which they preach, when attended with the mighty power of God, to beat down the strong holds of sin and Satan; to overcome the perverse reasonings of carnal minds, and all their pride and prejudices; and to subdue them to the obedience of Christ! When his ministering servants have a witness in themselves that they are Christ's, it is sometimes necessary for them to assert it, in confutation of those, that would unrighteously reproach them, as though they assumed too much to themselves, or acted an inconsistent part in different situations: And yet how careful should they be, to avoid all appearances of vain boasting, or of going out of their province, to the hindrance and disturbance of other churches! And, as ever they would be approved of God in all that they do, they should take heed of priding themselves in any thing, that they are, have, or perform; and glory only in the Lord, as ascribing the praise of all entirely to him.

C H A P. XI.

The apostle, in further vindication of his authority against his enemies, gives the reasons, in a prefatory apology, of his speaking in his own commendation, 1,—4. Shews that he had not come short of any of the apostles of Christ, much less of the false apostles, (whom he describes) in freely preaching the gospel, 6,—15. Makes another apology for what he was going to add in defence of his own character, 16,—21. And draws out an account at large of his external privileges, as equal to those of the false apostles; and of his qualifications, labours, cares, sympathy, sufferings, dangers, and deliverances, as superior to theirs, 22,—33.

TEXT.

WOULD to God you could bear with me a little in my folly; and indeed bear with me.

2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

PARAPHRASE.

AS it may be necessary to add something further, in vindication of my apostolic office, against those, that would supplant it, I wish (*οφελον*) ye would have a little patience with me in what I am forced to say on my own behalf, which may seem to be very vain and foolish, as speaking in one's own praise is generally thought to be, and as, without the greatest necessity, it certainly would be: But (*αλλα*) I beseech you to bear with me, as ye ought, in this my reputed folly, in which I principally aim at your advantage.

2 For I am affectionately and solicitously concerned for you, with a holy and religious doubt and fear, lest any of you should be drawn off from Christ and his gospel, and from me, as his apostle, to your false teachers; and there is good reason why I should be touchingly thoughtful about you: For I, as an earnest suitor for the Lord Jesus, was the means of bringing you to know and love him, to accept of him, and yield yourselves up with full consent to him, as your only husband, like persons betrothed, as *Israel* were of old, in a marriage-covenant to the Lord; (*Hof. ii. 19, 20.*) and it is my great ambition, as it always has been, that I may have the honour and pleasure of putting you into his hands, as a pure, uncorrupted, faithful spouse, that is for him, and for no other. (*Hof. iii. 3.*)

3 But considering the artifices and intrigues of the false apostles, who are so very busy with you, I am tenderly in pain for you, lest as the devil, by his cunning stratagems under the form of a serpent, imposed upon, over-reached, and drew our mother *Eve*, through her unwatchfulness, into sin; (*Gen. iii. 1, —6.*) so some of your souls, through the sophistical insinuations, and plausible pretences of his instruments, should be inadvertently perverted in your principles,

temper,

temper, and practice; and be turned aside from the purity of doctrine, relating to salvation alone by Jesus Christ, and from the sincerity and uprightness in manners, that belong to the professors of his name, and are really found in all those, that are vitally united to him.

4 For if he that cometh, preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

4 I am afraid, I say, lest by their means, instead of your being like a chaste virgin to Christ, ye should be corrupted, like an adulterers: For if any one, who has come among you since I left you, proposes another saviour from sin and from the wrath to come, than that Jesus, whom I, as well as *Apollo*, preached to you; (1 *Cor.* iii. 5, 6, 10, 11.) or if, by the ministry of any new upstart, ye have been made partakers of another and better spirit, and of more excellent gifts and graces, than ye received by the hearing of faith; (*Gal.* iii. 2.) or if, by means of such an intruder, ye have been made acquainted with a more holy, joyful, and blessed gospel, that is more worthy of God, and contains better tidings, or a safer way of salvation, than what ye embraced through my preaching; then indeed ye might very well receive and own him, and submit to his authority, and even prefer him to me; and none could blame you for it.

5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

5 But this, none of you can say; and were any to pretend to preach another saviour, another spirit, or another gospel, they ought to be rejected with abhorrence: (*Gal.* i. 6,—9.) For I am persuaded, and it is no presumption in me to conclude, that, as to these things, I no way fall short of any, even of the most eminent apostles of Christ; no, not of *Peter* himself, whom some of you make your boast of; (1 *Cor.* i. 12.) much less have I been inferior to any of the false apostles; no, not to the most famous of them, that has of late crept in among you; and, to ingratiate himself with the *Jewish* party, may pretend to have come from *Peter*.

6 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have

6 Yea, though my style be plain and simple, like that of a private ordinary person, (*εὐ δε καὶ ἰδιωτικῶς*) without the flourishes of human rhetoric; (1 *Cor.* ii. 1, 4.)* and though my pronunciation be not so graceful

N O T E.

* No good judges of true oratory, that have carefully read and considered the apostle *Paul's* speeches and epistles, can think him a stranger to the art of persuasion, or the rules of rhetoric: Vid. *Bez.* in loc. and see Mr. *Locke's* preface to the epistles; and *Blackwall's* sacred classics, Vol. I. pag. 254, &c. But he purposely avoided the pomp of

Greek eloquence, and the studied arts of human oratory in his preaching, that our faith might not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (1 *Cor.* ii. 4, 5.) And therefore his being rude in speech, is referred by some to a defect in his voice, which they suppose was small and shrill, if not stammering; and by others, to that plain

been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that you might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

8 I robbed other churches, taking wage of them, to do you service.

ful and fluent, as some others, and particularly as my brother *Apollos's* may be; (*Acts* xviii. 24.) yet my knowledge of Christ, and of the whole scheme of the gospel, which I received by revelation from him, (*Gal.* i. 12.) is inferior to none: But this I have shewn and proved in so ample a manner, with regard to all the main points of Christian faith and obedience, the efficacy of which ye experienced with such power of the Holy Ghost, when I was with you, that I need only appeal to your own consciences for the truth of it.

7 As to another cavil of my adversaries, (see the note on *1 Cor.* ix. 1.) as though I had acted below the apostolic character, and inconsistent with it, in not demanding a maintenance from you, as I justly might, (*1 Cor.* ix. 4,—14.) but working with my own hands for a subsistence; (*Acts* xviii. 3, and *1 Cor.* iv. 12.) can any one really think that I have been guilty of any fault, or done you any injury, in humbling myself so far, and submitting to so mean and servile a way of getting my bread; my design in which was, that none of you might be prejudiced against me, as a mercenary creature; but that ye might the more readily embrace the gospel of the grace of God and might be enriched with its great and glorious blessings, without impairing your temporal substance? Was I not, by preaching it at free cost, the more likely to promote your spiritual prosperity, and lift you up, as it were, to heaven in its glorious privileges? (*Matth.* xi. 23.)

8 Yea, in pursuit of my studious concern for your spiritual advantage, I have also, in tenderness to you, stripped other churches* that have been captivated to the obedience of Christ by my ministry, (*chap.* x. 5.) even though they were poorer than yourselves, (*chap.* viii. 2.) by taking larger contributions from them,

N O T E S.

an artificial way of speaking, which he chose, but for which the wise and learned men of this world despised him

* The word (*σουλσα*) signifies to *spoil, strip, or make naked*, as well as to *rob*; and it is certain that the apostle did not mean it in the bad sense of *robbery*: For this would have been a very odd vindication of himself against his captious adversaries; and he calls what he received from other churches *wages*. (*ψώνιον*) alluding to the victuals that were anciently given to soldiers for their pay, which intimates that he thought himself to have as good a right to the contributions of those churches,

as soldiers had to their stipend; he being a *good soldier of Jesus Christ*, and having a just claim to be honourably supported by every church, to which he was an apostle, in such a manner, as might be best suited to promote his serving the common cause of his, and their great Lord and Master. And as the words rendered, *I robbed, taking wages*, (*σουλσα, λαβων ψωνιον*) are *military* terms, perhaps, there may be some allusion to *the spoils*, that are taken from captives, and applied to further use in carrying on wars and victories, which is glanced at in the paraphrase.

them, than were barely necessary for my maintenance, during my abode with them, that I might minister the gospel for your conversion and edification, at their cost, without making it chargeable to you.

9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me, the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

9 Accordingly, whilst I continued preaching the glad tidings of salvation among you, and wanted the necessaries and conveniences of life, ye very well know, that I did not load you with the expence of supporting me, and so become burdensome to you; (*chap. xii. 13.*) (*καταναγκασα εδωκος*) nor did I flun any of you with complaints, or grow dull and slothful in preaching the gospel, for want of pay: For whatever I stood in need of, over and above what I could earn by working sometimes at a handicraft trade, (*Acts xviii. 3.*) my Christian brethren, that came from the churches in Macedonia, and particularly some, that arrived from Philippi, one of its chief cities, (see the note on *Acts xvi. 12*) furnished me with it. (*Phil. iv. 15.*) And, at all events, I have, from first to last, taken effectual care, by one means or other, to procure a livelihood hitherto, without your assistance, that I might not be chargeable to any of you: And I am, for good reasons, fully resolved never to be so, for time to come. (*Chap. xii. 14.*)

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

10 If this be imputed to me, as a fault, I am so far from being ashamed of it, that I count it a great part of my honour; and I solemnly declare, with the faith and honesty of a Christian, and of an apostle of Christ, to which he is witness, (*Rom. ix. 1.*) that no one whatsoever, either by reproaches on one hand, or by kindnesses on the other, shall prevent my glorying in my not being a burden to you, or to any of the churches in all your province of Achaia.

11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

11 Why, think ye, am I so solicitously bent upon this? Is it, as some would suggest, because I have not a real and hearty affection for you, but have taken some disgust at you, and therefore will not seem to be any way beholden to you? (See the note on *chap. xii. 13.*) Far from it; the great God, who searches the heart, knows that it doth not proceed from any such cause as this.

12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion, that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

12 But what I have done in preaching the gospel gratis to you, (*κατ' ερασειαν*) and will persist in, is, that I may stop the mouths of those false teachers, who are continually seeking all occasions to depreciate me, and extol themselves; and that in the very thing which they boast of, as though they were disinterested persons, and only insist on your maintaining them, as a testimony of your owning their authority over

you *, they may be induced, by my example, to be as little oppressive to you, and as free from all mercenary views, as I am; and that they may not catch at an advantage for boasting, (as they gladly would, were I to take any thing of you) as if they therein did nothing, but what even I myself had done.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

13 For, whatever this sort of men pretend to, they are not real apostles of Christ, sent and commissioned by him; but they are false claimants of that high character; they corrupt the word of God, and handle it deceitfully, (*chap. ii. 17. and iv. 2.*) labouring to cheat and impose upon you, and to serve themselves, under pretence of serving our Lord Jesus Christ; (*Rom. xvi. 18.*) and, to compass this design, they put on the most specious forms, that they may appear like the true apostles of Christ, as if they had the same authority, and did the same work with them.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

14 And it is no wonder that they should practise this deceitful art, since Satan himself, on certain occasions, takes upon him the guise of a good angel, pretending the greatest sanctity and kindness, in order to his doing the greatest mischief; as when, tempting *Eve* to sin, (*ver. 3.*) he assumed the body of a serpent in such a beautiful form, and accosted her with such fair speeches, (*Gen. iii. 1,—6.*) as made that prince of darkness appear to her like one of the glorious angels, that dwelt in the light of God's immediate presence, and came with a message of truth and goodness from him.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

15 It is therefore no strange, new, or impracticable thing, if his emissaries and servants, who learn of him, and are influenced by him, to promote his kingdom, should also dissemble their own true character, and put on the face of holy ministers, and teachers of the way of righteousness to eternal life by the works of the law, and not alone through the faith of Christ: But for all this, God will bring them to judgment, when their final reward shall be according to the wickedness

N O T E.

* The sense given in the first part of the paraphrase on this clause is, I own, very singular; but all other interpretations, that I have met with, except Mr *Locke's*, which I have also added, mostly go on a supposition, that some, at least, of these false teachers did preach at free cost; which seems rather to perplex, than clear the apostle's meaning, and to spoil the connection between this and the following verse, as well as to be utterly inconsistent with the whole scope of his argument,

answerable to what he had insisted on, at large, in the *ninth* chapter of his first epistle, (*see the note there on ver. 1.*) which is to vindicate himself against the calumnies of the false apostles, on account of his not claiming and using the right of *maintenance*: And it appears from the 20th verse of this chapter, that they were so far from taking *nothing* for their labours among the *Corinthians*, that they were very *rigorous* and *oppressive* in their exactions upon them.

edness and hypocrisy of their doings; and so their end will be destruction. (*Phil.* iii. 18, 19.)

16 I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.

16 Considering then how these false pretenders set themselves off, to the deceiving of many, I again (*ver.* 1.) beg that ye would bear with me, and that none of you would count me a vain-glorious fool, in representing the great things which God has really done for, and by me: But if any of you think me to act such a foolish part herein, as does not become a wise and prudent man; yet I beseech you to indulge me, as far as ye would one, whom ye take to be a weak and silly creature, that I, as well as others, but with much better views, may a little further vent myself in what looks like boasting of my own endowments and performances.

17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly in this confidence of boasting.

17 I confess, that in so much insisting on my own character, I do not speak in such a way, as seems worthy of Christ, and after his example; (*John* viii. 50, 54.) nor do I speak according to any express command, that he delivered in his personal ministry: (see the note on *1 Cor.* vii. 10.) No; I must own that he condemned seeking honour one of another, (*John* v. 44.) which is certainly very criminal, when self-applause is aimed at: But the huge boastings of my enemies, with a design of imposing upon, and perverting you; and their mean insinuations to disparage my apostleship, and the pure gospel of Christ, and so to prevent my usefulness in preaching it, force me to speak with an air of weakness and folly, in this ostentatious appearance of setting forth things, that relate to my office, after their example, who confidently boast of themselves.

18 Seeing that many glory after the flesh. I will glory also.

18 Since many of your judaizing teachers greatly value themselves upon, and pride themselves in, their external privileges and advantages, such as their being the seed of *Abraham*, (*ver.* 22.) and circumcised in the flesh, and the like; I will venture to say, that, if there is any room for glorying in these things, I can boast of them as much as they; and surely ye cannot be offended at me for saying this.

19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.

19 For those of you, that admire the false apostles, can easily bear with their folly, while they ingratiate themselves with you by magnifying these their privileges; and if, to shew that I am upon a level with them in this respect, I also do the same, ye may likewise bear with me therein, since ye think yourselves very wise in bearing with them*; and are indeed so wonderfully

N O T E.

* *Seeing ye are wise* is spoken ironically, in a beautiful opposition to their counting the apostle a fool in glorying,

as though he should say, Well, be it so, that I am deemed a fool; yet ye, who have such a vast opinion of your

wonderfully conceited of your own understanding, as to pity, rather than envy others, whom ye look upon as fools, compared with yourselves: Nay, ye can bear with much greater faults in your false teachers, than this.

20 For ye suffer if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.

20 For if any one of them tyrannizes over your persons and consciences, as though ye were absolute slaves * ; if he makes a prey of you, as *serviſing his own belly*, (Rom. xvi. 18.) like the *ſcribes*, who, under pretence of religion, *devour widows houſes*; (Luke xx. 47.) if he not only receives large preſents and ſalaries, but even takes away your worldly ſubſtance by ſubtilty and fraud; if he aggrandizes and ſpeaks highly of himſelf, and treats you with ſovereign contempt, as the *Jews* were wont to do by the *Gentiles*: Nay, if he inſults and abuſes you, in as ignominious a manner as when a man gives another a ſlap on the face; ye can put up all this, and be eaſy under it.

21 I ſpeak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak: howbeit, wherein ſoever any is bold, (I ſpeak fooliſhly) I am bold alſo.

21 What I mean, and ſpeak of, relates to the indignity, (*ατιμία*) which theſe inſolent men have uſed you with; and which, at the ſame time, they have put upon me, as though I were a contemptible wretch, that had no right to, nor were able to ſupport, the apoſtolic powers and privileges, which I profeſs to claim: But, let them paint me out in as invidiouſ and deſpicable colours, as they pleaſe, whatever any of them can pretend to boaſt of, and value themſelves upon, I alſo (though it may ſeem to be fooliſh) can talk at as high a rate as they; and dare boldly compare myſelf with them, in every thing that is worth mentioning, in their account, or yours.

22 Are they Hebrews? ſo am I: are they Iſraelites? ſo am I: are they the ſeed of Abraham? ſo am I.

22 As to *external* privileges according to the *fleſh*, (*ver. 18.*) are they of *Jewiſh* extract by birth, in diſtinction from proſelytes of other nations? and are they ſuch as uſe the *Hebrew* tongue in their ſynagogue worſhip, in diſtinction from *Helleniſtic Jews*, (ſee the note on *John* xii. 20.) that perform it in *Greek*? I likewiſe am ſo, both by father and mother's ſide, and have always uſed the ſame language, being a *Hebrew* of the *Hebrews*. (*Phil. iii. 5.*) Are they deſcended, not from *Eſau*, but from the beloved

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own knowledge, are ſurely wiſe enough to bear with me, while ye conſider me under that character.

* *Bringing them into bondage* is, if I miſtake not, to be taken, not as ſome expoſitors underſtand it, of ſubjecting them to the law of *Moſes*: For though the apoſtle was afraid, leſt, in ſome, this might be the caſe; (*ver. 3.*) yet it does

not appear that it as yet *was* ſo; where- as the *bondage* here ſpoken of, is ſuppoſed to be what they had been *already* brought into; and the other ſenſe is not ſo much of a piece with all that follows in this verſe, as that which is given in the paraphraſe. See Mr. *Locke's* note.

beloved *Jacob*, (Mal. i. 2.) who was honoured with the title of *Israel*, in token of the power, which, as a prince, he had with God? (*Gen.* xxxii. 28.) I also am an *Israelite*, of the tribe that sprung from his beloved *Benjamin*, (*Phil.* iii. 5.) which is no mean tribe. Are they the natural offspring of the famous *Abraham*, that friend of God, (*2 Chron.* xx. 7.) to whom he promised, to be a God, and to his seed after him in their generations? (*Gen.* xvii. 7, 9.) I also am of the seed of *Abraham*; (*Rom.* xi. 1.) and so I have as much room, at least, to boast of all these privileges, as any of themselves. (*Phil.* iii. 4, 5.)

23 And as to things of still *far greater worth and importance*, relating to the gospel-state, do they boast that they are ministers, who preach Christ, and are commissioned and owned by him? Admitting that this were true, though there is plain evidence to the contrary, I (to speak once more with an appearance of folly) am really the servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to a superior degree, in my extraordinary commission and qualifications, and in preaching his uncorrupted gospel: In testimony of this, I shall, at present, only appeal to what God has called, and enabled me, more than any of them, to do and suffer in the cause of Christ. I have been more frequent and abundant in toils and fatigues, and more extensive and indefatigable in ministerial labours, than any of them: And over and above all that they, especially those who plead for circumcision to avoid being persecuted, (*Gal.* v. 11. and vi. 12.) can pretend to have suffered for Christ, I have bore innumerable more stripes, than any of them, for his sake, and for professing and preaching his pure gospel: I have been oftener clapt up in jails, than they have been: And I have very frequently been in imminent danger of death, for asserting the cause of my great Lord; as to instance in a few particulars,

24 I have gone under the lash at five different times by the *Jews*, who have still power, under the permission of the *Roman* government, to inflict corporal punishments, though not unto death, unless it were under the inspection and presidency of the *Roman* governor *; in all which scourgings I received thirteen strokes with a whip of three thongs, which, in all, made

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* See the notes on *Acts* vi. 12. and xxv. 9. from whence it may appear that the reason, why the apostle *Paul* did not plead his privilege, as a *Roman*, when he was scourged by the *Jews*, as he did when the magistrates at *Philippi*, and *Lyfas* the chief captain at

Jerusalem, ordered him to be scourged, *Acts* xvi. 22, 37. and xxii. 24, 25. was, because he professed a subjection to the political laws of the *Jews*; and the *Romans* allowed them the use of their own laws.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more: in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

made thirty-nine stripes, the law of *Moses* obliging them not to exceed forty, in punishing offenders *.
(*Deut.* xxv. 3.)

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck: a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

25 At three different times †, one of which was at *Philippi*, (*Acts* xvi. 23.) I have been whipped with rods by *Roman* officers: (see the note on *Acts* xxii. 25.) Once I was stoned by the mob at *Lystra*, through the instigation of the *Jews*, till I was thought to be dead, (*Acts* xiv. 19.) though, just before, the people of that city could scarce be restrained from adoring me, as a god: (*ver.* 11,—18.) Thrice have I been cast away by shipwrecks ‡; in one of which I was tossed about by the waves of the sea, in the utmost danger, upon a part of the wreck, for a whole night and day together, before I could get ashore.

26 I have often travelled about, from one country to another, preaching the gospel; (*Rom.* xv. 19.) and in several of those journeys have been in extreme danger, sometimes by floods that were out ||, or by rivers that I have been obliged to pass through: At other times, I have been in great danger of falling into the hands of highwaymen, that infest the roads; at others, in danger of being murdered by my own countrymen, the *Jews*; at others, in danger of as bad treatment from the unconverted *Gentiles*; (*Acts* xvi. 19,—24.) at others, in danger from outrageous men in one or another city, as particularly at *Ephesus*; (*Acts* xix. 29.) at others, in danger, when travelling through desolate places, of being set upon by ruffians that lay in wait for me, or of being devoured by

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* *Josephus*, giving an account of this punishment, says, it was with forty stripes, save one. (*Vid. Antiq.* l. iv. c. viii. sec. 21.) But *Calvin*, *Esius*, and others, speak of this as an instance of the *Jews* altering, and taking from the law of God, by their traditions. However, the apostle mentions this number of stripes to shew, that the *Jews* were as severe upon him, as they possibly could be, consistent with their established custom. And that they used to inflict this punishment with a whip of three cords. See *Hammond* on the place, and *Ainsworth* on *Deut.* xxv. 3.

† We have no relation, in the *Acts*, of the greatest part of the sufferings, which the apostle recites in these verses, as being forced to it by his enemies. But they are not at all the less to be credited, as real facts: For *Luke's* history is very short, and is principally

of facts, which he himself was an eye-witness to; and it cannot be supposed, but that many troubles beset the apostle, which are not recorded in that history; though his modesty concealed them, till he thought himself under a necessity of declaring them.

‡ These shipwrecks were all different from that, which we have an account of in *Acts* xxvii. For that was not till after the apostle wrote this epistle. And the like may be observed of the *Jews* lying in wait for him, *Acts* xx. 3. and of the uproar at *Jerusalem.* *Acts* xxi. 27, &c. Neither of those cases, for the same reason, can be included in the perils by his own countrymen, which are referred to *ver.* 26.

|| One or other of these dangers by waters in travelling, seems to be referred to, in distinction from those, which the apostle speaks of, in the close of this verse, as suffered in the sea.

by wild beafts, or of falling down precipices, or into other mifchiefs: At other times, I have been in danger of perifhing by ftorms and tempefts, or by pirates, in voyages at fea; and at others, in danger of being betrayed, infulted, and mobbed, through the treacherous management of fome, who pretended to be Chriftian converts, but were not fo in fincerity and truth; and efpecially of thofe falfe brethren of the *Jewifh* fort, that are enemies to the purity and liberty of the gofpel. (*Gal.* ii. 4.)

27 In wearinefs and painfulnefs, in watchings often, in hunger and thirft, in faftings often, in cold and nakednefs.

27 I have alfo, in profecution of my great Lord and Mafter's work, undergone the moft fatiguing and painful fervices by day; and it is no unufual thing for my natural reft and fleep to be broke by night: (*Acts* xvi. 25. and xx. 11, 31. and 2 *Theff.* iii. 8.) At other times, I have been diftreffed with hunger and thirft, for want of proper and feafonable refrefhments; (*chap.* vi. 5. and 1 *Cor.* iv. 11.) and, very often, I have not only been forced to faft for a confiderable time together, as having nothing to eat, but have likewife voluntarily abftained from ufual repafts, with a religious view: And, at other times, have I been expofed to the feverities of weather, without fufficient cloathing to keep me warm, or to defend me againft it. (1 *Cor.* iv. 11.)

28 Befides thofe things that are without that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

28 Befides all thefe, with many other fore troubles relating to the *body*, which I have been exercifed with, in my zeal for propagating the gofpel of Chrift, there are other touching trials of a fpiritual nature, that have more immediately affected my *foul*; fuch as the multiplicity of bufinefs, which daily crowds upon me, relating to all the churches of Chrift; and the anxiety, thoughtfulness, and concern of my mind, together with my earneft prayers and endeavours, for their purity, peace and profperity, prefervation and increafe; and for rectifying what is amifs in them, and helping forward their edification and comfort, by fending them fuitable affiftants; (*chap.* viii. 22.) as alfo by writing to them, and vifiting them, whether I have been perfonally acquainted with them, or not, (*Col.* ii. 1.) but efpecially thofe churches, which have been planted by my miniftry. (*Chap.* vii. 5. and *Acts* xv. 36.)

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

29 What member of any church of Chrift is afflicted in body or mind, or is weak in grace and fpiritual attainments, whom I do not tenderly and affectionately fymphathize and mourn with, and do all I can to relieve, as far as I know the cafe? Who among them is ever flumbled, and in danger of falling from the faith and hope of the gofpel, without my heart's burning with grief and godly jealoufy for him,

and with holy zeal to encourage, fortify, and recover him?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

30 Since mine adversaries constrain me to do something that looks like boasting, I rather choose thus to glory in my sufferings, hardships, persecutions, and reproaches, which are matter of humiliation and affliction to me, but give the fairest opportunity for Christ's strength to be manifested in my weakness, (*chap. xii. 9, 10.*) than in my high privileges, and the great things, which he has done by me.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

31 And as to all the forementioned instances of my sufferings, dangers, and trials for Christ, though they may seem to be incredible, and ye may be entire strangers to many of them, I solemnly appeal to the ever blessed God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose I am, and whom I serve, and who has graciously supported me under them, and carried me through them, that I have not gone one tittle beyond the truth, in the summary account I have given of them.

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

32 I shall only further add one well known particular, which besel me toward the beginning of my ministry, and by which ye may easily imagine what a suffering state mine hath been ever since; and that is, When I preached at *Damascus*, the governor of that city, who was set over it by *Aretas**, the king of *Arabia* and *Syria*, it being under his jurisdiction, was so incensed against me, that he ordered the city gates to be shut up, and strictly guarded with watch and ward, to prevent my flight; he having resolved, if possible, to seize me, and take away my life, at the desire of the *Jews*, who thirsted after my blood: (*Acts ix. 23, 24.*) But they were defeated in their cruel design.

33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

33 And the Lord, *who knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation*, (*2 Pet. ii. 9.*) put it into the hearts of my Christian friends to let me down in a basket, from a window of one of the houses, that stood on the city wall; and so, by his wonderful providence, I narrowly escaped the fury of all mine enemies there; (*Acts ix. 25.*) and, according to our Lord's own direction in cases of persecution, (*Mat. x. 23.*) I flew (*ἐξέφυγον*) out of their hands to other places, where I might have opportunity of preaching
the

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* *Josephus* speaks of *Aretas* as king of *Arabia Petraea*, and as the father-in-law of *Herod the tetrarch*, whose daughter he had married, but afterwards put away for *Herodias*, his brother *Philip's*

wife, of whom we have an account in *Mat. xiv. 3.* And this *Aretas* was, at the same time, king of *Syria*, of which *Damascus* was a chief city, governed by a prefect under him. Vid. *Grot.* in loc.

the gospel : And *having obtained help of God, I continue to this day.* (Acts xxvi. 22.)

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How solicitous are the servants of Christ, that the people committed to their care may not be deceived, and turned aside from the purity of the gospel, by the subtilty of Satan and his instruments ! And how fain would they present them all, as a chaste virgin to Christ ! For this, when the circumstances of things require, and admit of it, they cheerfully quit their claims to maintenance, and undergo the greatest toils and labours, hardships and dangers : And as God interests himself in their preservation, that they may escape the hands of their enemies, as long as he has any thing for them to do ; so it is their highest ambition to approve themselves to him in all their ministrations, and to be made manifest in the consciences of his people, as such. They seek not the honour of men ; though sometimes, to support their public character and usefulness, against the calumnies of their enemies, they are obliged to speak with such an air of self-commendation, as would otherwise be justly deemed weak and foolish. However, if they must needs make a shew of boasting, they rather chosse that it should be of their self-denials, sufferings, and reproaches, for Christ and the gospel's sake, to keep them humble, than of their gifts and attainments, to feed their pride and vanity. But how different is the temper and management of those false pretenders, that put on specious appearances, as if they were angels of light, or ministers of Christ and of righteousness, while, in reality, they are vain boasters, and deceitful workers, that make a prey of the people, and exercise a haughty and oppressive dominion over them ! How carefully should all such be guarded against, contemned, and avoided ! But how worthy of high esteem are those that imitate the great apostle in labours and sufferings for Christ, by sea and land ; by night and by day ; in city and country ; by open enemies and false friends ; in sympathy and tenderness toward the weak and afflicted ; in anxiety of mind for those that are apt to be offended, and to revolt from the faith and hope of the gospel ; and in a daily care and concern for all the churches of the saints ! And what a noble example have the churches of *Macedonia* set us, in their liberal contributions for promoting a gospel-ministry, and the common cause of Christ, among others, as well as themselves !

C H A P. XII.

The apostle goes on to vindicate his authority, by the extraordinary revelations that had been made to him, though they were followed with some humbling circumstances, which were nevertheless improved to his spiritual advantage, 1,—10. Shews that several eminent signs of an apostle were in him, which ought to have encouraged the Corinthians, to speak well of him, without bringing him under a necessity of seeming to boast of them himself, 11,—13. Declares his purpose of making them a friendly visit for their edification, without any expence to them, 14,—19. But expresses his fear, lest he should be forced to use severity in his dealing with some of them, 20, 21.

TEXT.

IT is not expedient for me doubtless to glory : I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

PARAPHRASE.

IT is indeed (*ὄχι*) ordinarily neither fit, nor decent, nor any way profitable to myself, to speak highly of my privileges and enjoyments, which may excite spiritual pride in my own treacherous heart, and give others too great an opinion of me ; (*1er.* 6, 7.) but I am under an unhappy necessity of doing it for your

fakes, that ye may not be imposed upon by those that vilify me, and want to prejudice you against my ministry and the gospel itself. If they boast of any extraordinary manifestations of God to them, I can easily match, and go beyond them, even in such things; and it may be needful for you, that I should vie with them therein*. I will therefore proceed to speak of divine visions, and of their attending supernatural suggestions and interpretations, relating to the Lord Jesus, and vouchsafed by him; (*Gal. i. 12.*) but to avoid envy, and all appearance of self-exaltation, as much as possible, I shall only mention one remarkable instance of this nature, and that in the name of a third person.

† I knew a man in Christ, above fourteen years ago, (what or in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the

2 There is a certain believer in Christ, or one united to him by faith †, one whom I very well knew, and do still know; This man, upwards of fourteen years ago, was peculiarly favoured with as extraordinary a vision as ever was heard of †: Whether, at the time I am speaking of, his soul really continued in

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* It is not improbable, but that the false apostles pretended to *immediate revelations*; and our apostle seems to refer to this, as the reason of his mentioning what he had received of that kind, saying, (as it is in the *Greek*) *For, or therefore I will come (ελευσομαι γαρ) to visions and revelations of the Lord.* *Visions* signify external representations, that were made to the mind by some sensible images in a trance, extacy, or rapture, while awake, or in a supernatural dream; the meaning of which was sometimes not understood, as in the cases of *Pharaoh's* and *Nebuchadnezzar's* dreams. And *revelations* signify, not only divine instructions by immediate inspiration, without any *sensible* manner of conveying them; but likewise the divine interpretations, that were given of the things exhibited in, and together with the visions, as in those of the prophets *Ezekiel* and *Daniel*, or in the apostle *Peter's* vision of the sheet. And it appears from the following verses, from other accounts of the apostle *Paul's* visions and revelations, and from the design of his mentioning them here to confront his enemies, that they were of this sort.

† *I knew (οιδα) a man in Christ,* may as well be rendered in the *present tense* here, and at the beginning of *ver. 5.* as it is in the latter part of both these verses, where it is said, *I cannot tell, God knows: (ουκ οιδα ο θεος οιδει)*

And as the phrase, *in Christ*, when spoken of a *person*, always means a believer in Christ, or one united to him, either really, or professionally, or both; I rather prefer this interpretation to that, which would make it of the same turn and meaning with being *in the Spirit*, as one carried out of himself by an extraordinary rapture: For though *in the Spirit* may possibly take in this sense in *Rev. i. 10.* and *iv. 2.* the only places alledged for it; yet I think no passage can be found in all the New Testament, where the phrase *in Christ* is of that signification.

† Which of the apostle's visions this refers to, is disputed with great uncertainty: (See *Ejusius* and *Bishop Fell's Oxford notes*) But that *he himself* was the subject of it, though in modesty he represents it in the name of a *third person*, is plain from his covertly applying it to himself, *ver. 6, 7.*; and it would not otherwise have been any thing to his purpose to have mentioned it at all. However, to preserve the decorum of this designed concealment of his own concern herein, I have continued the paraphrase, as if he really spoke of a third person. And there can be no impropriety, in his shutting himself out from the *honour* of this supernatural vouchsafement, since a heathen poet could make his *Hero* say, *Quae non fecimus ipsi, sed ea nostra voco.* *Ovid. Metam. lib. xiii.*

the body. I cannot tell; God knoweth) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

in the body, or was separated from it; and so whether the scene, which visibly opened before him, together with the meaning of it, was only in a *trance*, like that of *Peter*; (Acts x. 10,—16.) or whether the whole man, soul and body, or his soul apart from the body, was actually carried up, by the power of the Spirit, or by the ministry of angels, to the glorious world on high, is more than I am able to determine*: Which of these was, in fact, the case, is known only to God, the soul itself having not been suffered, in that particular circumstance, to be certainly conscious of it. But, be this as it will, in one or other of these ways, that happy man was, in his own apprehension, during the vision, taken up, by a wonderful rapture, to the highest heaven, far above the aerial and the starry heavens, even to the heaven of heavens.

3 And I knew such a man (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth)

3 I say it again; for it is a delightful thought, very important to my purpose, and worthy of observation, I knew a man, who was thus highly honoured of the Lord; but, as has been observed, whether his soul was all that while united with his body, or whether it was conveyed out of the body, like a separate spirit, to the blessed world, the throne of God's glory, where he and angels dwell, is a point which I cannot decide, it being, for some wise reasons, hid from me, as of no great moment in the present case; since, whichever it was, *that* made no alteration in the vision itself: God only knows how, or in what manner it was made; and we may be contented to be ignorant of it.

4 How that he was

4 All that I can say with *certainty* is †, that, in one

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* It is equally possible with God to present distinct things to the imagination in the body, as if the soul were absent from it, and present with them; or to transport both soul and body, for what time he pleases, to heaven; or to give the rational soul a separate existence, in the celestial regions, for a season, and in the mean while to preserve animal life, in a miraculous way, to the body. But since the apostle himself could not be positive whether his soul was in the body; or whether one, or both, were actually in heaven, or not, it would be vain curiosity for us to go about to determine it. However, we may be sure, that he apprehended the soul to be a *distinct substance* from the body, capable of existing with its thinking powers, in a separate state; otherwise he could not have been at any loss

to know, whether, in this divine vision, his soul continued to be in the body, or not.

† I do not see any necessity of thinking, that these were two different raptures and visions; though, in one part of the account, the apostle is said to be caught up to the *third heaven*, and, in the other, to *paradise*: For the description is; all other respects just the same; and the whole of it refers to what happened *fourteen years ago*, no other time being mentioned. Nor are these different appellations of the place of this transaction a sufficient objection against it: For it can scarcely be supposed, but that the soul of Christ was in the third heaven, immediately after his death; and yet he said to the penitent thief on the cross, *To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise*; (Luke xxiii. 43.) and he is represented

was caught up into paradise, and heard unrepeatable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

one or other of these ways, the man, I am speaking of, had a glorious manifestation of the Lord, like one actually taken up to the seat of the blessed, which, for the variety and fulness of its pleasure and delights, may be well stiled *Paradise*, in allusion to the garden of *Eden*, in which our first parents were originally placed, for an enjoyment of God and themselves, with a vast profusion of divine goodness, before they had sinned: And there he, whom I now intend, had a clear, intelligible, and transporting revelation of heavenly things, in such unspeakably exalted language, (*αρετα ενστατα α εκ εζου*) as it is not possible for a man, who dwells in mortal flesh, and whose words and ideas are so contracted as ours, to express in all their force and sublime meaning; so far doth the language of heaven surpass all the laws and powers of speech, that are known on earth: All this I am sure of, and may be the more firmly believed in asserting it, since ye see how frankly I own my ignorance of what I am not fully determined in my own mind about.

5 I may, and will speak honourably of a man, who, in such visions and revelations, was so highly dignified, and carried out of himself, and surrounded with the divine glory: But (*δε*) I will not say a word, that looks like boasting of any thing that relates to myself, as considered in myself; except it be of such things as carry the plain marks of weakness and infirmity,

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represented now, in his exalted state, as the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God; (Rev. ii. 7.) and the souls of the martyrs are said to be before the throne of God, and to serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sits on the throne dwells among them, and the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, leads them unto living fountains of water, (Rev. vii. 15, 17.)—I though the apostle speaks of *visions and revelations* in the plural number, ver. 1. and of *abundance of revelations*, ver. 7. yet those expressions may only relate to his speaking on the subject of visions and revelations, one of the most eminent of which he would particularly instance in, which also might include many things that he then saw, and were then revealed to him; but what those things were, that he was acquainted with in the *third heaven*, is taken no notice of, unless what he saw and heard in *paradise* be allowed to relate to the third heaven; and surely the *unutterable words*, mentioned in the latter-part of this verse, were as likely,

at least, to be heard in the third heaven, as in any other imagined paradise: And were we to admit that he was caught up twice, that could not, with any propriety, be called an *abundance* of revelations, unless it be supposed that many revelations, or revelations of many things were made to him in *one scene* of visions; and so it may be as well accounted for by *one*, as by *two* raptures. I should therefore think, upon the whole, that the apostle designed, in thus varying the phrase, rather to *confute*, than to *establish* the notion of the *Jewish rabbies*, (if that notion had obtained before those days) as though heaven and paradise were *dissinct* places of abode, and to intimate, that by the *third heaven* and *paradise* is meant *one* and the *same* blessed and glorious world, where God and the Saviour, and all the saints and angels dwell together, as the scripture often represents it, particularly in *Matth. xviii. 10. Mark xii. 25. John xiv. 2, 3. and xvi. 28. and xvii. 5, 13, 24. and Rev. v. 6,—14.* besides many other passages that might be referred to.

firmity, and expofe me to the contempt of others; and fo tend to keep me humble, even while I feem to mention them with an air of vaunting: Not that I have no room to fpeak of honours and privileges conferred on me, as well as of perfecutions and reproaches, that I endure.

6 For though I would defire to glory, I fhall not be a fool; for I will fay the truth: but *now* I forbear, left any man fhould think of me above that which he feeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

6 For if I were defirous of enlarging, with an oftentatious appearance, on things of this nature, to anfwer fome valuable purpofes of my miniftry, I fhould not be juftly chargeable with fuch folly and vanity, upon that account, as I might feem to be, at firft fight, and as mine enemies would impute to me: For as I fhould have no occafion, fo in confcience I would fay nothing, but what is ftrictly true, in fpeaking even of thofe things. But I fhall at prefent refrain from mentioning fo much as I might, about my labours and fufferings for Chrift; and efpecially about the glorious revelations that he has made to me, left any one fhould be induced thereby to take up an higher opinion of me, than he ought, as though I were more than a mere creature; or than there is any real foundation for, in what he fees me do, or hears me fay, or in what reports he receives concerning me.

7 And left I fhould be exalted above meafure, through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flefh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, left I fhould be exalted above meafure.

7 And left, through the unwatchfulnefs, vanity, and treachery of my own heart, I myfelf fhould be lifted up with an undue and unbecoming conceit of myfelf, as if I were better, or more worthy than others, becaufe of the extraordinary height, and fuperlative greatnefs (*υπερβολη*) of the revelations that have been made in an immediate manner to me, the Lord himfelf took an effectual method to keep me humble. As the sharpeft trials often fucceed the higheft and sweeteft enjoyments; fo He, who knows the imperfection of my prefent itate, and what danger of mif-improving fuch privileges it might expofe me to, better than I do myfelf, wifely and graciously ordered a very abafing affliction to befall me, which was piercing and painful to me, as a thorn is to a man's flefh, while it lies, and caufes fetterings and throbbings in it*; and which, as it was in its own nature

very

N O T E.

* It is very uncertain what is meant by this *thorn in the flefh*, and *the messenger of Satan*: But, whatever it were, it feems to be fomething that befel the apoftle, foon after the glorious revelations before-mentioned, to keep him humble; and therefore I cannot think, as fome do, that it refers to any bodily defect that *naturally* attended him. It rather feems to fignify thofe *reproaches*

which his adverfaries loaded him with, on account of his great fufferings, as though thefe were inconfiftent with the high favour of God, and were tokens of his forfaking him; and fomething of this kind might be permitted, in a more than ordinary manner, to be caft upon him, for keeping him humble, juft after he had received fuch peculiar manifeftations of God's gracious regards to him: But

But

very distressing, was as though an immediate emissary of Satan himself had been sent to attack, beat, and bruise me; (*ἵνα με καλῶφιζῆ*) yea, which, in effect, that malicious adversary was permitted, by his instruments, to do; he designing nothing but evil against me by it, while God meant it for good, and over-ruled it, by his Spirit and providence, to prevent my being puffed up with spiritual pride, and thinking more highly of myself than I ought, on account of the singular manifestations he had favoured me with.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

8 As this was an almost overwhelming trouble to me, I, after the example of my dear Lord himself in his extreme agony, (*Matth. xxvi. 39,—44.*) earnestly besought him in solemn prayer, as he did his Father, at three distinct times; and very often repeated my humble and importunate addresses to him, that, if it were his blessed will, the tempter might be rebuked and restrained, and I might be delivered from this violent assault upon me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

9 And though he did not see fit to grant me the very thing which I submissively asked, any more than his Father did to grant his own request, that *if possible his bitter cup might pass from him*; yet he graciously answered my prayer in a better manner, more effectually to my help and advantage, and more to the honour of his own great name, than if he had; as his Father also did *his*, by sending an angel from heaven to strengthen him, (*Luke xxii. 43.*) and by carrying him through the glorious work of redemption: He said to me, Fear not what the devil, or any of his emissaries can do against you; my favour and love, and the gracious assistances and consolations I will afford you, are every way sufficient, and shall be effectual, to support you under, to carry you through, and to bring you off, with rich improvements to your own soul, and with victory and triumph over all the difficulties and distresses, that lie upon you: For my power is, and shall be the more illustriously displayed, and proved to be perfect, in these happy effects, in proportion to your own utter inability to produce them. Having therefore received this seasonable and encouraging answer, which I have found, and doubt not but shall always find, to be faithfully and completely fulfilled, in its proper time and way, I will rather rejoice and glory in the reproaches and persecutions which befall me for Christ's sake, (see the note on *ver. 10.*) though I be ever so incapable of

N O T E.

But as the apostle has not told us what *ance* for us to know it, we may well be this *thorn is the flesh*, or *messenger of Satan*, was, and it is of little import-
contented to drop all curious inquiries about it.

of myself to bear them, than be discouraged at them, or afraid, or ashamed of them; that the all-sufficient power and grace of Christ, to whom I made my address, and committed my cause, (*ver. 8.*) may abide with me, and, as it were, tabernacle upon me, (*ἐπισηνωσθῆναι ἐπ' ἐμῆς*) to surround, cover, and defend me, and to sanctify my forest tribulations, that I may be enabled to bear them, with all becoming submission and patience, humility and hope; and, at length, may be more than a conqueror over them all, through him that has loved me. (*Rom. viii. 37.*)

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

10 In this reflection, I not only endure with calm resignation, but even approve of, and am well pleased with, (*εὐδοκῶ*) all my sufferings for Christ *; as particularly, with the defamations and revilings; with the straits and wants; with the malignant and most furious persecutions; and with the various difficulties and troubles of every kind, which come upon me for professing, owning, and preaching Christ and his gospel, and for the honour of his name: For when, by these means, the weakness of human nature is most felt and seen, and I appear to be most contemptible in the eyes of others; even then am I most of all, and most sensibly, *strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, and strengthened by his Spirit in the inner man*, (*Eph. iii. 16. and vi. 10.*) to behave with holy fortitude and courage under them, and to obtain the most glorious victories over them.

11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

11 In speaking so much of these things with an air of self-commendation, I indeed, though with great reluctance, act a part, which is generally accounted very foolish, and which, were there not the most urgent reasons for it, with regard to the glory of God, the credit of the gospel, and your establishment and edification, really would be, and I myself should think to be, very weak and silly: But ye, of all others, ought not to blame me for it; because ye yourselves have constrained me to it: For had ye been just to my character, answerable to what it has appeared among you; and had none of you sided with the false apostles, that have wrongfully upbraided me, there would have been no occasion for me to have spoke one word on my own behalf, to confute their calumnies;

N O T E.

* By *infirmities*, all along in this discourse, are evidently meant *sufferings*, which shew the infirmity of human nature, as it is subject to them, is weakened, and becomes contemptible by them, and unable of itself to bear them, especially in a becoming manner: And

therefore I take *infirmities*, in this place, not to signify any thing distinct from the several particulars after-mentioned; but as a general term, inclusive of them all, which are specified in the following instances.

calumnies; and ye, having had so much experience of what God has done by me, ought yourselves to have been my advocates, and to have spoke honourably of me and of my labours: For I may appeal to your own consciences, that I have not only far exceeded all those pretended apostles, who would mislead you, and prejudice your minds against me and my ministry; (*chap. xi. 21, &c.*) but that I have been in my conversation and sufferings, preaching and miracles, and in the success of my labours among you, equal, at least, to any of the true apostles of Christ themselves, whether *Peter*, or others that stand highest in any of your account: Though, after all, I am free to own, that in myself, and in my humble account of myself, I really am a poor, worthless, insignificant creature, *not sufficient of myself to do, or so much as think any thing, as of myself*; but *all my sufficiency is of God*, and all my success is from him. (*Chap. iii. 5. and 1 Cor. iii. 7.*)

11 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs and wonders, and mighty deeds.

12 Whatever others may conceive and say of me, or whatever I have been to them, the evident proofs and tokens of a true apostle of Jesus Christ, were unquestionably manifested in the things that were done by my ministry among you, which I fulfilled much to your advantage; (*chap. iii. 2, 3. and 1 Cor. ix. 1. 2.*) and in which I behaved with a meek and sedate command of temper, and with great long-suffering, under all the wants, hardships, and troubles, that I endured in preaching the gospel to you; (*Acts xviii. 1,—13.*) which was likewise confirmed by all sorts of miracles, that may be called *signs*, as they carried the plainest marks of God's owning me, and being with me; and may be deemed *wonders*, as they were amazing exertions of divine power, above, and against the course of nature; and may be styled *mighty deeds*, as they were productions of the most difficult and important effects, which nothing short of God's own almighty arm could have brought to pass.

13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

13 For as to the benefit which ye received by my ministrations, In what particular instance can it be said, that ye have not been enriched with spiritual gifts and privileges, as much as any of all the churches of Christ, whether planted by me, or some other apostle? Or wherein have I been wanting to you, more than to any of them? I am persuaded that nothing of this sort can be alledged; unless it should be thought a piece of disdainful partiality in me, that, while I received maintenance from other churches, I would take none of you*. If any should put such

N O T E.

* *Forgive me this wrong*, is generally thought to have been spoken by the apostle

a disingenuous construction upon it, *ye*, instead of being influenced by them, may well pardon an omission, which, on the contrary, was designed as a peculiar favour, every way to your advantage; and if there were any thing wrong in thus preaching the gospel freely to you, one would think it a wrong done to myself, (1 Cor. iv. 12.) and to other churches, (*chap.* xi. 7, 8.) rather than to you; and therefore surely *ye*, of all others, must needs pass it by.

14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you; for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

14 Observe in how kind and friendly a manner I have always behaved toward you; I have thrice * desired, designed, and prepared to make you a visit: The *first* time, I had the pleasure of accomplishing it, when I planted the gospel among you; (*Acts* xviii. 8,—11. and 1 Cor. iii. 6.) after that, I purposed seeing you again, but was prevented, on further thoughts, by my own tenderness toward you, lest I should be obliged to proceed with more rigor than I chose against some among you; (see the note on *chap.* i. 23.) and I am now a *third* time intending and getting ready, (*ετοιμας εγω*) God willing, to come ere long to you: And as, when I was with you, I took care that it might not be at your expence; so I am still resolved to give you my labours freely, without being chargeable to any of you; for my heart is so full of affection to you, that I do not desire any of your temporal good things, to lessen you in them, or enrich myself by them; but all that I seek, and aim at, is the welfare and salvation of your souls: For I look upon you as my spiritual children, whom I have instrumentally begotten to Christ by the gospel; (1 Cor. iv. 15.) and shall ever treat with all paternal care and affection, in providing for your spiritual benefit, without expecting any return

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of

N O T E S.

apostle in the *ironical* way; but Monsieur *Fleury* understands him, as seriously excusing himself on this account; because the faithful, at that time, were so charitable and grateful to their teachers, that they were grieved if they did not receive something from them; and were ready to be offended, as thinking it a mark of contempt or disdain. *L'Abbe Fleur.* Eccles. Hist. liv. i. sec. 50.

* As far as appears, the apostle had been already but *once* at *Corinth*, an account of which we have in *Acts* xviii. 1, &c. For his journey through *Greece* and *Macedonia*, mentioned *Acts* xx. 2, 3. is generally concluded to have been after the writing of this epistle; and he speaks of his next coming, *at the second time*,

chap. xiii. 2. and as his desiring to come to them, that they might have a *second* benefit, *chap.* i. 15.: The *third time* therefore refers, not to the times of his having been actually with them, but of his having intended it; and as it seems that his design of making them a visit, which is mentioned *chap.* i. 15. and 1 Cor. xvi. 5. relates to one and the same time, he now speaks of his having a *third time* formed a resolution of doing it, which he soon afterwards fulfilled, as may be gathered from *Acts* xx. 2. 3.; and, while he was with them, he wrote his epistle to the *Romans*, as appears from *Rom.* xvi. 23. See the note there, and the preface to that epistle; and see *Acts* and *1 Timothy* on this place.

of your worldly substance; as being determined, in this case, to square my conduct according to the general rule, that though children ought to relieve their *necessitous* parents, (*Mark* vii. 10,—13. and *1 Tim.* v. 16.) yet they are not ordinarily obliged to lay up for their parents, as though their parents were most likely to survive them, but it is the duty of parents to make proper provision for their children, who may be supposed, in the common course of nature, to outlive them.

15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

15 And, considering myself in this relation to you, I will cheerfully spend my time, strength and labour, and all my temporal ease, honour and advantages, and will, with pleasure, wear out my life itself, (*ὡς τὸν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν*) for the good of your souls; even though the ungrateful and undutiful return, I should meet with for it, were, that the more abundant, tender, affectionate, and disinterested love I have, and shew, toward you, the less I should be respected and valued by you; yea, though ye should so slight me, for my pains, as to have less esteem of me, than of those that impose upon you.

16 But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.

16 But be this as it will, and supposing it to be the case with some of you, ye well know that I did not, as I lawfully might, put you to the charge of maintaining me, but preached the gospel freely to you: Nevertheless, your false teachers, who are deceitful workers, (*chap.* xi. 13.) invidiously suggest *, as though, being an artful designing man, I refused taking any thing of you myself, that I might underhandedly draw you in, to be the more liberal to others, whom I employed among you; and so by a cunning fetch might get the more of you, through them, for my own use.

17 Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?

17 But, in answer to such groundless and unrighteous insinuations, let me ask you, Did I ever make the least advantage of you for myself, by means of any of those, my fellow-labourers in the gospel, whom I sent,

N O T E.

* Most expositors consider the whole of this verse as an objection of the apostle's adversaries against him; and so the sense stands thus; "But some suggest, that though I did not burden you myself: yet, being a crafty man, I have employed others to do it; and so have over-reached you." The words (*ἴσως*) *but be it so*, may be taken in this reference, or in that given in the paraphrase: the reader may choose which he pleases: But the following verses plainly shew, that what is said, at least in the

latter part of this verse, is mentioned as the ill-natured suggestion of the apostle's enemies, and not as what he really did: For, otherwise, there is no good connection in what he there adds to vindicate himself; but, considering those verses as an answer to their calumnies, they are strongly and directly to his purpose; nor is it at all consistent with his character and profession, (*chap.* i. 12. and *iv.* 2.) to suppose, that he really practised any *guileful* arts to win upon the *Corinthians*.

I sent, in my absence, to be the helpers of your joy ; (*chap. i. 24.*) to rectify the disorders that were among you ; (*chap. vii. 6, 7.*) and to excite your charity toward the poor saints in *Judea*? (*Chap. viii. 6.*)

18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother: did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

18 Ye know that I entreated, and prevailed upon the beloved *Titus* to come to you, and with him I sent another excellent brother, whose praise is in all the churches ; (*chap. viii. 6, 17, 18.* See the note on *ver. 18.*) and, when they were with you, Did *Titus* and his companion, any more than I myself, take any thing of you for their own labours, or for my subsistence? Did we not all act with the same disinterested generosity toward you, like persons conducted and influenced by the same good Spirit of God, and by the same benevolent temper of mind? Did not *they* exactly follow my example, and all of us agree in the same measures of freely doing you good?

19 Again, think you that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

19 I would ask you again, Do any of you imagine that, in all this, I only make specious pretences, by way of apology to you, for myself and my brethren, that we may gain the greater credit with you, for some sinister ends; or do any of you think, that I sent *Titus* and his associate, (*ver. 18.*) to excuse myself from coming to you? I solemnly declare, in the presence of the all-seeing God, as an apostle of Jesus Christ, and a believer in him, that it is no such matter: But, my dearly beloved in the Lord, what I have done in this, as in all my other behaviour toward you, is merely to support my apostolic authority, that my ministry, by the blessing of God, may be the more successful to your spiritual edification.

20 For I fear, lest when I come I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

20 For, as I hinted before, (*chap. i. 23, 24.* and *ii. 1.*) I am much afraid, lest, whenever I may have opportunity of making my intended visit, I shall not find you all so orderly, and obedient to the authority of Christ in me, as I heartily wish ye were; and that I shall be obliged to exercise the power, which he has given me, in a severer manner than ye would willingly have me: (*chap. x. 2,* and *xiii. 10.*) I fear lest I should find that, through hearkning to seducers, there are, among some of you, fierce and uncharitable disputes for victory-sake; envious tempers and talkers; warm and angry passions; carnal contentions; revilings of others behind their backs; clandestine slanders; proud and haughty boastings; and disdainful insults; and a tumultuous carriage one towards another. This has been one great reason of my deserring to come to you, so long as I have. (*Chap. i. 23.*)

21 And lest, when I come again, my God

21 And I am full of fears, lest, when I come to you again, my God, whose I am, and whom I serve, should

God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleannets, and fornication, and lasciviousness which they have committed.

should call me, not to glorying of you, as I have done on particular occasions, (*chap. vii. 4.*) but to shame, sorrow, and abasement, on your account, in seeing the name of Christ so much dishonoured, and my labour so much lost upon you; and lest, instead of rejoicing to behold your faith and order, I should be called to lament and mourn over many of you, and, with grief of soul, to deal sharply with them, who had been guilty of very enormous crimes before I wrote to you, (*προικικηριστων*) and who, notwithstanding all admonitions and reproofs, in my former letter, and by other means, have not yet been duly convinced of their sins, nor shewn any ingenuous remorse, or sincere repentance for them *; as particularly for the shameful adultery, and fornication, and the immodest words and actions, with which they have defiled themselves, directly contrary to their Christian obligations and profession.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

What vicissitudes are there in the Christian's comforts and afflictions! He is sometimes lifted up, as it were, to the third heaven, which is like a paradise for all delights, and unutterable glories; and he presently falls under the buffetings of Satan, and the forest trials, which God orders and over-rules to prevent spiritual pride, lest, through the corruption of nature, it should rise, even upon the ground of the most distinguishing and endearing manifestations of divine favour. How earnestly doth the believer betake himself to the Lord Jesus for deliverance from temptations and afflictions, which he finds to be more than his own match! And how certain is it, that his prayers shall not be in vain, though they may not always be answered in the very thing that he asked! A promise of Christ's grace, as sufficient for us, and of his strength, as to be made perfect in our weakness, is the noblest support under every difficulty or danger, and the best security for a due improvement of it, and for victory and triumph in the issue. We may well glory in those trials, that give occasion for, and are attended with, the most evident demonstrations of the power of Christ, as resting upon us; though in the midst of the highest privileges, manifestations, and attainments, we are in ourselves, and ought to be in our own account, as nothing. How happy is it, when the servants of Christ can appeal to him, for the sincerity of their aims in all their holy ministrations; and can appeal to the consciences of their hearers, that the signs of their divine mission are made known among them, by their patient, faithful, tender, and disinterested behaviour; by the good fruits of their labours; and by plain tokens of God's being with them! And how cheerfully will they spend, and be spent, for the good of souls, and do all things for their edification, while they seek not theirs, but them; and resolve, by the grace of God, to persevere therein, even though the more they love them, and, like parents, provide for their spiritual welfare, the less they were to be loved of them! How desirous should they all be to act under the influence of the same divine Spirit, and with the same Christian temper; and to tread in the same laudable steps, in pursuing the great ends of their ministry! And, as far as they do so, how ready should their people be to encourage, and speak well of them, and to save them the irksome task of saying any thing that looks like self-applause, to vindicate their own characters! But, O how humbling, and grieving is it, to be not only themselves vilified, but to see their hopes

N O T E.

* It seems from hence that, though that had been guilty of impurities, to the scandal of their holy profession, and had not yet been reclaimed.

hopes blasted, and their labour lost upon those, who, instead of answering just expectations of yielding obedience to the authority of Christ, in all holy conversation and godliness, are guilty of such scandalous enormities in temper and behaviour, and continue so impenitent in them, as to need the severest animadversion upon them!

C H A P. XIII.

The apostle threatens to punish obstinate offenders, at his next coming among the Corinthians, and gives the reasons of it, 1,—6. Prays for their reformation to prevent it, which would give him the greatest pleasure, 7,—10. And concludes the epistle with a salutation and benediction, 11,—14.

TEXT.

THIS is the third time I am coming to you: in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

2 I told you before, and foretel you as if I were present the second time, and being absent, now I write to them which hereto-

PARAPHRASE.

I AM now a third time designing and preparing, as has been said but now, (*chap. xii. 14.* see the note there) to visit you, and correct the disorders, which, after all, still remain among you: (*chap. x. 2.*) And as our blessed Lord directed, (*Matth. xviii. 16.*) in church-proceedings against an offending brother, that *in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word should be established**, according to the rule laid down in the law of *Moses*; (*Deut. xvii. 6.* and *xix. 15.*) so the notices and warnings I have given you, in my former epistle, (*chap. iv. 19, 21.*) and now, once and again, in this, of my resolution to come and chastise obstinate delinquents; and *Sisibenes's* joining with me in the first epistle, (*chap. i. 1.*) and *Timothy's* in this, (*chap. i. 1.*) are all the previous admonitions, that are necessary, and may as fully assure you of what ye are to expect, as if it had been depofed by two or three credible witnesses, *vi-va voce*, in any court of judicature whatsoever.

2 In my first letter I threatened what I would do, and now again repeat it to you beforehand, which shews how unwilling I am to proceed to extremities, if it be possible to prevent it, (*ver. 10.*) and which ought to have as much weight with you, as if I were now a second time personally talking to you; and, for:

N O T E.

* Here seems to be a most direct reference to Christ's order about the method of proceeding with church-members, that have given offence, *Mat. xviii. 15,—17.*: But as this was conformable to the law of *Moses*, I have also brought that into the paraphrase; and the apostle's two epistles, either with, or without the consideration of the persons, that joined with him in sending them, are

manifestly the two or three witnesses here intended, as they answered the end of repeated admonitions. (See *Hammond, Whitby, and Locke* on the place.) And therefore, if these offenders should still continue to be incorrigible, and the church to neglect their duty in dealing with them, the apostle would very regularly exercise his authority, in severely punishing them.

heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that if I come again I will not spare:

3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to youward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God: for we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

for want of opportunity, through distance of place, to speak my mind by word of mouth, I now send it in writing to those disorderly persons, that had gone into scandalous practices, even before I wrote my first epistle; (*προημαρτηκοσι*) as also to all others among you, who, between that time and this, have been, or are in danger of being, found guilty of any miscarriages: I positively assure them all, that when I may come to you again, I will punish those that have sinned, and not reformed; be they who, or what they will, or be they ever so many, I will deal sharply with them, (*ver. 10.*) that they may be brought to repentance, and that others may fear to follow their former sinful example. (*1 Tim. v. 20.*)

3 This I will certainly do, in vindication of my sacred office, and of the honour of my Lord, since some of you, and particularly your false teachers and their adherents, are so bold and daring, as to question my apostolic commission, and demand an experiment (*δοκιμην*) and proof of it, and of the reality of Christ's speaking by me, in the doctrines and commandments, which I have delivered, and in what I threaten to do to offenders, in his name: Their opposition to me herein is indeed no less, than an opposing Christ himself, who has undeniably acted toward you, not in a weak and insufficient manner, but with mighty power and energy in, and among you; as appears by the great and wonderful things he has done, both in a way of rich mercy, in your conversion, in the miracles wrought among you, and in the manifold gifts and graces he bestowed upon you; and in a way of awful judgment, in his inflicting sickness and death on disorderly walkers in your church. (*1 Cor. xi. 30.*)

4 For though he underwent a terrible and ignominious crucifixion, through the infirmity and passibility of his human nature, which was as liable to that, as to any other sort of death; and though he might thereby appear, in the account of some, to have been a merely weak and mortal creature, like other men, and incapable of saving others, because he did not think fit to save himself from the death of the cross; (*Matth. xxvii. 40,—44.*) yet by virtue of his divine power, which he exerts together with the Father, he rose again from the dead, and now lives in his exalted state, on the throne of his glory, to exercise all authority in heaven and earth: Even so (*και γαρ και*) we likewise, his faithful servants, appear by our sufferings for his sake, and in conformity to him, to be but weak and despicable men, and are, in the account of some of you, vain insignificant creatures in the profession we make of relation to Christ, and of receiving

receiving authority from him, as though we really had no interest in him, or could do nothing by virtue of any communications from him: But as surely as he lives in all authority and glory, we, by the same divine power, shall shew, in remarkable effects, that, how contemptible soever we be in ourselves, or in the esteem of others, the life of Jesus animates us, and is manifested in our vigorous actings toward you, as well as that, in due time, we shall live in glory with him.

5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves: know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

5 Instead therefore of your sitting in judgment, and passing unrighteous censures upon us, as though there were no proof of Christ's speaking in me, (*ver.* 3.) or in my dear associates, (*chap.* xii. 18.) look into your own hearts and ways, and bring them to the touchstone of the word of God; and, in carefully comparing them with that infallible standard, make close inquiry, whether ye yourselves have believed to the saving of your souls, and have a real and evident interest in Christ, through faith in him: Pursue the diligent search, by divine assistance, till ye have brought this important point to an issue *, and have the clearest proof in yourselves, whether ye be sincere believers, and whether faith be the governing principle in your own hearts, or not: What! are ye strangers to the transactions that have passed between God and your own souls, and to your own state and condition, way and walk before him, as some of you seem to be, by your contentions and disorders, and various provocations, and by your unworthy treatment of me, and of the gospel of Christ, as delivered in my ministry? It is a sin and a thame for you to be ignorant how things are with you: And, as ye are professors of Christianity, do not ye know that Jesus Christ, the only Saviour, dwells in your hearts by faith, with powerful influence and dominion there? Ye surely, in the light of the Spirit, may arrive at some satisfaction about this; unless, after all your high pretences, and flourishing gifts, there be something very disallowable, (*εἰ μὴ τι ἀδοκιμασίου ἔσῃ*) and much amiss in you; or ye be really disapproved of God, as hypocrites.

6 But,

N O T E.

* *Prove your own selves*, (*εαυρους δοκιμασεις*) is a metaphor taken from the trying of *metals* by the touchstone, or some other way, to prove whether they be good and pure, or not; and so signifies such a trial of persons and things, as may shew, or prove, whether they be genuine, or spurious, in order to their

being allowed of, or rejected: And, with a beautiful correspondence hereunto, the apostle speaks in this, and the two next verses, of persons being (*δοκιμοι* or *αδοκιμοι*) *approved*, or *not approved*, (which is harshly rendered *reprobate*) as found to be so, upon examination or trial.

6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobrates.

7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

9 For we are glad when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, *εταρ* your perfection.

10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should

6 But, whatever any of you may prove to be, my humble dependence on the power and grace of Christ is, that ye shall have evident demonstration, by what he will further do by us, of our being, not disapproved, but owned of him, as true believers, and his faithful servants.

7 In the mean while, my heart's desire and prayer to the Lord for you is, that none of you may be seduced into any evil way, or found guilty of any iniquity against God, or others; so as to force me to exercise severity, when I come among you: I earnestly pray for this, as being desirous, not that I may have an opportunity of proving my apostolic authority by punishing obstinate offenders; but that, through divine grace, ye may be reformed without it, and may be brought, by gentler methods, to practise those things, that are honourable and becoming, (*το καλον*) in the sight of God and of all good men. This would give me the utmost pleasure, even though, for want of a proper occasion to chastise the refractory and disobedient, ye should judge of me, as if I were a false apostle, disapproved of God, and destitute of power to execute what I have once and again threatned.

8 For I have neither inclination, nor authority, nor would my conscience toward God, or my love to you, suffer me to do any thing contrary to what is right and fit, or against those that walk orderly, according to the truth of the gospel, any more than against the gospel itself; but all that I hereby aim at, am authorized for, and cheerfully engage in, is, to reclaim back-sliders, and to encourage and promote your soundness in the faith, and your integrity in heart and life.

9 For so great is my affectionate concern for you, that I should exceedingly rejoice to see the time, when, through your repentance and amendment, I may be as much restrained from inflicting any severe censures, as if I really were incapable of it; and when ye may be so strong in faith, holiness, and obedience, as not to need it: Yea, I heartily wish, (*την υμων καταρτισιν*) that all things were brought into good order among you; that ye were entirely knit together in faith and love, like a complete, and well-compacted body; and that every grace were perfected in you all, and there were no defect, or remainder of sin, in any of you.

10 It is therefore with these kind thoughts and desires concerning you, that now, while I am absent from you, I write some things to warn and caution you, and others to counsel and encourage you; lest, when

should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me, to edification, and not to destruction.

when I come among you, I should be obliged, contrary to my own inclination and choice, to make use of terrible methods in dealing with you, according to the authority, which the Lord Jesus has given me, as has been observed; (*chap. x. 8.*) and I always desire to employ it, for the preservation of the purity of the church, and of the honour of Christ in it, and for establishing and encreasing the faith, comfort, and holiness of the whole body; and not (*εις καταλειψιν*) for injuring any of its members; nor for the final destruction, even of the worst of them, by driving them to despair; but that they may be brought to repentance, and their spirits may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (*1 Cor. v. 5.*)

11 Finally, brethren, farewell: be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

11 To conclude, my brethren, whom, after all, as to the generality of you, I esteem as such in the Lord, May all manner of prosperity and happiness attend you! In order hereunto*, (*κατασκευασθητε*) for those things to rights, which are amiss and disjointed among you, that the whole church may be reduced to a regular state, and knit together as one body; and let every one of you labour, in the strength of Christ, to attain to the highest degrees of every grace and virtue, and, if possible, to sinless perfection: Encourage yourselves in the Lord your God; and be exhorted, one by another, as well as all of you by me. (*παρακαλισθητε*) to do every thing that is excellent, that ye may be filled with the joys of faith, and of a good conscience: Join, as with one heart and soul, in your sentiments of the great truths of the gospel, in your zeal to promote them, and in your Christian temper, one towards another: Study the things that make for peace and brotherly love, that there may remain no more party-strifes, or angry contentions, jars, and schisms among you: And, in case ye be helped to cultivate and abound in these things, ye may depend upon it, that the blessed God himself, who is the fountain of love and peace, the author, giver, commander, and approver of them, will take up his gracious and complacential abode with you; will manifest his special favour to you; and will make you to increase with all the increases of God. (*Col. ii. 19.*)

12 Greet one another with an holy kiss.

12 In token of your being thus united in heart, design, and practice, salute each other with a chaste, sincere, and religious kiss, the usual symbol of Chris-

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tian

N O T E.

* The apostle takes his leave of the *Corinthians* here, much in the same manner as he began with them in his first epistle, (*chap. i. 10.*) which may

intimate, that the points mentioned there, and here, were what he principally aimed at, and pursued, in both these epistles.

tian love and sacred friendship. (See the note on *Rom. xvi. 16.*)

13 All the saints salute you:

13 To set you an example of mutual kindness and respect, all the holy brethren, in these parts, send their affectionate salutations; *wishing, above all things, that your souls may prosper.* (3 John, ver. 2.)

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

14 And as it was the priest's office to bless the children of *Israel* in the name of the Lord; (*Num. vi. 23,—27.*) so, to shew the authority which Christ has given me, and how much my heart is with you, my prayer for you, and the blessing, which, suitable to the nature of the gospel-dispensation, I, as his servant, pronounce in his name upon you, is this: May the free favour, and gracious presence and influence of the Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, through whom, and by whose merit and mediation, all spiritual and eternal blessings are procured and conveyed! And may the self-moving love of God the Father, which is the original spring and source of all distinguishing blessings! And may (*κοινωνια*) the richest communications of the Holy Spirit, by whom these blessings, are effectually applied, and we are brought into a peculiar fellowship with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, (1 *John i. 3.*) and into a participation of their love and grace, in all their happy fruits and effects! May all this, I say, be continually with you, and abound toward you, as a church, and towards every individual member therein, that all, and each of you, may be completely blessed by these three Divine Persons, in whose name ye were baptized, (*Mat. xxviii. 19.*) and who are undividedly one in nature and will, design and operation! In testimony of the sincerity of my desire of all these great things for you, and of my hope that it shall be fulfilled in you, I heartily add, and would have every one, of you join with me in saying, *Amen.*

RECOLLECTIONS.

How nearly doth it concern us to examine and prove ourselves, whether we be really united to Christ by faith; and our state, frame, and behaviour, be approved of God, or not! If church-members, contrary to their holy profession, go into, and obstinately persist in, such evil courses, as shew that they are disapproved of God; What an awful necessity is there of exercising Christ's authority, in dealing sharply with them, and not sparing them, that they may be brought to repentance! But, O how much more desirable is it, to have them reclaimed by gentler methods! And with what care and tenderness should all previous admonitions be given them, to the amount of two or three witnesses, before they are proceeded against to extremity! The faithful servants of Christ, will be approved of him, in all the measures they take, according to his will, whatever others may think of them; and though, in conformity to their Lord, they make but a poor figure in the world, and are liable to sufferings and death, through the infirmity of human flesh; yet what a comfort is it to think, that, by the power of God, they shall be assisted and owned

in this world, and shall be raised to live with Christ in all the glory of the next! And how fain would they have others accepted and approved of him too! They cannot, in conscience, do any thing knowingly against the just reasons of things, any more than against the gospel itself, or against those that walk uprightly, according to its truth: And they heartily wish, that all the authority, which Christ has committed to them, might be to the edification and salvation of all, and not to the destruction of any, under their charge. How sincerely do they desire that every thing may be perfected which concerns the professors of Christ's name; that they may be comforted and encouraged, may agree in evangelical principles and designs, may live together with brotherly love, and may salute each other, after the most Christian manner, in the Lord! The God of love and peace will certainly make his abode with all who are thus united in faith and love, and in the fellowship of the gospel: And that he may do so, it becomes the ministers of Christ to leave the apostle's benediction with them, saying, The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the love of God the Father; and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, *Amen.* The Lord grant it may be so with every one of us!

A P R A C-

A PRACTICAL
E X P O S I T I O N
O F T H E
APOSTLE PAUL'S EPISTLE
T O T H E
G A L A T I A N S,
I N T H E F O R M O F A
P A R A P H R A S E.

THE PREFACE TO THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS.

THE constitution of gospel-churches is so different from the *national*-church of the *Jews*, that when the apostle wrote to Christians that were formed into several religious societies in *Galatia*, which was a province of the *Lesser Asia*, he styled them the *churches*, (chap. i. 2, 22.) and not the *church* of *Galatia*; and when he spoke of any particular assembly, that associated together for stated worship, according to the order of the gospel, he constantly called it the *church* at such a place; as the church at *Corinth*, (1 Cor. i. 2.) the church at *Cenchrea*, (Rom. xvi. 1.) and the church of the *Thessalonians*, (1 Theff. i. 1.) and the like.

The *Galatian*-churches were planted by the apostle *Paul's* own ministry, as appears from *Acts* xvi. 6. and xviii. 23. compared with *Gal.* i. 8, 9. and consisted, very much, at least, of *Gentile* believers, that were converted from among the idolatrous heathens, (chap. iv. 8.) and had been admitted to all the privileges and blessings of the gospel-state, without being circumcised. This was so offensive to *Judaizing* zealots, and particularly, as appears from chap. i. 7. and v. 9, 10. to some noted false teacher or teachers, who probably came from *Judea* upon hearing of it, that they endeavoured, and that with too great success, to run down *Paul*, by sinking his apostolic authority below that of *Peter*, and the other apostles of the circumcision; and to corrupt the pure doctrine of justification alone through faith in Christ, by super-adding the works of the law under the bond of circumcision, as necessary for that purpose. Hence they insisted, that, *Except a man were circumcised after the manner of Moses, he could not be saved*, and that he ought to keep the law of Moses; (*Acts* xv. i. 5.) and the apostle himself testified once and again, that *Every one who was circumcised was a debtor to do the whole law*; but that, to be circumcised with this view, would

would render *Christ of none effect to them*, and would subvert the whole gospel. (*Gal. v. 2,—4.*)

This, as I apprehend, throws a good light upon the main argument of this epistle: It lets us into the *principal reason* why the *judaizing* Christians, that were enemies to the free grace of the gospel, or to salvation alone by Jesus Christ through faith in him, so strenuously pleaded for the *Gentiles* being circumcised; and why the apostle so zealously opposed it: And it shews, that not only the works of the ceremonial, but likewise of the moral law, were designed to be excluded from having any share in the great business of justification; for circumcision bound a man over to an observance of the moral as well as ceremonial law, as may be gathered from the apostle's saying, (*Rom. ii. 26, 27.*) *If the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision, which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision, dost transgress the law?* (See the note there.) And indeed in some parts of both these epistles (which the most professedly of all others treat on the doctrine of justification) several things are said of the law, as may be seen in their places, that must, at least, include the moral law; and as the *Gentile-Galatian* converts were never under the ceremonial law, nor under any divine obligation to observe it, they could have no immediate concern with Christ's *redeeming from the curse of the law, and redeeming them that were under the law*; (*chap. iii. 13. and iv. 5.*) unless it included redemption from the moral law as a covenant of works, and from its curse.

When the apostle wrote this epistle is very uncertain; some think it was before, and others after, his second journey into *Galatia*, which we have an account of in *Acts xviii. 23.* However, it is plain from *Gal. i. 6.* that it was soon after he had been, and preached, among them: And as his principal design in writing it was to vindicate his own apostolic commission, and the gospel-doctrine of justification, from the perverse attempts of his enemies to defeat them; so, in the two first chapters, he maintains that his office, as an apostle, was *immediately* from Christ, and no way inferior to that of any other apostle; and expresses his great concern, that the *Galatians* were so soon perverted or turned away from the gospel, which he had preached to them. In the two next chapters, he establisheth the doctrine of justification alone by Christ, through faith in him, without the works of the law. And, in the two last, he exhorts them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free; to take heed of abusing that liberty, by an indulgence of the flesh; and to exercise various Christian graces, and practise several duties, which are indeed common to all believers; but some of which the state of things among them more especially called for: And, to leave the stronger impression upon their minds, he closes the whole with an account of the different tempers and views that influenced him and the *judaizing* teachers, and with his usual benediction.

C H A P. I.

The apostle Paul prefaces his epistle to the churches of Galatia, with asserting his apostolic character, in opposition to such as lessened it, and with a salutation and doxology, 1,—5. Sharply reproveth the Galatians for so soon revolting from the gospel of Christ, under the influence of detestable teachers, 6,—10. Proves the divine authority of his doctrine and mission, by the end of his preaching, and by his having received them, not from man, but by immediate revelation from Christ himself, 11, 12. And, to convince them of this, he declares what he was before his conversion and calling, 13, 14; and how he behaved after it, 15,—24.

TEXT

PAUL, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)

PARAPHRASE.

I PAUL, who, whatsoever some may suggest to the contrary, am constituted an apostle, not by any ordinance of men, as in the case of civil magistrates, (1 Pet. ii. 13) nor in the usual way, in which ordinary ministers of Christ are called to, and vested in their sacred office; nor by the choice of men; nor by power communicated to me, as the apostleship was to Matthias, (Acts i. 23, &c.) by the intervention of any man whatsoever*; but I received my qualifications, instructions, and authority for it, by the immediate call and commission of Jesus Christ, (Acts xxii. 17,—21. and xxvi. 16, 17, 18.) and by the express appointment of God the Father, (Acts xxii. 14, 15) who revealed his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen, (ver. 16.) and who, by a judicial act, as well as by the same divine power that wrought in my conversion; (Eph. i. 19, 20.) raised him from the dead †, in testimony of his having completely satisfied the law and justice, and brought in everlasting righteousness, for the justification of all that believe in him.

2 I,

N O T E S.

* Though Ananias foretold Paul, at his conversion, what use God would make of him, (Acts xxii. 14, 15.) yet he, being at most but a minister of inferior rank, could not ordain Paul to the apostleship; nor is there the least appearance of his attempting any thing of that nature: And though the prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch separated Paul and Barnabas to the work of the ministry, (chap. xiii. 2, 3.) yet as it was the ministry to which Christ had already called them, and as these prophets and teachers were likewise officers of lower rank than apostles, Paul and Barnabas could not be supposed to receive

their commission from them, who only followed the express order of the Holy Ghost in what they did. (See the note on Acts xiii. 3.)

† Luther observes on this verse, how fitly, and suitable to the main purport of this epistle, the apostle here speaks of God the Father, not as Creator, &c. but as having raised Christ from the dead. And we may take notice, that, in the preface to his kindred epistle, with respect to the great doctrine of justification, he, with like justness of thought, mentions the resurrection of Christ. (Rom. i. 4.)

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace be to you, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 I, and all the Christian brethren* here present with me, consenting and approving, send this epistle to the several churches, that, by the blessing of God on my ministry, were planted in the province of *Galatia* †.

3 Our hearts desire and prayer to God for you is, that the riches of his free, undeserved, and forfeited favour may be extended to you; and that all the spiritual prosperity, which is included in peace with God, with one another, and in each of your own souls, may abound towards you from God the Father, the first person in the adorable Trinity, and first mover in the whole affair of salvation; and from our Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the sacred Three, who, in our nature, is the only mediator between God and men, and is the purchaser and dispenser of all blessings to us.

4 Who, in his matchless condescension and love, freely surrendered his soul and body, that were infinitely dignified by their personal union with his divine nature; and gave up his great and glorious self to the most painful and shameful sufferings and death, as a propitiatory sacrifice to make atonement for our sins, who deserved nothing but tribulation and wrath, that he, on the foot of righteousness, might by price, as well as power, pluck us as brands out of the fire, and rescue us, in his time and way, from the evil temper and oppressions, designs and practices, of the men of this world, from all the iniquities that abound in it, and from all the dangerous snares and depraved customs and fashions of this degenerate age; as also from the *Jewish* constitution, which is incapable of giving us life, and is exceedingly corrupted by the men of this generation; and that he might, at length, take us out of this miserable and sinful world itself to a better ‡. All which he has done according to the eternal appointment and good pleasure of God, even our Father, who is reconciled to us through the blood of his cross, and who, on his account loves us, and deals with us as his children.

5 To whom, together with his eternal Son ||, all possible honour and praise, in the most exalted strains are

N O T E S.

* *The brethren* may either signify those ministers that were *Paul's* companions in travel, or the members of the church where he was when he wrote this epistle.

† The reason of the apostle's directing this epistle to the churches of *Galatia*, without giving them any character, as he does all the others that he wrote to, seems to be their general defection from

the great doctrine of justification alone by Christ, through faith in him.

‡ As the word (*αιων*) here rendered *the world*, signifies likewise *the age*, or *generation*; a turn is given to the paraphrase, that takes in both the senses, and that, with some little variation, includes Mr. *Locke's* notion of this present age. See his note on the place.

|| It being doubtful whether, *to whom*, means

are due, and will be so through all generations on earth, and to endless ages in heaven, for this unparalleled work of redemption, in which infinite wisdom, power, justice, holiness, mercy, and truth, shine forth with united and endearing glory. For this, as well as for his own divine perfections, may he be glorified as he ought to be, and for ever will be! *Amen.*

6 I marvel, that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ, unto another gospel:

6 When I reflect on the delightful and transcendent glory of this scheme of salvation, and on its suitability and high importance to lost sinners, as the only way in which they can be saved; I stand amazed, and am grieved at heart, to hear of your sin and folly, in that so quickly after ye had been made acquainted with it, and seemed to receive the truth in the love of it, any of you should be carried away in your sentiments, affection, and practice, not only from me, who was instrumental in calling you to the fellowship of the gospel *; but, which is worst of all, from the blessed God himself, by whose commission I preached to you, and who, by my ministry, called you to partake of the benefits of redemption, such as reconciliation with God, justification and adoption, and eternal glory, which are discovered and proposed in the gospel of Christ's grace, and are bestowed by his free favour on them that believe. I say, it surprises and troubles me, to think that any of you should be so soon in danger, at least, of being turned off from all this to a strange and quite different sort of gospel, as introducing the doctrine of justification to life by the works of the law, together with faith in Christ.

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

7 Which, how fond soever some may be of it, is in reality no *gospel* at all; it being so far from bringing *glad tidings* of salvation, that it sets the sinner's pardon and acceptance with God, upon impracticable terms; and so whatever it may be called, it can, with no propriety, be styled another *gospel*: I therefore pity those of you that have unwarily embraced it; and am sensible, that unless ye had been imposed upon by cunning seducers, ye would never have been drawn into it; but, as I hear, there are some *judaising* false teachers crept in among you, that by various means distress, shock, and perplex you, and would fain over-turn that blessed gospel, of which Christ is the

N O T E S.

means Christ, who gave himself for our sins, &c. or God the Father according to whose will he did it; I have formed the doxology to both, which is consonant to the use of it in other parts of scriptures.

* It seems too flat, and low, and assuming in the apostle, and too much a

bating of the force of his reasoning, to suppose, with some, that he meant only himself by *him that called them*; and yet, as he was instrumental in the hand of God therein, and his authority began to sink among them, I have taken notice of his concern in that work.

the author, subject, and end, and would make quite another thing of it, than it is in truth; and the better to gain their ends, they suggest as if *Peter*, and the other apostles, and even I myself, preached up the works of the law, with faith in Christ, as necessary to justification. (*Chap. ii. 17,—21.*)

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

8 But this is so far from being true, that I am bold to affirm, that whoever he be, suppose it possible that it should be either myself, or any other apostle of Christ, or even an angel come down from heaven; be he who he will, and let his pretensions be what they will, if he were to publish among you any other system of doctrine for the remission of sins, and for righteousness to eternal life, contrary to that which I at first delivered to you under the inspiration of the Spirit, he should be rejected as one accursed of God, and devoted to destruction.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you, than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

9 As I have now already said, I repeat it with deliberation and earnestness, as a matter of the greatest importance, If any one, (*ἢ τις*) be he man or angel, take upon him to preach up any other scheme of doctrine, which he may falsely call the gospel, but is inconsistent with, and subversive of, that which ye professed to receive, and seemed to embrace with faith and love when I preached to you, he is to be rejected as one abandoned of God, and is to be disdained by you, as well as by him. Though this may sound harsh, and be very offensive to the ears of some that may think it a hard saying; I am bold to pronounce it, in my Lord and Master's name, that none may dare to pervert his gospel.

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

10 For as to myself, whatsoever mine enemies may maliciously say against me, Is it now, after I have been so long converted and employed in the ministry, and have suffered so many things for Christ? Is it now, after all, my ambition, desire, and aim in my preaching, to persuade people, in matters of religion, to receive the doctrine of men, and yield obedience to them? Or, is it not evident, on the contrary, that I therein labour to persuade them to embrace the gospel of God, and yield obedience to him, that he may be glorified? Or, do I make it my business and concern to ingratiate myself with men, such as the *Jewish* zealots, that I may gain their favour and applause, and may avoid their frowns and terrors? No, this is far from my intention; I abhor the thought; for if I were still to continue to seek the favour of men, and serve their corrupt humours and designs, as I did in the days of my judaism and unregeneracy, (*Acts ix. 1, 2.*) I should never have lifted into the service of Christ; nor should I now be his faithful ser-

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me, is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past, in the Jews religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it;

14 And profited in the Jews religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

vant, as I profess and count it my honour, and am above all things else solicitous to approve myself to be.

11 But still further, to satisfy you that I really am so, I assure you, my brethren in the faith, and make it manifest (*γνωρίζω*) by all the signs of apostleship, that the gospel of salvation alone by Jesus Christ, which has been constantly preached by me wherever I have been, is neither formed according to man's natural taste and temper, or for promoting his worldly honour or interests; nor is it owing to the authority, contrivance, or dictates of man.

12 For I neither received my commission to preach it by the intervention of any mere man whatsoever; no, not from any of the apostles themselves; nor was I brought to the knowledge of it by any human instruction; but both my authority to preach it, and all my acquaintance with it, were communicated to me by an immediate revelation from him, who is God as well as man, even Jesus Christ himself, and *that* after his resurrection from the dead, (*ver.* 1.) and exaltation to his heavenly kingdom, which made way for its being set forth in all its fulness and glory.

13 For ye cannot but have heard abundantly of my former behaviour in my state of judaism, when I was a zealous professor and practiser of that religion, and such a bitter enemy to all that departed from it, that I cruelly persecuted the members of the New Testament-church of the living God, which, in its catholic consideration, consists of the visible professors of Christ's name, wherever they are scattered over the face of the earth; and I was so excessively mad and outrageous against them, as to bind and drag some of them to prison, and cause others of them to fly their country, others to renounce Christ, and others to be put to death: In this manner I made dreadful havoc among them, and did my utmost to destroy them, root and branch, (*Acts* viii. 3. and ix. 1, 2. and xxvi. 10, 11.) like a furious warrior, when he pursues the flying enemy, and when he storms a town. (*εδόκων και επορευην*)

14 And at the same time, I was a great proficient in the knowledge and observation of all the religious laws, doctrines, and customs of the *Jews*, even to their most minute rites and ceremonies; and laboured to propagate them beyond most of my years and standing among my own countrymen; being more eminently and remarkably zealous than they generally were, or than is commonly known, for all the traditions of my ancestors, as they have been handed down from one generation to another, whether they were such as were founded in a divine authority, or not. It cannot therefore

therefore be reasonably supposed, that so thorough a bigot as I was, should, all at once, abandon my former darling sentiments, temper, and course of life, in which I had been educated and riveted from my childhood up, and should embrace and preach Christ and the gospel, in direct opposition thereunto, and to all my secular interests, without some extraordinary call and divine influence from heaven.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,

15 But when God, who of his mere good pleasure, without merit as foreseen in me, (*ἀπορίστας με*) had set me apart for himself and his service, as he did the prophet *Jeremiah*, (chap. i. 5.) before I was born, and at the very time of his bringing me forth out of my mother's womb; and who accordingly afterwards, in the exceeding riches of his sovereign and distinguishing grace, whilst I was going upon a persecuting errand to *Damascus*, called me by an extraordinary miraculous appearance and voice from heaven, and by a powerful irresistible impression upon my heart, to make me both a Christian and a minister. (*Acts ix. 3,—22.*)

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

16 When, I say, it seemed good in his sight, who delights in mercy, to make a clear and full discovery of his dear Son, in all the glory of his person and offices, righteousness, and grace, not only *to me*, by external declaration, but likewise *in me* by internal and efficacious illumination, (*2 Cor. iv. 6.*) that I might both know and receive him for the salvation of my own soul, and might preach him to the *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*; I did not stand to consult the inclinations, ease, and comforts of animal nature, which consists of flesh and blood, nor with the dictates of human policy, relating to my worldly honour and interests as a man, or relating to the apparent risks, reproaches, and dangers, that I might be exposed unto by complying with this heavenly call*; nor did I advise with any mortal man whatsoever about my duty, in a case which was made so divinely plain to me.

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again

17 No, nor did I so much as go up to *Jerusalem* to receive any further instructions or authority from those that were called to the apostleship before me; being entirely satisfied with that immediate light and commission, which I had received from the Lord Jesus himself: But having begun my ministry at *Damascus*,

N O T E.

* As *flesh and blood* is a description of mortal man, and the apostle had spoke (*ver. 10*) of his seeking to please not man, but God; his *not consulting with flesh and blood*, may take in his not being influenced by a regard to human, worldly interests, as well as his

not advising with men; and so what he here says will be different from what he adds in the next verse, and will help to form a more beautiful gradation, than if we take it to be little more than explanatory of this.

gain unto Damascus.

15 Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came

mascus, where my conversion was publicly known, (*Acts* ix. 20.) I went forthwith * first of all into distant parts to preach Christ to the *Jews*, in the country of *Arabia*, where no apostle had been before me, and I had no opportunity of conversing with any of them; and from thence I returned back to *Damascus*.

18 Then, three years after God had made this wonderful change upon me †, I took a journey to *Jerusalem*, not to increase my knowledge of the gospel, or to have my commission confirmed for preaching it, but only to make a brotherly visit to *Peter*, that great apostle of the circumcision, that I might have the pleasure of conversing a little with him, and of hearing what the Lord had done by his and his brethrens ministry in those parts, and of telling them what he had likewise done by mine in other places, since he had called me by his grace: And *Barnabas* having introduced me to him, and told him how I had seen the Lord in the way, who had spoken to me, and how I had preached boldly at *Damascus* in the name of Jesus, (*Acts* ix. 27.) he readily received me as a faithful disciple and minister of Christ, and I tarried with him no more than fifteen days.

19 But I did not so much as see any other of the apostles, except one, who was then at *Jerusalem* likewise; and that was *James* the Just, who was brother or kinsman to our Lord Jesus, according to the flesh: So that there is no room to imagine that I received my knowledge of the gospel, or my commission to preach it, from the apostolic college.

20 And (ðs) as these things are of great importance for vindicating my character, and the doctrine I preach, both of which have been traduced by some among you: Pray observe, I call the great God to witness, and declare with all the solemnity of a religious oath, in his penetrating sight, to whom I must one day give an account, that all the facts I am rehearsing to you are strictly true; there is no manner of deceit or falsehood in my representation of any of them.

21 After this short visit at *Jerusalem*, I travelled into

N O T E S.

* Though the word *immediately* is placed just before *I conferred not with flesh and blood*, (ver. 16.) yet, as Mr. *Locke* observes, it principally relates to *I went into Arabia*, which probably was to preach the gospel, though not mentioned, that being of no importance to his argument, which was to shew that he was completely furnished

immediately from Christ himself for his ministerial office, before he had the least communication with any one of the apostles.

† This was the first time of the apostle's going to *Jerusalem* since his conversion, which was several years before he became an apostle. (See the notes on *Acts* ix. 17. and xiii. 3.)

came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judea, which were in Christ:

23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past, now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

24 And they glorified God in me.

into the provinces of *Syria* and *Cilicia*, some of the brethren of that church attending me in my way thither, as far as *Cesaria*, and sending me from thence to *Tarsus*, with the kindest expressions of their care and concern for my safety, (*Acts ix. 30.*) which shewed their approbation of me.

22 But (*&c.*) all this while, I was not personally known to any of the other churches of *Judea*, that were joined together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, as believers in Christ, who, professionally, and, in the judgment of charity, really are united to him; and so I cannot be supposed to have gathered my light in the gospel from them, any more than from the apostles.

23 All the knowledge they had of me was only by accounts, which they had received and propagated, with admiration and joy, among themselves, that the noted *Saul*, who formerly was the bitterest persecutor of the Christians, was now himself a preacher of those doctrines of the gospel, which they believe, and which he before did his utmost to suppress; and so is now become a helper of their faith, whom he before endeavoured to destroy, for their profession of it.

24 And thereupon they rendered hearty thanks and praises to God, for the grace that he had so freely and wonderfully bestowed on me, the chief of sinners; and for the rich advantage that accrued to the cause of Christ, as well as to my own soul, by this merciful and remarkable change that had been wrought in me.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

With what entire satisfaction may we depend upon the divine authority of the gospel, which was delivered by the apostle *Paul*, who has testified, even upon oath, that he received it, together with his commission to preach it, not from any mere man, but immediately from Jesus Christ, who is God-man! He is evidently *God*, as all ministerial, apostolic authority, spiritual blessings, and the whole of the gospel revelation, proceed jointly and equally from the Father and Him, in distinction from, and in opposition to, all that is derived from men; and he is as evidently *Man*, as he died and rose again from the dead: And O how infinitely important and beneficial is his death, who gave himself an atoning sacrifice for our sins, that he might deliver us from them, and from all the evils of this present world, according to the gracious appointment of God our Father; and whose resurrection is a high demonstration of the acceptableness and efficacy of his death for these great and holy purposes! On this foot we may comfortably hope for grace and peace from the Father and Son; and if grace be extended to us, we cannot fail of peace. But with what holy detestation should we reject those that would corrupt the gospel of Christ, and substitute another pretended gospel in its stead, for justification in any other way, than alone through faith in him! How grievous and astonishing is it, that any, who once seemed to embrace this blessed gospel, should be turned aside from it to some other scheme of doctrine, which, in reality, is no gospel at all, and never can bring salvation to them! And how heavy is the curse that lies upon those that pervert them! But O, what a wonderful and happy change does the grace of our Lord Jesus make, when it effectually reaches the heart! It reveals Christ in them that were utter strangers to him before; and

makes

makes them ready to confess the ignorance and error that they formerly gloried in; it turns the greatest bigots for superstition and human traditions, and the most inveterate enemies to Christ, into sincere believers; it changes the most furious persecutors of his people into true lovers of him and them, and into zealous preachers of that gospel which they before sought to destroy: and it makes them such faithful servants of Jesus Christ, as no longer seek to please men, by any sinful compliances with them; and when he calls them to his work, for which he separated them in his own purpose, when they were born, and even before all worlds, they yield obedience to him, without consulting the interests of the flesh, or the opinion of men. And O what matter of thanksgiving and joy is it to his churches, whenever they hear of such monuments being raised to the praise of the glory of his grace, whether they have ever seen their faces or not! They glorify God for his power and mercy in saving them, and for all the service to his people and cause that is done, and may be further hoped for by them.

C H A P. II.

The apostle further proves the divine authority of his doctrine and mission by James, Peter and John's owning him and Barnabas, as apostles of the Gentiles, and receiving Titus, a Greek, into their Christian communion, without his being circumcised, 1,—10. Gives an account of another interview with Peter, at Antioch, where he publicly opposed him for Judaizing, 11,—14. and takes occasion from thence to enter upon his main point in view, relating to justification by faith in Christ, without the works of the law, 15,—21.

TEXT.

THEN fourteen years after, I went up again to Jerusalem, with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also:

PARAPHRASE.

AS a further evidence that my apostolic instructions and commission are immediately from Christ himself, I would add, that I never saw any of the apostles again, till eleven years after my forementioned visit to Peter; (chap. i. 18.) when*, fourteen years from the time of my conversion, I made a journey to Jerusalem, in company with my beloved brother Barnabas, my colleague in the apostleship to the Gentiles, (Acts xv. 2.) taking Titus also, a serious and excellent young man, and minister of Christ, along with me.

2 And I went up by revelation, and

2 And I then went up to the church there, not to be taught, or confirmed in my office, by them, or by the

NOTE.

* This was not the apostle's second journey to Jerusalem, when, whilst he was praying in the temple, he was in a trance, and saw Christ in person; which he speaks of, Acts xxii. 17, 18. and when he probably received his apostolic commission to the Gentiles. (See the note on Acts ix. 17.) But what he here speaks of is his third journey to Jerusalem, which he took with Barnabas on occasion of the dispute that had been raised at Antioch about circumcising the

converted Gentiles, Acts xv. 1,—4. which most probably was about fourteen years after his conversion, and consequently but eleven after his first journey thither, mentioned chap. i. 18. And though he had been at Jerusalem to carry alms thither, (Acts xi. 29, 30. and xii. 25.) between these two journeys, yet, as he then saw none of the apostles, it was needless for him to take any notice of it here. (See Dr. Whitby's note on this verse.)

and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run in vain.

the apostles that were with them; but on an important occasion, relating to the circumcising of the believing *Gentiles*, which some vehemently contended for, as necessary to salvation. (*Acts* xv. 1, 2, 5. See the note there.) And this I did by special direction from the Lord*, to maintain the truth and purity of the gospel, according to the revelation that had been made of it to me: And when I came thither, so far was I from receiving the gospel from them, that (*αὐτοῖς*) I explained it in its full extent to them, setting it forth at large, as I preached it among the idolatrous, as well as other *Gentiles*; and declaring what glorious success God had given me in that work. (*Acts* xv. 4, 12.) But I did this at first only in a private manner, to persons of the greatest eminence and influence among them, alone, and between ourselves, (see the note on *Acts* xv. 3.) as thinking this to be the most prudent method of proceeding, lest, if those of the *Judaizing* party should have had a full and plain account of it, before they had been softened by persons of the greatest esteem and reputation among them, that would own, or countenance me in it, they should have raised furious clamours against me, and by one means or other, should have defeated, in some degree at least, the good effect of those services that I had further to carry on among the *Gentiles*; and even of those that I had already been engaged in with happy success, and with great labour, earnestness, and concern, like one that lays himself out to the utmost in running a race.

3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

3 But to shew how steadfastly and openly I stuck to my own principles, and how far I was from going into any thing, either in my preaching or conduct, that looked like encouraging an observation of the *Mosaic* law, as necessary to a man's being justified and saved, I carried Titus along with me, as has been said, (*ver.* 1.) who, though a *Greek*, and so a *Gentile* by birth, was not constrained to be circumcised at his conversion and admission into the ministry; nor when I brought him to the apostles at *Jerusalem*, did any of them insist on his being so.

4 And

N O T E.

* By revelation (*κατὰ ἀποκαλύψιν*) is understood by some to signify that the apostle went according to the special appointment of God, as intimated by the Holy Ghost to the prophets of the church at *Antioch*, and to himself, to comply with their desire of his going on their message to *Jerusalem*; but others take it to mean, that in this journey he acted

suitable to the revelation which constituted him the apostle of the *Gentiles*, telling the church at *Jerusalem* what things he had done among the *Gentiles* in pursuance of it: (See Dr. *Whitby's* note.) And as the construction of the words, and the truth of the fact, may agree to either of these senses, I have given them both a place in the paraphrase.

4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty, which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage :

5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no not for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

6 But of those who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person) for they who seemed to be somewhat, in conference

4 And I took this Christian minister along with me, without suffering him to be circumcised, on purpose to bear a public testimony against the erroneous opinion of some of the Pharisaical sect, who, pretending to be believers in Christ, had come from *Judea*; and, having been artfully introduced, insinuated themselves among the converts at *Antioch*, (*Acts xv. 1, 5.*) * under the colour of Christian friends and brethren, that they might have the better opportunity for narrowly inspecting our principles and conduct, and for cavilling against that holy freedom, which we are partakers of, by Christ the only Saviour; and that they might impose circumcision as a badge and bond of subjection to the *Mosaic* law, as if he had not delivered them that believe in him from that covenant and its curse. †

5 This was such a bold and dangerous insult upon the purity of the gospel-doctrine of justification alone by Christ, through faith in him, that how allowable soever in some cases, and under some considerations, it may be to give way, for a time, to the weaknesses and prejudices of honest Christians, with regard to the circumcision of *Jewish* converts; (see the note and paraphrase on *Acts xvi. 3.*) yet when the false brethren insisted on *Gentile* believers being circumcised, and so brought under an obligation to keep the whole law of *Moses*, in order to their acceptance with God to eternal life; neither I nor *Barnabas*, (ver. 2.) would by any means yield to them, by consenting to such a subjection to the law: (*οὐκ εἴξαμεν τῇ υποταγῇ*) No, in a case of such vast importance, we would not comply with them in the least, for so much as one hour, or in any one instance whatsoever, that the true doctrine and design of the gospel of the grace of God, relating to justification in his sight, might continue uncorrupted among you, and all the rest of the believing *Gentiles*.

6 But as to those of my fellow-apostles, *James*, *Peter*, and *John*, (ver. 9.) who are indeed eminent servants of Jesus Christ, and are highly magnified by your *Judaizing* teachers, as every way to be preferred to me, whatsoever they have been formerly, (*πῶς*) it does not at all affect my character, nor does it make me a whit better or worse, than I should have been, whether they were so great and valuable in themselves, or in your account, or not: That God, who called

N O T E.

* *False brethren unawares brought in*, is thought by some to be meant of their being brought into the private assembly at *Jerusalem*, ver. 2. But as

here is a manifest reference to what is recorded, *Acts xv. 1, &c.* I rather conceive that the church at *Antioch* is intended.

ference added nothing to me.

called me, as well as them, to the apostleship, has no regard to any man's person whatsoever, on account of names and parties, or of external privileges and appearances; but reveals his gospel, and gives his commission for preaching it, to whom, and in what way he pleases, as he has in an immediate manner to me, without any assistance from them; for, be they ever so great, I must say, that none of them, in the conversation I had with them, contributed any thing to the improvement of my knowledge, beyond what I had learned from Christ before; nor did any of them pretend to find fault with, or go about to correct and mend, what I had preached and done among the *Gentiles*.

7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

7 But, on the contrary, when they heard the account, which I and my brother *Barnabas* gave them, of what the Lord had wrought by us among the *Gentiles*, (Acts xv. 5, 12.) they plainly perceived that I was intrusted by a divine commission with the ministry of the gospel of salvation to the uncircumcised heathens, as *Peter* was of the same gospel, for the substance of it, to the circumcised *Jews*. (See the note on *Rom.* ii. 26.)

8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me towards the *Gentiles*)

8 For it appeared by undeniable facts, that the same Lord, who worked effectually in and by *Peter*, and had produced wonders of miracles and of grace, as the seals of his apostolic mission to the circumcised *Jews*; had likewise worked with equal power and efficacy in and by me, unto as full and clear a demonstration of my apostolic mission to the uncircumcised *Gentiles*.

9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and *Barnabas* the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

9 And when those famous apostles, *James*, *Peter* and *John*, knew how remarkably God had honoured me with his free favour, in qualifying me for, calling me to, and owning me in my ministry to the *Gentiles*; they, who are indeed eminent servants of Christ, and who in the account of mine enemies themselves, were esteemed as the principal supporters, maintainers, and defenders of the gospel; they, I say, took me and my fellow-labourer *Barnabas* by the right hand, as a symbol of receiving us into their brotherly affection and communion, and readily owning us as the apostles of Christ; and they agreed, that, according to what he had discovered of his mind and will relating to us, we should go on, in his name and strength, preaching to the *Gentiles*, and taking them for our principal province, as we had begun to do before; and that they themselves would persist in preaching to the *Jews*, and taking them for their chief province to carry on the work of Christ among

them; and so we cordially wished each other success in the name of the Lord.

10 Only *they* *could* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

10 Only the three apostles united in their earnest request, that we would be mindful of the necessitous Christians in those perilous days among the *Jews*, to procure charitable contributions for their relief from among the *Gentile* converts, that might be both able and willing to assist them; which was so laudable, compassionate, and needful a work, that whether they had mentioned it or not, I was of my own accord desirous to engage in it, not only from my natural affection to my own countrymen, and from the hearty and impartial love I bear to all Christ's poor, without distinction of parties, for his sake; but likewise from a consideration that the *Gentile* Christians were debtors to the *Jews*, as they received the gospel from them; and so, being made partakers of their spiritual things, ought to minister to them in carnal things. (1 *Cor.* xv. 26, 27.) By all this it plainly appears, that there was an entire agreement between the other apostles and me at *Jerusalem*; and that they thoroughly approved of my doctrine and commission, as of the same divine authority with their own.

11 But when *Peter* was come to *Antioch*, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

11 But when afterwards* *Peter* came to *Antioch*, where was the first memorable church of the *Gentile* Christians, (*Acts* xi. 26.) yea, the very church that sent me and *Barnabas* to *Jerusalem*, on the question about the *Gentiles* being obliged to be circumcised, and received an answer in the negative. (*Acts* xv. 1, —32.) I knowing myself to be no way inferior in office to him, and finding an inconsistency in his conduct here with his avowed principles at *Jerusalem*, did not go about to reproach him behind his back; but, in faithfulness to my trust, took the liberty to oppose and reprove him personally to his face; because, notwithstanding all his greatness and goodness, he, being left to his own spirit, behaved at such a rate as deserved to be openly discountenanced and condemned †.

12 For

N O T E S.

* Some have thought that this was before the council at *Jerusalem*: (*Acts* xv.) but I rather incline to those that take it to have been after, for the order of the narrative speaks for this; and *Paul* and *Barnabas* certainly went to *Antioch* with the decree of the council, and continued there preaching the word for some time afterwards. (*Acts* xv. 22, 35.) But it does not appear that *Paul* had seen *Peter* more than once before his third journey to *Jerusalem*, which he

mentions *ver.* 1. of this chapter. (See the note there.)

† As what the apostle writes, in this and the three following verses, is admirably suited to his purpose, for supporting his authority, as equal to that of *Peter* himself; so it gives us a flagrant proof against the popish pleas for the supremacy of *Peter* and his pretended successors; and shews, that the apostles themselves were neither infallible nor impeccable, any further than they were under the immediate

12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew, and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly, according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all. If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

12 For at his first coming to *Antioch*, before the arrival of some zealous *Judaizing* Christians, that came from the apostle *James*, he knowing his Christian-liberty, freely conversed, and sat down to meals in a friendly manner, with the believing *Gentiles*, without any scruple on account of their not being circumcised, or of their different meats and ways of dressing them, than were allowed by the *Mosaic* law: But as soon as those brethren arrived, he temporized so far, as to carry it shy toward the *Gentile* converts, and decline all further converse in a social and familiar manner with them, through his fear of offending those zealots, and raising their prejudices, rage, and outcries against him.

13 And the rest of the *Jewish* Christians at *Antioch*, that had pretty well got over their old prejudices against the believing *Gentile*, on account of their not being circumcised, were so unhappily misled by *Peter's* behaviour, as to follow his steps under feigned pretences of its being unlawful; or at least inexpedient to associate freely with them. And as a bad example in the greatest and best of men is, of all others, the most ensnaring and delisting to those that have a good opinion of them; so even *Barnabas* himself, though he was an excellent Christian and apostle of the *Gentiles*, was carried away with the stream, and under the power of temptation and remaining corruption, was likewise drawn by specious pretences, contrary to his own judgment, to fall in with this pernicious scheme.

14 But when, in reflection on their conduct, I perceived that, in this particular, they did not act up to the simplicity and godly sincerity of the Christian-character, nor regularly trace, with a right foot, (*οὐκ ὀρθοποδοῦσι*) or behave correspondent to the true spirit and design of the gospel-doctrine of justification alone by Christ; my soul was filled with holy indignation; and applying myself personally to *Peter*, as the ringleader in this dangerous sort of double-dealing, I said to him publicly, in the presence of *Barnabas* and all the *Judaizers*, by way of caution and rebuke to them as well as him, and of confirmation to the believing *Gentiles*. Since you, who are yourself originally a *Jew*, think proper, and make no scruple,

on

N O T E.

immediate conduct and influence of the Holy Ghost: But this no way affects the rule of faith, which we have in the written word of God, and which faithfully condemns such things in the apostles themselves, as proceeded from their own spirit, and not from the Spirit of God,

that we might not be misled by them, and might be assured, that, where no such intimation is given, and nothing of that kind appears from the nature of things, we may safely depend on the divine authority of what they said and did. (See the note on 1 Cor. vii. 10.)

on some occasions, to converse with, and conform to the customs of the *Gentiles*, without respect to any distinction of nations or meats, or regard to the prohibitions of the law of *Moses* about them; and since you do not always confine yourself to the ceremonial customs of the *Jews*, How unreasonable, injurious, and self-condemning is it in you, by this your refusing for fear of the *Jews* to converse or eat with the *Gentiles*, to entice and influence them, that never were under the law, to go into an observation of it after the manner of the *Jews*, as if they could not otherwise be accepted of God? How absurd and contrary to the truth of the gospel is this!

15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the *Gentiles*,

15 For we, *Peter, Barnabas, Paul*, and other believers, who are *Jews* by birth, and as such were counted an holy people, and trained up under the instructions and obligations of the *Mosaic* law, and were not sinners of the *Gentile* race, who were always utter strangers to that law, and looked upon as the most profligate and abandoned wretches;

16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of *Jesus Christ*, even we have believed in *Jesus Christ*, that we might be justified by the faith of *Christ*; and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

16 We, I say, when God came to work effectually upon us by his Spirit, were fully convinced, that no man can be acquitted from condemnation, and accepted of God as righteous, by his performances of the works of the law, in any view or consideration of them whatsoever, but that this benefit is to be obtained merely through faith in *Christ*, on account of that perfect righteousness, which he has wrought out in conformity and satisfaction to the holy and broken law; even we, (who stood upon better terms for life than the *Gentiles*) being made thoroughly sensible of this, have been induced to believe in *Christ*, as the only Saviour, for this very end and purpose, that we might be justified unto eternal life, entirely and alone through faith, as apprehending and receiving him, and not at all, neither in whole nor in part, by our own performances of the deeds of the law. And there was an absolute necessity for our taking this course, as ever we would not miscarry in an affair of such vast importance: (much more must it be so for the *Gentiles*, who have still less pretences, than we had, to depend upon their own works) For considering the strict demands of the law, and the great and many defects that are found in the best of us, it is impossible that *any man living*, be he *Jew* or *Gentile*, should be justified by his obedience to its moral, and much less to its ceremonial precepts, or by any personal righteousness of his own*, as the scripture itself assures us. (*Psalms* cxliii. 2.)

17 But

N O T E.

* The apostle's citing this passage of scripture, in proof that they could not be justified

17 But if while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might

17 But if, whilst in this manner, we, in a way of believing, seek for justification alone by what Christ has done and suffered in our room and stead, which is the proper meaning of what I call being justified by the faith of Christ; (*ver.* 16.) If at the same time we ourselves are found to be under guilt and condemnation, as unpardoned and accursed sinners, which is the case with all those that are under the law; (*chap.* iii. 10. and *Rom.* iii. 19.) shall we therefore say, that, after all that Christ has revealed about the way of salvation, and has wrought in us by his Spirit to make us renounce all expectations of being justified by the law, he is the author of a dispensation, which, instead of bringing in righteousness to eternal life, leaves us under the guilt of sin, and consequently under its power, to be dealt with as transgressors *? Detestable thought! Far be it from ever entering into my mind.

18 For if I again go about to set up the righteousness of the law for justification before God, after I had renounced all regard to it for that purpose, which is like a foolish builder's erecting the same sort of house, that he had pulled down as insufficient to answer his end, I should grievously offend against God and my own conscience, by falling from the doctrine of grace, (*chap.* v. 4.) and defeating my own design in believing on Christ alone for justification; and should reduce myself again to a state of guilt and condemnation, which, according to the tenor of the law, must be the case of every one that has transgressed it. (*Chap.* iii. 10.) But this I can never be persuaded to do.

19 For by the deep sense I have of the spirituality, extent, and strictness of the law, in its demands for justification, and of God's design to convince of sin,

N O T E S.

justified by the works of the law, shews that he included the works of the moral, as well as of the ceremonial law; for David undoubtedly did so when he said, (*Psal.* cxliii. 2. the place here referred to) *In thy sight shall no man living be justified*; and our apostle alledging it in the same argument, *Rom.* iii. 19, 20. explains it, as relating to the law, in such a manner, as can agree to none but the moral law; for he there speaks of it as the law, by which *the whole world is become guilty before God*, and by which is the knowledge of sin. (See the note there.)

* There is the greatest difficulty in fixing the determinate sense of this verse; but the interpretation given in the paraphrase seems to fall in directly with the

whole tenor of the apostle's argument; and the only objection, as I conceive, against it is, that a *minister of sin*, according to the genuine sense of that expression, signifies one that countenances or some way contributes to it: But this idea will be included, if we consider that unpardoned sin is always reigning sin, and its guilt being charged upon us, subjects us to its power and dominion; and so if we are really unjustified, while we seek and profess to be justified by Christ, we, in effect, are still under the power of sin; and if Christ's doctrine of justification alone by him leaves us in that state, he thereby, instead of delivering us from sin, the more effectually binds it upon us.

might live unto God.

sin, and not to justify the sinner by it, I am quite taken off from, and dead to all my former expectations of righteousness to eternal life by it; (*Rom. vii. 9, 10.*) and now see that I am discharged from the *Mosaic* law, as a covenant of works, that I might live in a state of favour and acceptance with God, through the righteousness of Christ, in whom I have believed for this very purpose* ; and that being divorced from the law as my first husband, and married to Christ, I might live upon better principles, to better ends, and under new obligations, in all holiness to God, according to the unchangeable rule of obedience, which he has laid down in the law. (*Rom. vii. 1,—6.*)

20 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.

20 I, in this manner, am crucified to the law, or, which is much the same thing, the law is crucified to me, as to all expectations of life, or possibility of attaining it by any personal obedience to its precepts; I have entirely done with it for any such purpose, through, and together with, and by virtue derived from Christ, who was crucified to bear its curse, and cancel its obligation as a covenant: Nevertheless, whilst I am, in this sense, dead to the law, I am brought into a state of justification to life, and am enabled on that foundation to bring forth living fruits of righteousness to God; yet this life, in either of these considerations of it, is not owing to any thing in myself, but only to Christ, who lives as a head of righteousness, and a head of influence in me, by virtue of my union with him; so that it is not so much I that live, as Christ that lives in me; and the life of pardon and acceptance with God, and for his glory, to which I am now restored, and according to which I continue to live and act, whilst I am here in the body, is not by the works of the law, nor according to the dictates of the flesh, but only by that faith, which renounces every thing of self, and carries me out to the eternal Son of God, as relying entirely upon him, and deriving all vital influence from him, who, in the greatness of his endearing, matchless, and distinguishing grace, without any desert in myself, loved me, and freely gave himself up to the worst of deaths, to make a complete atonement for my sin †, and

N O T E S.

* I think interpreters, by having generally dropped the notion of living to God, in a state of pardon and acceptance with him, in this and the following verse, lose sight of the apostle's main argument, as if it had no concern here, and make the connection of the 21st verse with these very abrupt; and therefore I have

brought into view the life of justification, as well as of sanctification and holiness, in this part of the apostle's reasoning.

† The apostle's saying so emphatically, and with appropriation, *Christ loved me, and gave himself for me*, intimates, that he looked upon this as a peculiar favour to him, in distinction from the bulk

and to redeem me from its power, and from the wrath to come, and entitle me to eternal life.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

21 In all this I stick close to my evangelical principles, I do not, I dare not, I would not be so ungrateful, as to despise, reject, or make void (*ex ad-τῶ*) the gospel of grace, the love of Christ, and the free favour of God, in giving him for us, and accepting us as righteous through faith in him, as they do who plead for justification by the works of the law*: For if righteousness to eternal life were to be wrought out by our obedience to the law, under any consideration of it whatsoever, there would then have been no need of his dying to discharge us from condemnation, and entitle us to life; and so the grace of God, which appears in his death, answers no purposes of this kind, that might not have been answered without it; nay, if the law bears any part in our justification, his death was insufficient of itself for it, and *grace is no more grace.* (Rom. xi. 6.)

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

With what remarkable prudence did the great apostle, gradually and seasonably, communicate the gospel of Christ in all its extent, light, and glory; first to persons of chief esteem, rank, and influence in the church, that, being countenanced by them, it might have the easier access to the prejudiced minds of others, and that he might not lose the great end of his ministry, in which he laboured for the salvation of immortal souls! With what faithfulness did he, together with all his prudence, stick to his evangelical principles, and execute his commission, in not suffering *Titus* to be circumcised, when an ill use was likely to be made of it, to the subverting of the gospel! And with what evidence did he support the divine authority of his office, as equal to that of *Peter*, or of any other apostles! Accordingly, *James*, *Peter*, and *John*, neither of which claimed a superiority over the other, upon hearing with what glorious efficacy Christ had exerted his power in and by him, could not but embrace him with the affection of brethren; and while they could add nothing to the revelation, or the commission, which he had received, they cheerfully agreed, that he and *Barnabas* should go on with their work principally among the *Gentiles*, wishing them prosperity in the name of the Lord; and that they themselves would mostly continue to preach the same gospel to the *Jews*. And *Paul*, to shew his affection to *Jewish* converts, without distinction of parties, was as willing to do what in him lay for the relief of their poor, as their own apostles could wish him to be. But, alas! how far may the best of God's servants and people be suffered, under the power of temptation, to act unbecomingly the sincerity of their Christian character, and injuriously to the true gospel of Christ! Witness *Peter*, *Barnabas*, and many other believing *Jews*. And how dangerous are great examples, when they take a wrong turn! Whatsoever therefore any man's authority, reputation, or pretences be, an unworthy behaviour is to be detested and opposed in them, as well as in persons of lower character; and they who publicly offend, should be as publicly rebuked, that others may hear and fear. And with what earnestness, zeal, and holy boldness, should gospel ministers, and Christians too, contend for the pure doctrine of justification alone by Christ, through faith in him, in opposition to justification by any works of the law! Their own experience, under the saving convictions and operations of the Spirit, leads them to believe

N O T E S.

of mankind, and particularly from those that were strangers to his living in them.

* The reason which the apostle here gives against justification by the works of the law, is of equal force in every consideration of them; and therefore is not to be restrained to the works of the ceremonial law.

believe in Christ alone for this purpose, as knowing that they were before in a state of condemnation, and that by the deeds of the law no man can be justified. They, by their insight into the true nature and design of the law itself, are dead to all expectations of being justified by it, that they may look for this benefit alone from Christ, through his atoning blood and sacrifice; and may live by faith on him for it, and for quickening and sanctifying influence to enable them to live in all holy obedience to God, according to the everlasting rule of righteousness, as contained in the moral law. This is indeed not so much their own living, as Christ's living in them: And to take any other course for seeking acceptance with God, and effectual influence for living to him, is to go about to build what they themselves had before destroyed, and to subject them to a state of guilt and condemnation, as sinners whom the law can never justify; and it is to render the free grace of God, and the meritorious death of Christ useless, and of none effect: But O how delightful is it, when the believer can make a personal claim to Christ, and say on good grounds, He loved me, and gave himself for me!

C H A P. III.

The apostle reproveth, and warmly expostulates with the Galatians for their folly in departing from the great doctrine of justification alone through faith in Christ, 1,—5. establishes this doctrine from the example of Abraham's justification, 6,—9. from the tenor of the law, and the severity of its curse, from which believers are redeemed by Christ, that they might be blessed with Abraham, 10,—14. from the stability of the covenant of promises made with him, which the law could not disannul, and from the inconsistency of justification by the free promise, and by the law, 15,—18. He nevertheless shews that the law had its use, as it was given to sinners among the Jews to convince them of their need of a Saviour, and was a school-master to lead them to Christ, 19,—25. and that under the gospel-state true believers are, without distinction of nations, or of external circumstances, all one in Christ, and heirs of Abraham's blessings, 26,—28.

TEXT.

FOOLISH Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

PARAPHRASE.

OH, ye thoughtless, inconsiderate, stupid Galatians! (*ανοητοί*) I would not reproach you; but my heart is moved with tender compassion toward you, and with holy zeal for the purity of the gospel, which is corrupted among you: By what artful insinuations and stratagems has Satan, or any false teacher, as his instrument, so far infatuated you, as to prevent your continuing to adhere, and yield yourselves up to the true gospel-doctrine of justification alone by Jesus Christ, through faith in him, (*chap. ii. 16.*) who in his sufferings and death has been in as lively and affecting a manner represented, and, as it were, painted out among you, in the preaching of the gospel, and in the administration of the Lord's supper, as if ye had actually seen him hanging upon the cross with your bodily eyes; and the design of whose crucifixion,

cifixion, to deliver you from the law, as a covenant of works, has been clearly opened to you?

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

2 Let me only ask you this fair and plain question, to convince you of your prodigious folly and madness herein; Were ye made partakers of the Holy Spirit, (which so many of you were endued with, in his miraculous gifts, and I would charitably hope, in his graces too) by the ministration of the law, or on account, or by means of any works performed by you in obedience to that ministration of death and condemnation? (2 *Cor.* iii. 7, 9.) Or, on the contrary, was it not by means of your hearing and embracing the doctrine of faith in Christ alone for justification, even that word of faith which we preach, and is the ministration of the Spirit, and of righteousness? (*Rom.* x. 8. and 2 *Cor.* iii. 8, 9.) Which of these is it that God has owned with such remarkable tokens of his favour and acceptance? The fact evidently proves, and ye must surely acknowledge, that it was not by the first, but by the last of these dispensations; especially considering that many of you never so much as heard of the law of *Moses*, till after ye were converted from your *Gentilism*.

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

3 Having then set out so happily and hopefully in your Christian course, under the light and influence of the Spirit, with faith in Christ for all acceptance to eternal life, according to the tenor of the gospel; how surprisingly stupid and irrational is it, for any of you to imagine, that your justification is to be completed by your own obedience to the law, which may be termed *flesh*, in opposition to the gospel, as it is destitute of the Spirit, (2 *Cor.* iii. 6,—8.) and a man is bound to obey the whole of it by the fleshly ordinance of circumcision; (*Gal.* v. 3.) as its ceremonial rites sanctify only to the purifying of the flesh; (*Heb.* ix. 13.) and as seeking justification by any works of the law is pleasing to the flesh, is taught by the wisdom of the flesh, and gratifies the pride of corrupt nature, in giving it occasion of assuming glory to itself? (*Rom.* iv. 2.) But all this is so far from perfecting, that it is directly subversive of the gospel-doctrine, in this grand article of it.

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

4 And as ye have suffered a great deal of persecution, by the instigation of your adversaries the *Jews*, for your profession of this very doctrine; how preposterously weak and foolish has your submitting to so many hardships on that account been, without any manner of spiritual benefit to yourselves? If, after all, (which God forbid) ye should apostatize; and so both your profession and sufferings should prove to be unprofitable and vain.

5 He therefore that ministrerth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore, that they which *are* of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

5 To return therefore to my argument, (*ver. 2.*) whether ye consider Christ as the author *, or me as only the instrument, of communicating to some of you, at least, such gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit, as are tokens of God's accepting you; and of such wonderful miracles as are a divine attestation to the truth of the gospel; are these powerful and gracious effects produced under the influence of Christ's Spirit, by means of my preaching, or of your doing, the works of the law, in order to your justification? It is evident that there can be no pretence of this kind. Or were these favours conferred upon you, by means of your hearing and embracing the doctrine of faith in Christ, as alone sufficient to answer that end? They certainly were: And this is a testimony from God, that your justification is no way owing to the law, but only to Christ, through faith in him.

6 Even as it was in the case of *Abraham*, (*Gen. xv. 1, 5, 6.*) that eminent father of the faithful, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, (*ver. 28, 29.*) who gave credit to, and rested upon, the promise which God made to him of the *Messiah*; (*ver. 8, 16.*) and what he apprehended, and believed in the promised Saviour for, was imputed to him for righteousness unto justification. (See the note on *Rom. iv. 3.*)

7 Be ye therefore assured, that they who are true believers in Christ, according to the promises, as that great patriarch was, are in a spiritual sense the true children of *Abraham*, whom God owns and accepts as such, that they may be blessed together with him.

8 And as there is but one way of any sinner's being justified; so the Holy Ghost, by whose inspiration the scriptures of the Old Testament were written, foreknowing that God designed, in due time, to justify the idolatrous *Gentiles*, as well as others, only through faith in Christ, intimated it long beforehand, even before the institution of circumcision, and the giving of the law, by the glad tidings of salvation which he published in his promise to *Abraham*, *saying*, (*Gen. xii. 3.*) *In thee*, meaning *in thy seed*, as it is afterwards explained, (*chap. xxii. 18.*) *i. e.* through the obedience and sufferings of the *Messiah*, who will descend from thy loins, shall persons of all nations, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, be graciously accepted of God, and blessed with all spiritual and eternal blessings.

9 From

N O T E.

* He that ministrerth or supplies (*ο εταροχρηστων*) may relate either to Christ, who was mentioned, (*ver. 1.*) or to the apostle himself, though he in modesty concealed his own name; and both are

introduced into the paraphrase in a manner suitable to the different concernment that Christ and the apostle had in the things here mentioned.

9 So then they which be of faith, are blessed with faithful Abraham.

10 For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

9 From hence therefore it plainly follows, that they, who are partakers of a true and lively faith in Christ, and seek to be justified merely on his account, whatsoever their character and condition had been before, are blessed together with, and as effectually as, believing *Abraham* himself, that famous friend of God; which they could never be by virtue of their own personal obedience to the law.

10 For all mankind being sinners, as many of them as are under the law-covenant, and are such abettors of its works, as to look for pardon, justification, and salvation by, and for what they can do in conformity to it, are so far from being blessed, that they are under a sentence of condemnation to misery and death: For so strict and severe is the law-tenure in its moral demands, that it absolutely condemns for every failure, inasmuch that it is written, with regard to all that are under it, (*Deut. xxvii. 26.*) The curse of God, which is the declaration of his wrath in the law, stands in force against every one, and binds him over to deserved punishment, who does not personally, universally, and perfectly continue at all times, in thought, word, and deed, through the whole course of his life, to observe and perform every precept that is recorded in the book of the law, without the least flaw or defect, by any sin of omission or commission whatsoever.

11 But it is still further evident, that no man is, or can be, justified on account of his own obedience to the law, at the bar of the just and holy God, whose penetrating eye observes every sinful motion of the heart, as well as action of the life: For he has appointed another way for the justification of sinful men, as appears from an express declaration of his will in his word, where he says, (*Hab. ii. 4.*) The man, who is accounted righteous before God, shall be delivered from law-condemnation, and brought into a state of life and salvation; and shall continue to live in that state of favour and acceptance, through Jesus Christ and his righteousness, by means of his faith in him, till it be crowned with eternal life. (*Rom. i. 17.* see the note and paraphrase there.)

12 And it is certain, that the way prescribed for justification in the law is not by faith; but the terms which it has fixed for that purpose are, that the man who perfectly answers all its demands, by doing every thing which it enjoins, he, and none but he, shall be acquitted from condemnation, and entitled to life by it; so that, unless his obedience to the law be perpetual, sinless, and without defect, which is impossible to any man in his present fallen state, he

is so far from being able to obtain a title to life by the tenor of the law, that he cannot free himself from its curse.

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree :

13 But Christ, in the greatness of his love, and by the merit of his death, (*ἐξηγοράσεν*) has bought us, who believe in him, out of the hands of justice; and so by the price of his own precious blood, has delivered us from all that wrath and punishment, which is summed up and threatned in the curse of the law, as the due desert of sin; he having, by God the Father's appointment, come under the sentence and execution of the law, in our room and stead, when he hung, like the vilest of criminals, on the cross, as is intimated by the very nature of that kind of death, and his being *delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God*, to suffer it; (*Act* ii. 23.) for this sort of death was not only the most infamous of all others among the *Romans*, but is stigmatized in the *Mosaic* law itself, where it is written, (*Deut.* xxi. 23.) with a typical view to the crucifixion of Christ, Every one that is hanged on a tree, is to be deemed as forsaken of God, and devoted to death, according to the utmost rigour of the law against the most execrable offenders, that are condemned as guilty in its eye.

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

14 Our blessed Lord, with amazing condescension and compassion to us, submitted in this manner to bear and take away the curse of the law from us, that instead of its being executed upon us, according to our deserts, the blessing of righteousness to justification and life, (*ver.* 11, 21.) which was conferred on *Abraham*, and was promised to him for his covenant-seed, that should claim under Christ, in whom all nations were to be blessed, might be freely vouchsafed, even to believing sinners of the *Gentiles*, through the only Saviour, who should descend from his loins; and particularly that we, who live under the gospel-dispensation, whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, might receive the promised Spirit in a plentiful communication of his gifts, graces, and comforts, as the pledge and token of our title to the eternal inheritance, and as a testification of it to our consciences, not for, or on account of, any works of our own, but merely through faith in him, who purchased this blessing for us,

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannul-

15 To illustrate this point, my brethren, by a plain and familiar example taken from the common practice of all nations in their civil affairs, and by language that men are well acquainted with: We know from the nature of a covenant of promises, like that to *Abraham*, that if it be but an engagement made by

annulleth, or addeth thereto.

by such mutable and short-sighted-creatures as men, who may afterwards change their minds, and find some unforeseen inconveniences attending it; yet if it be once duly ratified, by its being signed and sealed, it is not lawful for any one, without the consent of the covenantor, to alter it, either by cancelling and making it void, on one hand; or by adding new articles to it, as the self-justiciaries and legatists of this day would do by the covenant of grace, on the other.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

16 Now, to apply this to the case before us, the covenant that I have given a hint of, (*ver.* 8, 9, 14.) relating to the way of our being accepted of God as righteous, consisted of a free promise, which, because of its vast comprehension of blessings, and of its being first made to *Abraham*, and afterwards repeated to him, and to *Isaac*, (*Gen.* xii. 3. and xxii. 18. and xxvi. 4.) may be called the *promises*, and which the all-wise and unchangeable God himself, who cannot lie, made, not to the father of the faithful only, but to him and his seed: And to shew that this was meant of one particular sort of seed, God did not say that he gave this covenant of promises to *Abraham*, and to his *seeds* in the plural number, as if he meant all his *natural*, as well as *spiritual* children, or such of his fleshly posterity as should seek to be justified upon any other foot, than that of the covenant made with him, as well as with those that walk in the steps of his faith: (*Rom.* iv. 12.) But God, in a way of promise to his seed, spoke in the singular number, which was primarily meant of *Christ* himself, as to descend from him, not through the loins of *Ishmael*, but of *Isaac*, who was the child of the promise; and so represented the true children of *Abraham*, that should be accounted his spiritual seed, and should be reckoned to *Christ*, and claim under him, as members of his mystical body, through faith in him. (*Rom.* ix. 7, 8.)*

17 And this I say, that the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law

17 Thus therefore I argue; this covenant of promises, which was made with a view to *Christ*, (*ut Xg-son*) and was to receive its final confirmation by his blood, having been before-hand ratified by God in him, and with relation to him, who is the head, mediator,

N O T E.

* *Thy seed, which is Christ*, is understood by some to mean our Lord himself personally, as descended from *Abraham*; and by others *Christ mystically*, as comprehending all his spiritual seed, or those that believe in him, who, whether they be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, are in a co-

venant-sense *Abraham's seed*, and heirs according to the promise. (*ver.* 29.) And as I think both may be included, the paraphrase introduces both; though it seems, as if the primary reference were to *Christ personally* considered.

law which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

15 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? it was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come, to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

ator, surety, and substance of it, and who, according to the assurance then given to *Abraham*, should spring from his loins, as that *Messiah*, in whom his spiritual seed of all nations should be blessed; this covenant, I say, being confirmed by God's own word of promise, (*Gen. xii. 3.*) by the seal of circumcision, and his accomplishment of one leading part of the promise in the birth of *Isaac*, (*chap. xvii. 4, 10, 15, 19. and xxi. 2.*) and by his oath, (*chap. xxii. 16,—18.*) the law of *Moses*, which was not given till* four hundred and thirty years (*Exod. xii. 40.*) after this great promise was made, could not in any consistency with the wisdom and faithfulness of God, invalidate it, and destroy its effect; so as to supersede it, and introduce another way of justification and salvation, than that which this promise related to: This plainly shews, that a right and title to eternal life cannot be obtained by the works of the law, but only through faith in Christ.

18 For if a title to the heavenly inheritance, typified by that of the land of *Canaan*, is obtained by virtue of any works done in obedience to the law, it is no longer the matter of a free promise; since works and grace, in this consideration of them, are directly opposite. (*Rom. xi. 6.*) But it is evident, that God gave it (*καταχρησας*) to *Abraham* and his seed, not through the law, but by a merely gratuitous, free, and absolute promise, through the righteousness of faith, that it might be sure to all his spiritual seed of what nature soever they be. (*Rom. iv. 13, 16.*)

19 Some then may, perhaps, object and say, If it be so, to what end or purpose was the *Mosaic* law delivered to the *Israelites* at all? To this I answer, It was afterwards annexed to the promise, not for bringing in a new way of justification, but in subserviency to the great design of the promise itself, that as they were sinners, and obnoxious, as such, to divine wrath, as well as the rest of mankind, it might be a means of discovering, as well as restraining sin, of convincing them of their guilt and danger, (*Rom. iii. 20.*)

and

N O T E

* The usual computation of *four hundred and thirty years* is from the time that the promise was first made to *Abraham* at the age of seventy-five years; (*Gen. xii. 3, 4.*) from thence to the birth of *Isaac*, *Abraham* being then an hundred years old. (*Gen. xxi. 5.*) was twenty five years; from thence to the birth of *Jacob* was sixty years; (*Gen. xxv. 26.*) from thence to *Jacob's* going into *Egypt* was an hundred and thirty years; (*Gen. xlvii.*

9.) and from thence to *Israel's* deliverance out of *Egypt* was two hundred and fifteen years, which, added to the foregoing numbers, make four hundred and thirty years, which, according to the *Seventy*, (*Exod. xii. 40.*) was the whole time of their sojourning in *Egypt*, and before in the land of *Canaan*. (See *Whitby* on the place, *Bedford's Chronology*, pag. 293. and *Universal Hist.* Vol. I. p. 423. fol.)

and iv. 15. and v. 20.) and of their need of such a gracious promise; and might put them upon looking to Christ and his atoning sacrifice, (*ver.* 24.) till he at length should come into the world, who was, by way of eminence, that seed of *Abraham*, to whom the promise principally referred, and in whom believing *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as the true children of *Abraham*, should be united, and gathered into one body under him, as their head, *who is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes*: (*Rom.* x. 4.) And this law was not given to *Israel*, like the promise to *Abraham* and his seed, immediately from God himself; but it was conveyed by the ministry of angels (see the paraphrase on *Acts* vii. 53.) to *Moses*, and delivered into his hand, as the representative of that people, and as a typical Mediator, who stood between God and them, (*Lev.* xxvi. 46. and *Deut.* v. 5.) to remind them of their need of the promised Saviour to perform this office effectually for them.

20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one; but God is one.

20 Now a mediator, as the very term signifies, is a friend that interposes between two parties, and is not to transact merely with and for one of them to the exclusion of the other; but God, from whom the law was delivered to *Israel* by the hand of *Moses*, is only one of the parties concerned in the promise unto *Abraham* and his spiritual seed of all nations, *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*; and therefore as *Gentile* believers were included in that promise, and neither they, nor their representatives were present at the making of the *Sinai* covenant, nor were concerned in that, which was made only with the natural seed of *Abraham*; this transaction between God and the *Jews* could not vacate the antecedent, free, and absolute promise, which extended likewise to the *Gentiles*; and indeed he is *one God, who justifies the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith*, (*Rom.* iii. 20.) and is one and the same*, immutably faithful to his word of promise, and to them that trust in him according to it.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given, which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

21 Is the law then, in this way of stating things, really opposite in its design, as *Jewish* zealots would suggest, to the free promise, which was given to *Abraham* and his seed, and is drawn out with greater perspicuity and glory under the gospel-state? No, by no means; far be it from us to imagine any such inconsistency and contrariety in God's own dispensations; there is no room for such a thought;

N O T E.

* The various senses I have given of *God is one*, are very consistent with the apostle's scope; though, perhaps, the first of them might be most immediately intended. (See Mr. *Locke's* note.)

thought; one being given to subserve the other, and not that we might be justified by one, as well as by the other: For had there been any law enacted, that could have entitled a fallen creature to life, on condition of his performing the obedience it required, it is certain that God would have spared his own Son, that eminently promised seed of *Abraham*; and righteousness for justification to eternal life should have consisted in a conformity to that law*.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

22 But, on the contrary, the sacred scripture of the Old Testament, in its general tenor, hath pronounced upon all mankind, both *Jews* and *Gentiles* in their fallen state, that they are sinners, (*Rom.* iii. 9,—23. see the note there,) and hath shut them up together, (*συνεκλεισθεν*) as in a prison, under a sentence of condemnation, and incapacity of satisfying for their past offences, or rendering themselves acceptable to God for time to come, by any obedience of their own; and all this is declared, to the end that there might be no room for any to seek, or expect to be justified, by their own works; but that the free promise of pardon, life and salvation through faith in Christ, which he is both the object and author of, might take place, and be graciously fulfilled to every one that believes in him.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, that up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

23 But as we are naturally strangers and enemies to this important truth, and it was but obscurely intimated under former dispensations; so till Christ, the object of faith †, and the doctrine of justification and salvation, through faith in him, came to be fully manifested by the gospel, and till we accordingly were brought to believe in him; even those of us that were educated in the *Jewish* religion, were preserved indeed under the *Mosaic* law from joining with the idolatrous rites of other nations; but were held (*εφεστραυσθη*) like captives in ward, under its commanding and condemning sentence, and were all shut up together (*συνεκλεισμενοι*) as criminals inclosed in prison under a sense of guilt, and obnoxiousness to wrath; and yet reserved to be trained up by degrees under the discipline

N O T E S.

* A law, and by the law, (*νομος* and *νομου*) in the latter part of the verse, are without the article; and therefore, according to Mr. *Locke's* rule of interpretation, (see his note on *Rom.* ii. 14.) they relate to law in general; and the apostle here opposes the promise by faith of Jesus Christ, and our being justified by faith, to our attaining life by a law, i. e. by our own personal obedience to any law, which shews that attaining justification to life through faith, is

not through faith as an act of obedience to any supposed law, but as it lays hold on Christ for eternal life, and on the free promise in and through him. (See the notes on *Rom.* i. 17. and iv. 3.)

† In this and the next verse but one, faith seems to be put for the object, or the doctrine of faith. And yet, as we are made partakers of saving benefits only by believing, it may be proper to take the act of faith likewise into the interpretation.

discipline of the law unto the receiving of Christ, and the doctrine of faith in him, which was afterwards to be revealed with the clearest evidence under a new dispensation of light and grace, vastly exceeding all that had ever gone before it.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

24 We are therefore to consider the use of the whole religious law of *Moses*, under the notion of a schoolmaster's office in the education of youth, to bring us up for Christ, and to direct and lead us, like children, (*παιδαγωγος*) during our state of nonage, to him, as, by the strictness of its *moral* precepts, and the severity of its curse, it shewed us our sin and danger, the insufficiency of our own righteousness, and our need of such a perfectly righteous and atoning Saviour as Christ is; and as, by its *ceremonial* rites and typical sacrifices, it both carried a conviction of our own guilt and defilement, and pointed out his death and sufferings to us, that we might learn to quit all dependence on our own performances of the deeds of the law, in any view of them whatsoever for justification, and might seek to obtain it alone through faith in the meritorious obedience and sacrifice of the Messiah.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

25 But now, after Christ, the object of faith, and the doctrine of justification by faith in him, is made fully manifest under the gospel-state, and we ourselves are brought to believe in him for righteousness to eternal life, we are got beyond that dispensation, and are no longer, like minors, in a state of ignorance, weakness, and servile fear, under the severe pedagogy of the law, to drive us by its terrors to Christ, and to shadow him out to us by its obscure types, as one that should come to deliver us from sin and wrath.

26 For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

26 For all of you, my brethren, *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, that have believed in Christ alone for justification, according to the tenor of the gospel, are taken into God's family, not merely as children in their nonage, but as sons and heirs, that are advanced from minority to mature age*, and are admitted to higher privileges than were formerly enjoyed, even all the blessings that belong to an evangelical adoption, through faith in the anointed Saviour, who is already come, and has actually obtained eternal redemption for you. (*Heb. ix. 12.*)

X x 2

27 For

N O T E.

* Since believers under the Old Testament were really the children of God, as well as those under the New, the apostle's argument requires, that he be here understood to speak of such children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, as are not in a state of minority but of *adult*

age; and so are freed from the bondage to, or discipline of the law; and are admitted to the free use of their own inheritance, according to the liberty of gospel-privileges, which Old Testament-believers were strangers to, as he explains himself at large, *chap. iv. 1,—7.*

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.

27 For as many of you, as have been baptized in the name of Christ, and into the faith and profession of him, who has appointed that ordinance to be the initiating visible seal of the covenant of grace under the New Testament, as circumcision was under the Old; I mean such of you, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, as are likewise answerable to its signification, partakers of saving benefits by spiritual union with Christ, ye have put him on, not in profession only, but in reality by faith, as the Lord your righteousness, and are, as it were, all over covered with Christ, as a man is with his garments; and so there is no need of your being circumcised, in order to your acceptance with God, who looks upon you in Christ as one with him, and as the children of God arrived at a adult age, through faith in him. (*ver.* 26.)

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

28 There is now no distinction of nations, ranks, or sexes, with respect to gospel-acceptance, privileges and blessings; no difference between *Jew* and *Gentile*, or master and servant, or male and female; there is no prerogative or preference of one above another, on account of any external circumstances, as there was in former dispensations: For the grace of God is so enlarged under the gospel-state, that all of you, who are true believers, whatever your religious or civil characters have been, are one holy body in Christ, who is equally and alike the head of every one of you, for all spiritual and saving purposes; and therefore circumcision, which was peculiar to males, and designed to keep up a distinction between *Jews* and *Gentiles*, is of no further use in the church of Christ.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

29 And if ye be really united to Christ, as his living members, and interested in him and devoted to him, then are ye, though uncircumcised in the flesh, and of *Gentile* race, the true children of *Abraham* in a covenant sense; and so are heirs according to the promise, which was made to him and his spiritual seed, the chief and head of which is Christ. (See the paraphrase and note on *ver.* 16.)

RECOLLECTIONS.

What egregious, and justly reprobable folly is it in those, that have once received the doctrine of justification alone by faith in Christ and his righteousness, to depart from it, and vainly imagine that they can be justified by their own works in obedience to any law whatsoever! And how inexcusably weak and self-contradictious is it, for them to do this, after Christ has been evidently set forth before them, as crucified for the expiation of sin, and they have suffered reproaches and persecutions for their former profession of him! This is to begin in the Spirit, and end in the flesh; to exclude themselves from the benefit of God's promises in the gospel; to render both Christ, and all their own sufferings for his sake, altogether useless to themselves; and to run directly counter to the plainest observation and experience, which cannot but assure us, that the vital power of religion, and God's attestations to it by his Spirit, do not attend the preaching of the law, but

the gospel-doctrine of faith in Christ alone, for all acceptance with God to eternal life. This was the way in which *Abraham* was justified, according to the discoveries that were made of the promised seed in his days; and it is only by going into this way, that we can be his true children, to our spiritual and everlasting advantage: For the moral law pronounces a curse for every defect of obedience; and the scripture assures us, that we are all under sin, and that the only way in which we can be justified before God, is by faith in an atoning Saviour. Adored be the riches of divine grace, that Christ has redeemed them, that believe in him, from the curse of the law, by being made a curse for them: Through him the blessing of *Abraham*, as to all external and saving benefits, (of which the Spirit, as given to them, is a sure pledge) comes upon them, though they are *Gentiles*, as effectually, as if they had been native *Jews*; for the promise, which was made to *Abraham* and his seed, had a primary reference to Christ, and then to all his members, as one with him, and included in him. And how could the law, which was delivered at *Mount Sinai*, by the ministrations of angels, four hundred and thirty years after the promise was given, and confirmed by God himself to *Abraham*, so long before; how could this disannul that promise! It was so far from being inconsistent with the promise, that it was subservient to its grand design, while we consider it, as discovering and convincing of sin, and putting the awakened conscience upon flying to the only Saviour, who was typified by *Moses*, as sustaining the office of a mediator between God and *Israel*, and while we consider it, as the means of training them up for a willing reception of Christ. But how valuable to ever that dispensation was in its season, What cause have we to bless God for the clear revelation of his Messiah in the gospel, and for the more excellent and extensive blessings brought in by him! They are signified by baptism, which is come in the room of circumcision, as the initiating visible seal of the gospel-covenant to *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*: And if we have but an interest in Christ, through faith in him, whatever we were for nation, rank, or condition before, we are now, whether male or female, the children of God, one body in Christ, and in the best sense *Abraham's* seed, and heirs of all spiritual and heavenly blessings, according to the utmost meaning of the promise made to them.

C H A P. IV.

The apostle proceeds to shew the folly of returning to legal observances for justification, from the rich advantages that the believing Jews were partakers of by the gospel-dispensation, which brought them out of the state of bondage under the law, to which they, like children under age, had been subject before, 1,—7. And from the exceeding happy change that was made upon the Gentile believers, by their conversion from idols to God, 8,—11. He thereupon reasons with them all against falling in with false teachers, from the great affection they had discovered towards himself and his ministry, and from the designing temper of those Judaizers, that had crept in among them, 12,—18. He expresses his own tender and earnest concern for them, 19, 20. And then, resuming his main argument, illustrates the difference between what is to be expected from the law, and from the gospel, in a figurative representation of the children of promise by Isaac, the son of Sarah, and of the children that were only after the flesh by Ishmael, the son of Hagar, 21,—31.

TEXT.

NOW I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child,

PARAPHRASE.

NOW to illustrate the vast preference of the gospel to the legal dispensation by a plain and familiar similitude, I say, that the heir of a good estate, during

child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

2 But is under tutors and governors, until the time appointed of the father.

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law.

during all the time of his non-age, stands, in a manner, on a level with a mere servant, as to subjection, and want of liberty for using and enjoying his inheritance, though he be, in right, the proprietor of the whole, he does not live like one entitled to all his riches.

2 But he is under the direction and discipline of masters, to educate him in such a way as may be most suitable to his present circumstances, and to the low conceptions of his young mind; and is under the allowance and government of guardians, or trustees, to order all things concerning him, and to manage his estate for him, that he may be fitted to enter upon possession of it, and to receive it with advantage at such a term of life, as had been beforehand settled by his father.

3 Even so, to apply this to the case of those of us that are *Jewish* believers, when under the Old Testament-dispensation, which may be called the infant-state of the church, with respect to spiritual light and liberty, privileges and enjoyments, we were like minors training up for a better state under the gospel; we were then dealt with more like servants than sons and heirs, as being under the servile and obscure discipline of the law, enslaved by its terrors, and tied down to its typical observances, which gave us only dawning hints of the spiritual and heavenly inheritance, that we were entitled to, by virtue of the promise made to *Abraham*. (Chap. iii. 18.) And which observances, like the *A, B, C*, of children, may be styled the principles or rudiments of the world; because they consisted of resemblances taken from worldly things, and were suited to the instruction and government of children, that are most affected and influenced by sensible objects; and because they were so earthly in their own nature, that they could not of themselves carry any one's thoughts and hopes, views and relish, beyond the blessings of this world, to those of heaven and glory.

4 But when the full time was come, which God the Father, who gave us our inheritance, had fore-appointed in his eternal decrees, and fore-told and marked out in ancient prophecies; and which, by reason of the general and great degeneracy on one hand, and expectations on the other amongst the *Jews*, was high time for a reformation, and for introducing a more illustrious state of light, liberty, and joy to the children of God, that they might live and appear like those that stand in so near and dear a relation to him; he then, in the riches of his infinite wisdom, love, and grace, sent his own eternally pre-existent

existent Son, in a way of special operation and manifestation, into our world, that he, by a wonderful dispensation, might be conceived, and born of a virgin; (*Matth. i. 18,—23.*) and so might be emphatically and peculiarly the *seed of the woman*, miraculously made of her substance, without the concurrence of any man, according to the first promise of him; (*Gen. iii. 15.*) and that, having voluntarily assumed human nature into personal union with himself, he, who was both God and man, might, by a judicial constitution, be placed as a subject both under the precept and the curse of the law, which we were bound to have obeyed, but had transgressed, and thereby incurred its penalty.

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

5 The great design of whose incarnation, and being thus brought under the law, was, that he might be fitted for, and go through a complete course of obedience and sufferings unto death, in answer to all its demands, and at that dear expence might redeem his people that were under the law, and under its curse; (*chap. iii. 10, 13.*) to the end that those of us, who believe in him, might be no longer under its condemning sentence, nor under its rigorous administration, but might be made partakers of all the privileges of the gospel-state, that pertain to the adoption of children, even of such as are arrived at mature age. (See the note on *chap. iii. 21.*)

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

6 And because God has so far dignified you, my Christian brethren, whether ye be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, as to make you his adult sons by a free act of gracious adoption; and to entitle you to, and give you possession of, such high and glorious privileges; therefore, as a token and proof of it, he has sent forth the Holy Spirit from heaven, who is the Spirit of the Son, as well as of the Father, and is communicated by special dispensation, through the exalted Head and Redeemer, to dwell in your souls with a richer abundance of gifts and graces, than were vouchsafed under the *Mosaic* economy; to form you into the temper of the children of God, and bear witness with your spirits that ye are so; (*Rom. viii. 15, 16.*) and to give you a humble liberty and boldness in your dealings with God, whereby ye are taught and enabled to claim and call upon him, and to be ingenuously affected toward him with desire, faith, and love, with becoming reverence and filial obedience, with complacential delight and joy, and with holy confidence in his care and kindness, and zeal for his honour and glory, as your heavenly Father; which, to comprehend both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, I choose to express in the *Hebrew* language, by the word *Abba*, and

and by another word in the *Greek*, which answers to it, as it signifies *Father* (*ο πατηρ.*)

7 Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, than an heir of God through Christ.

7 Whosoever therefore you be, that believes in Christ, you are no longer to be accounted and treated as a servant, kept at a distance, and subjected to a severe discipline, as the children of God in their minority were under the law; but you are to be looked upon and dealt with, as a son of ripe age; and if you are a son, then are you an heir; yea, if a son under the liberty of the gospel, then an heir in possession of a great part of your inheritance, as an earnest of your enjoying the whole in all its grandeur and delights, when you arrive at the *measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ*; (Eph. iv. 13.) an heir, I say, of no less an inheritance, than of the all-sufficient God himself for your portion, in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, in his right, and on his account, and together with him, who is his eternal Son and *heir of all things*. (Heb. i. 2.) Surely then none of you can have any good reason to return back to the law, and lay the grounds of your acceptance with God in your obedience to it.

8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

8 But, (*αλλα*) as to those of you that are *Gen- tile* believers, it is most of all absurd and unaccountably foolish in you to entertain a thought of any thing like it: To convince you of this, and impress you with a deep sense of it, let me remind you, that in the days of your unregeneracy, and all along in your state of heathenism, ye were utter strangers to the knowledge of the only true God, and to all promises of his favour and love, and all discoveries of the way wherein ye might be discharged from the guilt of your sins, and find acceptance with him to eternal life; and being then ignorant of him, ye paid religious service to idols of your own invention, whether stocks or stones, or the sun, moon, and stars, or some famous heroes or benefactors, or other imaginary deities*, none of which had any proper divinity in them; and therefore, whatsoever the pretence might be, no religious homage ought to have been offered to any of them, as not being partakers of the nature and perfections of the true God, who only

N O T E.

* Here is a manifest confutation of the popish distinction between *Dulia* and *Latria*, as if the former were a lower kind of worship, which may be given to saints and angels, and the latter only were to be appropriated to God: For the apostle in condemning what these *Galatians* did, when they were idolatrous heathens, says, (*δουλευσατε*) Ye gave

Dulia to them, which by nature are no gods; assigning that as the reason why such religious homage ought not to have been paid to them. And this reason holds equally strong, not only against all religious adoration of saints and angels, but even of our Lord Jesus Christ himself, unless he were *by nature* God.

only is to be worshipped and adored. (*Matth. iv. 10.*)

9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

9 But now, since ye have been brought, by the light and power of the gospel, to the knowledge of the only true God; or rather have, in his infinite condescension and grace, been taken notice of, and particularly regarded by him, who has found you out, and brought you to the knowledge of himself through Jesus Christ, and owned you for *his*; and now, after ye, or at least some of you, as I trust, have been approved, and freely accepted of him in the Beloved; What an infatuation and piece of ingratitude is it in any of you, to turn aside again from the light and grace of the gospel, and from all its holy and delightful liberty, to a bondage, which ye were never under before, and consists in being subject to the dark hints and severe injunctions of the *Mosaic* law, which are so *weak* as to be utterly insufficient to make peace with God, or purge the conscience from guilt, or to secure from his wrath, and obtain acceptance with him; and are so poor and *beggarly*, as to be in themselves altogether incapable of enriching the soul with spiritual knowledge, grace, and peace, or any solid comfort and satisfaction relating to its best and eternal interests? And they are indeed now so impoverished, since their typical meaning has been fulfilled in Christ, that there is nothing in them. How surprising and inexcusable then is it, that even some of *you* who could have no antecedent attachment to the law, as the *Jews* had, should desire to go backwards, and put yourselves again under a yoke of servitude, instead of that, though of another sort, which ye formerly were enslaved by, and are now happily delivered from*?

10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

10 That ye have strong propensions to blend the *Mosaic* law with the gospel, as if ye could not otherwise be justified before God, is too apparent from your being, as I perceive, zealous for observing (like the

N O T E

* Their turning again to weak and beggarly elements, and desiring again to be in bondage, cannot be understood, as if they had been used to those elements, and that bondage before; because, as appears from the foregoing verie, they had been converted, not from *Jewish* proselytism, but from *idolatrous* heathenism, and so never had been under the *Mosaic* law before; and therefore it seems necessary to understand the apostle to mean that, as they had been under heathen bondage, and inflaved by the

principles and practices of so mean and wretched a religion, from which they were now delivered, it was very strange that they should desire to be circumcised, and thereby obliged to observe the whole law of *Moses* for justification, and so come again into bondage, which, though it was of a different nature from what they were under before; yet was really a state of bondage, directly contrary to the light and liberty of the gospel into which they had been brought.

the carnal *Jews*, that lay a great stress upon these things) their sabbaths and new moons, (see the note on *Col.* ii. 16.) as well as their first and seventh months; and their solemn festivals, such as the pass-over, pentecost, and the feast of tabernacles; and their seventh year of release, and fiftieth year of jubilee, as though the whole law were still as much in force as ever.

11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

11 When I think of these sad defections, I cannot but be tenderly concerned for you, and terribly afraid, lest all the pains I have taken with you, by faithfully and laboriously talking in private, and preaching in public, should eventually prove ineffectual, and to no manner of good purpose, as to many of you *; and so all my hopes of you should be disappointed, and ye should fall into perdition.

12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.

12 Let me then, my beloved brethren, earnestly entreat you, by all the endearments of one that heartily wishes your happiness, to entertain the same sentiments, as to the important article of justification, with myself, who once was as zealous of the law as any of you can be, though, through the grace given to me, I now *count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, &c.* (*Phil.* iii. 8, 9.) And I beg of you to be the same in affection to me, as I am to you; for I am so much one with you, as to be willing to condescend to, and bear with you in the use of *Jewish* rites, while they are left as matters of indifference, and even to use them myself, on special occasions, (see the notes on *Acts* xvi. 3. and xviii. 18. and xxi. 24,—26.) as far as may be consistent with the truth and liberty of the gospel, and conducive to the welfare of your souls †; and my heart is with you, as much as yours can be with me: Ye may therefore be sure that I have no ill-will to you, in what I have been saying;

nor

N O T E S.

* If the *Galatians* had not laid a stress upon their legal observances, as necessary to justification, I can hardly think that the apostle would have expressed his fears so strongly, as he does here, lest all his labour with them should prove to be in vain; and that he would have carried the matter so far, as to tell them roundly, that on this account Christ would be of no effect to them. (*Chap.* v. 4.) For, though they might have been in a gross mistake, as to the obligation of observing the *Mosaic* law, yet it would not surely have been a fundamental error, inconsistent with salvation; unless they depended upon it, as necessary to their ac-

ceptance with God. (See the note on *chap.* v. 6.)

† As the apostle's chief desire was to bring them over to what he knew to be the truth of the gospel; (*ver.* 19.) so he elsewhere tells us, that, as far as lawfully might be, he was made *all things to all men, that he might save some*, and that he *pleased all men in all things, not seeking his own profit, but the profit of many, that they might be saved.* (*1 Cor.* ix. 12. and x. 33.) And therefore, thoughts of this kind are taken into the paraphrase, together with an agreement in affection.

nor indeed have I had any occasion for it hitherto, since I never yet received any ill-treatment from you : And I love you so well, that, if the attempts of false teachers to supplant me, (*ver.* 17.) have ever carried you into any designs of *personal* disrespect or injury to me, I can easily overlook it, so far as it only relates to myself.

13 Ye know how, through infirmity of the flesh, I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

13 As to my affection toward you, ye well know, and cannot but remember, that when I first came among you, such was my solicitous concern and earnest desire for your salvation, that I laboured abundantly in explaining, proving, and recommending the gospel of Christ to you, under great difficulties and sufferings in the flesh, to the impairing of my bodily strength; under injurious defamations and reproaches; and under considerable disadvantages from the despicable appearance of my person, and the ungraceful manner of my delivery. (*2 Cor.* x. 10. and xi. 6. and xii. 7.*)

14 And my temptation which was in my flesh, ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

14 And as to your affection to me, ye were then so wonderfully taken with my ministry, that (*ὡς ἐξουθενώσατε*) ye did not slight it, or set me at nought, much less did ye reject the doctrine I preached, or (*ὡς ἐξερρωσώσατε*) disdain me, like one that deserved to be spit upon with contempt and indignation, as some others have done, on account of the infirmities and humbling trials that I was exercised with in the body: But ye, nevertheless, entertained and embraced my message, and me for its sake, with as much readiness and pleasure, as a messenger of God and ambassador of Christ, as if I had been one of the holy angels, whom God had dispatched immediately from heaven to deliver it to you; yea, as if I had been even the Messiah himself, whom God has anointed to be the only Saviour.

15 Where is then the blessedness you spake of? for I bear you record, that if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

15 What then is now become of all those high expressions of ardent wishes for my prosperity in the work of the Lord, which at that time ye heaped upon me, and of all the happiness which ye then so solemnly, and with such zeal, and appearances of sincerity, professed to have and hope for, by means of my ministring the gospel to you? Is all this forgot and lost, and like to come to nothing, though ye then talked so much about it? For I myself, having

Y y 2

been

N O T E.

* Some or other, and especially the last of these trials, as the apostle calls them in the next verse, seem to be meant by the *infirmity* or *weakness* (*ασθενειαν*) of his flesh. But as the *Galatians* well knew what he referred to, there was no occasion for him to particularize

them: And this, as Mr. *Locke* observes, is an instance of the unavoidable obscurity of some passages in epistolary writings without any fault of the author. But we should remember, that this is such an obscurity as relates to things of little importance to us.

been an eye-witness of it, must testify concerning you, that, as far as I could judge by words and actions, such was the fervor of your love and joy, that had it been a possible thing, and could it have been of any advantage to me, ye would have undergone all the severity and inconvenience of even plucking your own eyes out of your heads, to put them into mine.

16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

16 How then comes it to pass, that ye should now grow so cool to me, who am still the same to you; and that ye should be so ready to give up those very doctrines which ye then so much admired and were affected with; and should now think of forsaking me and them, and of adhering to judaizing teachers and their pernicious errors? What is it that could induce you to take such an unhappy and surprising turn? Is it because I have been plain and faithful in maintaining the truth and importance of the pure doctrine of the gospel, and in warning you of the dangerous consequence of mixing the works of the law with faith in Christ for justification? Must I be counted your enemy for this? Why, this was the most kind and friendly thing I could do for you; as such I designed it, and ye ought to have received it: But if any of you think otherwise, and are prejudiced against me for it, the greater is your guilt, and the more are ye to be pitied.

17 They zealously affect you. *but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.*

17 As to those *false teachers*, that would pervert you, and prejudice your minds against me, they profess to have an extraordinary affection and zealous concern for you; but it is not with an upright design for your spiritual advantage, nor do they act honourably in their attempts upon you; nay, they principally aim at alienating your hearts from me, and my apostolic doctrine and authority, that they may engross you to themselves, and bring you into a blind and tame submission to their own usurped dominion over your faith; they would shut out all your regards to me and my office, that the whole tide of your esteem, honour, and applause, may run toward them.

18 But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

18 But it is (*καλον*) a very beautiful, laudable, and excellent temper, much to be desired, that your zeal be always carried out uniformly to the person* or thing, that is really worthy of it; and that it be so, not merely during my presence with you, to win you over to a good opinion of myself, whom ye then took to be a good man; and of the gospel, which,

as

N O T E.

* *In a good thing* (*εν καλω*) may likewise be rendered *in a good man*, by which the apostle is supposed in his modest way, to mean himself: But as he all

along speaks of his *doctrine*, as well as of his *person*, it seems best to include both.

as ye then thought, is certainly the best news that ever was brought to sinners of our world: This would be a plain evidence that your impressions were well-grounded on judgment, and fixed in your hearts; whereas your unsteady temper and conduct have a quite contrary aspect.

19 My little children, of whom I travel in birth again, until Christ be formed in you.

19 My dear, though weak children in the faith, whom I hoped I had instrumentally begotten to Christ through the gospel, (1 Cor. iv. 15.) I seek not yours, but you; and do not value what ye think of me, if ye be but brought home to Christ, that he may have the glory of saving you; and therefore, like a woman in the painful hour of child-birth, I have now again as strong throws and agonies of spirit, and as pressing a solicitude for your recovery, as ever I formerly had for your conversion from idolatry to the Christian religion; and I cannot but go on in the vehemence of my concern to use all possible means with you, till I may have the pleasure of finding, that the pure doctrine of justification by Christ alone through faith in him, is really formed and fixed in your minds and hearts, so as to influence you, like a vital principle, in all your dealings with God for eternal life; and that all the beauties of his holy image are impressed upon you.

20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

20 So great is my desire after you, that, were it in my power, I could heartily wish myself to be at this very time in your company to talk freely with you, that I might confirm the truth, answer objections, silence cavils, and satisfy doubts and scruples by word of mouth, which cannot be done so well by a letter; and might vary my discourse with you, in a way of encouragement or rebuke, as occasions require. And O how would it rejoice my very soul to find room for speaking with a softer tone of voice, and with greater encouragement to you, than your present threatening circumstances seem to admit of! For, to tell you the truth, by what I have learnt of late concerning your principles and behaviour, I am much in doubt, whether the work of grace has ever been effectually wrought in some of your hearts; and whether many of you may not, at length, contrary to my former hopes, prove to be utter apostates.—But, to return to my main argument,

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

21 I would seriously ask those of you, that are inclined to be under the law for justification, by your own obedience to it; and I beg that your own consciences would answer me, as in the fear and presence of God, and as though ye were now actually standing before his awful bar in judgment; When that law is read in your religious assemblies, or elsewhere, do ye

ye not hear and attend to, or do ye not understand and consider, what dreadful things it denounces against all that are under it, to be dealt with according to it? (*Chap.* iii. 10.) And do ye never reflect in particular, how the writings of *Moses*, whom ye seem to be so fond of, has figured out the wide difference there is between those that seek justification by the works of the law, and those that seek it alone by faith in Christ?

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons; the one by a bond-maid, the other by a free-woman.

22 For there it is recorded, (*Gen.* xvi. 15. and xxi. 2, 3.) of *Abraham*, the father of the faithful, with whom God made his covenant and with his seed, that he had two sons which were types of different sorts of dispensations, and of different sorts of that patriarch's seed: One was *Ishmael* by *Hagar*, a young woman, who was no better than an *Egyptian*, and a slave under bonds of servitude to her mistress, (*Gen.* xvi. 1, 2.) and the other was *Isaac* by *Sarah*, his proper wife, who, as such, was a free-woman entitled to the privileges of her relation to such a husband*.

23 But he *who* was of the bond-woman, was born after the flesh; but he of the free-woman was by promise.

23 But there was likewise this further difference between them, *Ishmael*, the son whom he had by *Hagar* the bond-slave, was born only according to the common law of natural generation, while both the parents were young enough to have children in the ordinary course of things; whereas *Isaac*, who was *Abraham's* son by *Sarah* his lawful wife, was given him in an extraordinary, and even miraculous manner, by virtue of a free and gracious promise, at an unexpected time of life, when both father and mother were past age, and naturally incapable of having any issue. (*Gen.* xviii. 10, 11.)

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one

24 These things, though really facts that are related only in an historical manner, were intended of God to be, and accordingly are, allegorized in scripture for spiritual purposes † as, figurative representations

N O T E S.

* As *Abraham* had more sons by *Ke-turah*, (*Gen.* xxvi. 1, 2.) which the apostle takes no notice of, it seems that there was something peculiarly prefigurative in *Ishmael* and *Isaac*, rather than in them.

† Mr. *Peirce* accurately renders these words (*τινα ειν αλληγορηματα*) which things are allegorized; and has taken a great deal of critical pains to shew, that the apostle here refers to *Isaiah's* allegorizing this history, (*chap.* liv. 1.) which he indeed thinks was not originally designed to represent the state of things to which the prophet and the a-

postle apply them. But as that learned author himself afterwards observes, that *Sarah's* being spoken of as the mother of the believing *Gentiles*, is very agreeable to other places of scripture, such as *John* viii. 39. 41. *Rom.* ix. 7.—9. and *1 Pet.* iii. 6. which represent all the children of God as the children of *Abraham*, and particularly as *Abraham's* children by *Sarah*; I do not see why it may not be allowed that *Sarah* and *Hagar* were originally designed of God, though, perhaps, not then understood by *Abraham*, as figurative representations of the difference that should be made between the carnal

one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

tions of the miserable condition of those, on one hand, that are under the *Sinai*-covenant, and, like the *Jewish* zealots of this day, use it merely as a covenant of works; and of the happiness of those, on the other, who, as true believers in Christ, depend entirely on the free promises of the covenant of grace for all acceptance with God through him: For in this symbolical history, these two women and their respective sons signify those two covenants, the first of them represented by *Hagar*, is that which was made between God and *Israel* at mount *Sinai*, (see the note on *Heb.* viii. 6.) and which by the terrible manner of its delivery, the strictness of its precepts, and the severity of its curse, tends to the begetting of a servile and enslaved temper of spirit, and would certainly subject them that are under it to the worst of all captivity and everlasting destruction, were they left to its terms without any further relief, which was provided for in the promise to *Abraham*, and is actually brought in by the gospel.

25 For this *Agar* is mount *Sinai* in *Arabia*, and answereth to *Jerusalem* which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

25 For this *Hagar* and her son, which were not to inherit the blessing promised to *Abraham* and his seed, but were cast out of his family and covenant, (*ver.* 30.) * are a lively and affecting representation of the rejected state of those that are under the law, which was delivered at mount *Sinai* in the desert of *Arabia* †, and by the tenor of which they were to fall under a curse, instead of inheriting a blessing, who did not in all things conform to it: (*chap.* iii. 10.) And this answers to the present state of the earthly *Jerusalem*, which is no longer the seat of the divine presence, but is abandoned of God for the infidelity of its inhabitants, who are in the most dreadful bondage to sin and Satan, as *Hagar* and her son *Ismael*, and their descendents were, upon their exclusion from the family of *Abraham*, and from all the blessings of his covenant.

26 But *Jerusalem*, which is above, is free; which is the mother of us all.

26 But the heavenly *Jerusalem*, the church of the living God, which consists of true believers in Christ, that seek to be justified through faith in him alone, is delivered from the curse of the law, and made partaker

N O T E S.

carnal and the spiritual seed of *Abraham*. (See *Peirce's* 1st dissertation at the end of his paraphrase on the *Philippians*.)

* Here, and in the foregoing verse, we have a plain instance of the verb *is*, as used for *signifies* or *represents*, and that with respect to the covenants or testaments. (*διαφορα*, *ver.* 24.) No wonder therefore that it should be taken in this sense, when in the institution of the Lord's supper, Christ says of the bread,

This is my body; and speaking of the wine says, *This cup is the New Testament in my blood.* (*Luke* xxii. 19, 20.)

† *Sinai* and *Horeb* were probably two tops of the same mountain in *Arabia Petraea*; or, rather *Horeb* was a common name of the whole ridge of mountains on which *Sinai* was situated, and was called *Horeb* from the excessive dryness of it. (See *Universal Hist.* fol. Vol. I. p. 481.)

taker of all the blessings of the gospel, which were promised to *Abraham* and his seed; (*chap. iii. 13, 14.*) this gospel church, which is of a heavenly nature, and has its original from heaven, tends toward it, and shall be admitted into it, was typified by *Sarah* the free-woman, and by *Isaac* the son of the promise; and may be stiled the parent of all of us who believe, whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, as we were begotten to the faith of Christ by means of the word and ordinances dispensed therein; even as *Sarah* was the mother of *Isaac*, and he was a figure of all the true seed of the covenant made with *Abraham*. And this may be still further confirmed, particularly with respect to believing *Gentiles*, under the gospel-state, by a testimony of scripture, which speaks of this very thing also in the allegorical way.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

27 For it is written in a prophecy of New Testament-times, and with a reference to *Sarah* and *Hagar*, (*Isa. liv. 1.* See the note on *verse 24.*) Rejoice and be exceeding glad, ye *Gentile* nations, who, like a woman that has no child, were for many ages destitute of a seed to serve the Lord, that should be accounted to him for a generation, as *Sarah* was, till she came to be ninety years old, when by the ordinary course of nature there could be no hope of her bearing a son: (*Gen. xvii. 17.*) Break forth into strong and vehement acclamations of joy; and shout aloud in your praises, O ye who have never hitherto bred and brought forth any children for God, to bear his holy image, and to glorify and enjoy him: For such is his amazing love and compassion to you, whom he has seemed so long to neglect, that as the descendants of *Sarah*, who was desolate and past hope of child-bearing, are more numerous than those of *Hagar*, whom *Abraham* also took to wife, and who had a son by him while she was in her teeming age; so under the gospel-dispensation much greater numbers of children shall be born to God, and adopted into his family from among you, who till then were out of the pale of his covenant, and had no expectation of his espousing you to himself, than ever were found among the natural seed of *Abraham*, who, for a great series of time before, were married under the Mount-Sinai dispensation in a visible covenant to him, as their husband.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

28 Now, to apply this important allegory, we, my brethren in the faith of Christ, whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, are by special grace the true children of the promise made to *Abraham* and his seed, in distinction from those that seek to be justified by the works of the law; even as *Isaac*, the son of *Sarah*

rab the free-woman, was born by virtue of the promise, and was the heir of its blessings, in distinction from *Ishmael*, the son of *Hagar* the bond-woman.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh, persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

29 But as in that age, *Ishmael*, who was born according to the usual course of nature, and had no advantages but what pertained to the flesh, mocked and derided, (*Gen. xxi. 9.*) and so with his malignant tongue, at least, persecuted *Isaac*, who was born by an extraordinary operation of the Spirit, according to the promise given to *Abraham*, that he should have a son by his wife *Sarah*; and who was indeed the inheritor of all the covenant-promises made to him and his seed, (*Gen. xvii. 19.*) notwithstanding *Ishmael's* insulting him for his pretensions of this kind*. Even so it is at this day, with respect to us who adhere to the pure gospel of Christ, and are born of God, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven, and whom Jewish zealots and self-justiciaries are exceeding violent, and highly enraged against, for maintaining, that they only, *which be of faith, are blessed with faithful Abraham.* (*Chap. iii. 9.*)

30 Nevertheless, what faith the scripture? Cast out the bond-woman and her son: for the son of the bond-woman shall not be heir with the son of the free-woman.

30 Nevertheless, the consequences of these things will be very terrible to them, and happy to us, as they are exemplified in the case of those two sons of *Abraham*: For what doth the scripture tell us with regard hereunto? It introduces *Sarah* as saying to her husband, and God as approving and confirming it, (*Gen. xxi. 10, 12.*) Expel the bond-woman and her insolent son out of your house and favour; for I cannot bear, that the son of your bond-slave, should inherit covenant-blessings with my son *Isaac*, whom I, your lawful wife, have bore to you. In like manner, God will exclude from his church and covenant all those that seek to be justified by the law; and will not suffer them to inherit his kingdom of grace and glory together with those, that are his children through faith in Christ. (*Chap. iii. 26.*)

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond-woman, but of the free.

31 So then, my Christian brethren, to sum up all that I have been saying on this point, we, who believe on the Lord Jesus alone for justification to eternal life, are not of those that, seeking it by the law, were prefigured by *Ishmael*, the son of *Hagar*, and shall be shut out from the blessings of the gospel-state here, and from the heavenly inheritance hereafter; but

N O T E.

* It was immediately upon *Ishmael's* mocking *Isaac*, that *Sarah* spake to *Abraham* to cast out the bond-woman and her son, assigning this reason for it, that the son of the bond-woman should not be heir with her son. (*Gen. xxi. 9, 10.*) It

therefore seems that what *Ishmael* had mocked *Isaac* for, was his claiming to be their father's sole heir; and that this awakened *Sarah's* warm resentment against the bond-woman and her son.

but we are the children of the promise, signified by *Isaac*, the son of *Sarah*, that are entitled to all the blessings of grace and glory : And therefore we have nothing to do with the *Mosaic* servile dispensation ; much less are we to imagine that any of its ceremonial rites are necessary to our acceptance with God.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S .

What darkness and bondage of spirit are God's own children subject to, when, like those under the legal dispensation, they have but low views of the light and liberty of the gospel ! They live more like servants than sons and heirs. But how great and glorious are the advantages of the New Testament-state, that are brought in by the Son of God ? His Father sent him at the appointed and fittest time to assume human nature into personal union with himself, and he, being the promised seed of the woman, became subject to the law in his people's stead, that he might redeem them from its curse, and from the servile temper which the *Sinai*-covenant produced in them while they were under it ; and that they might be admitted to all the privileges of the children of God, as arrived at mature age : And what a sure and delightful evidence have we, that this is our happy case, when God gives us the spirit of his Son, to embolden our humble claims of him as our Father, and to witness with our spirits, that we are his sons and heirs through Jesus Christ ! If we have any experience of this, it is because God took a gracious notice of us before we knew him, or turned from all our idols to him, who is by nature God, and the only object of religious worship. But how surprising is their ingratitude and folly, who, after all professions of this kind, depart from the gospel doctrine of justification, through faith in Christ, to the works of the law ! A defection in this great point gives reason to fear, lest all the pains that have been bestowed on such, with hopeful appearances of success, should prove to be in vain, and they should turn utter apostates ! O how tenderly concerned are faithful ministers for persons in this threatening situation, whom they formerly hoped they had been instruments of begetting to Christ ! They travail as it were in birth again, that his true doctrine and holy image may be formed in them ; they study to accommodate their discourses to their circumstances, and would be glad to speak comfortable things to them ; they are grieved at the unsteadiness of their zeal, which ought to be always carried out to only good men and good things ; and they cannot but solemnly warn them of their danger, and of the artful methods of those that lie in wait to deceive them, under feigned pretences of great affection to them, while they only mean to profelyte them to themselves, and alienate their hearts from those whom they justly esteemed before. What can be a more likely means, by the blessing of God, to reclaim such revolvers, than to remind them of the terrible things that the law says to such as are under it ? This may be learned from the instances of *Hagar* the bond-woman, in opposition to *Sarah* the free-woman, and their respective sons ; the figurative meaning of which is, that they who rely on their own performances of any kind, according to the covenant of works, will be excluded from the kingdom of heaven ; but they who adhere by faith, to the free promise through Jesus Christ, according to the gospel, will inherit eternal life. These are blessed indeed ; and how much soever they may be derided and persecuted for their profession of this important doctrine, they may rejoice in hope that the issue of all will make them rich amends for ever.

C H A P. V.

The apostle applies the foregoing discourse in an earnest exhortation, enforced by various arguments, to stand fast in the liberty of the gospel, 1,—12. To take heed of abusing that liberty by indulging a sinful temper, contrary to the great law of love, 13,—15. And to walk in the Spirit, and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh, which are opposite to each other, and the works of which respectively are described at large, 16,—26.

TEXT.

PARAPHRASE.

STAND fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

SINCE, as has been observed, there is so much danger in the scheme of those false teachers, that would carry you off from the gospel to the law of *Moses* for justification; and since true believers are the children of God, represented by *Ijaac*, the son of the free-woman, I earnestly beseech and exhort you, my brethren, to maintain your ground, like soldiers that stand firm in rank and file; and to abide stedfastly in the belief, possession, and practice of that happy, holy, and delightful freedom from the law, as a covenant of works, and from its curse, as also from all obligations of obedience to its ceremonial precepts; which noble freedom is brought in by the satisfaction that Christ has made, as a priest, in fulfilling both the ceremonial and moral law; and by his settlement in the gospel, and enlightning our minds and impressing our hearts according to it, as a prophet and king: And let love, gratitude, and obedience to him, as well as a concern for the safety and comfort of your own souls, engage you to take the utmost care that ye be not incumbered and oppressed again, (see the note on *chap. iv. 9.*) with a servile yoke, which circumcision would lay upon you to comply with the whole of the *Mosaic* law, as if that were necessary to salvation. (*ver. 3.* and *Acts xv. 1.*)

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

2 Observe the terrible consequence, I *Paul*, the inspired apostle, (*chap. i. 1.*) who am unjustly defamed, as though I preached up circumcision among some people to serve a turn; (see the note on *ver. 11.*) even I do solemnly declare, and leave it as a standing record, that if ye be circumcised under an apprehension of its being necessary to your acceptance with God, nothing that Christ has done and suffered, or that his gospel reveals, will be of any saving advantage to you.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor

3 For as I have always maintained in my ministrations every where; so I now repeat it with great earnestness, as a most concerning truth, to every man, be he *Jew* or *Gentile*, who is circumcised with this

debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whose ever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love.

view; that he is thereby obliged, under pain of condemnation, to keep the whole *Mosaic* law, which is such a strict condition of life, as none in his present fallen state ever can fulfil; and yet for the least failure therein he remains under the curse, (*chap. iii. 10.*) and so can never obtain his end.

4 The blood and righteousness, gospel and Spirit of the anointed Saviour will be of no avail to any of you; but ye are, as it were, discharged from Christ, (*καταργηθητε απο τῆ χριστου*) that seek pardon and acceptance by the works of the law, and so set up a righteousness of your own, instead of, or together with his, for that purpose; ye hereby practically renounce, and fall away * from the doctrine of justification freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, which ye once made a profession of, and by which alone any of you can be saved.

5 For, through the light and influence of the Holy Spirit according to the gospel, we *Jews* as well as *Gentiles*, that believe to the saving of our souls, look and wait with earnest desire, expectation and patience for eternal life, which is the great object of our hope, (*Col. i. 5. and Tit. ii. 13.*) not on account of any righteousness of our own, but merely on the foot of the righteousness of Christ, as our only title to it through faith in him, which faith his Spirit likewise works in us.

6 For with respect to interest in Christ, and justification by virtue of our federal and vital union with him, a being merely circumcised, or not circumcised, under the New Testament-dispensation, signifies nothing at all †; our state in Christ is no way affected by either of them, while circumcision is not considered as a recommendation, nor the want of it as a hindrance to our acceptance with God: But the only thing, which, according to gospel-constitution, avails to this purpose, is such an effectual faith, as rests upon Christ alone for salvation, and is proved to be sincere by its powerful influence on the heart to render him precious to us, and engage our affectionate love to and delight in him, and in his members, word, and ways for his sake, together with a univer-
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N O T E S.

* *Grace* here plainly signifies, as it doth in *Tit. ii. 10, 11.* and other places, *the doctrine of grace*: For that is what the apostle had all along been speaking of, in opposition to the law and its works.

† *The indifference*, with which the apostle here speaks of *circumcision*, makes

it apparent, that his argument, all along against it, is not to be understood, merely of the thing itself, but of the *stress* that was laid upon it, as *necessary* to salvation, and as binding to the observance of the whole law, under the notion of a condition of life. (See the note on *chap. iv. 11.*)

fal benevolence to all men, according to the native disposition of a new creature. (Chap. vi. 15.)

7 Ye did run well, who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the truth?

7 Ye, my brethren, did set out, to all appearance, exceeding well, and for some time proceeded and press'd forward with a promising zeal in your profession of the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ, like persons that ran in earnest for the great prize of salvation alone through him. Who then is it, (pray consider this matter seriously with the reasons of it) that has stopped you in your way, or driven you back from it, that ye should not persist in a persuasion of, and yield yourselves up by an obediential faith to, the authority of Christ, according to the truth of the gospel, with respect to this main point, which enters so deeply into your dealings with God for eternal life?

8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

8 Whosoever he be that has given this pernicious turn to your notions and practice, I am very sure that your present judaizing sentiments, so directly contrary to the whole design of Christianity, about the grounds of acceptance with God, is not owing to any thing ever said by me, who ministred the gospel to you in a quite contrary strain, and was instrumental in bringing you over to the Christian faith; (see the note on *chap. i. 6.*) nor is it derived from that God who spoke and worked by me in calling you to the knowledge of Christ; and of the way of salvation alone through him, and *that*, as I hoped, in an effectual manner.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

9 Some corrupt influence must have insinuated itself among you from *Satan* and his instruments, though, perhaps, at first but in one particular point, and by the management of but one or two persons, and may hitherto have perverted only a few of you; yet remember, it will operate with malignant and spreading efficacy, unless timely prevented, to the infecting of your whole scheme of evangelical principles, and one way or other of the whole church; even as a little leaven diffuses itself by an insensible, but powerful fermentation, till it fours the whole mass of dough into which it is cast.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you, shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

10 I have indeed mentioned my great fear about you; (*chap. iv. 11, 20.*) and yet, after all, I cannot but have a prevailing charitable hope, through the grace of the Lord Jesus, concerning many of you, at least, that when ye come to reflect on my fears and solemn warnings, with the reasons of them, ye will think no otherwise than I myself do, about the danger of this infection, and the necessity of making
a full

a full and speedy stand against it * ; and will pass a church censure upon him, be he ever so great or famous, (Ο Ταρακων) who is the principal instrument of throwing such confusion among you, of perplexing your minds, and even terrifying you into his destructive errors : But, whether ye do your duty herein or not, he, who has a great deal to answer for, will sooner or latter, fall under the righteous judgment of God, to be punished in this world, or the next, unless he give him repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth. (2 Tim. ii. 25, 26.)

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

11 But (δε) as to myself, brethren, if, as some have invidiously reported †, I after all preach up circumcision as necessary to salvation, or plead for the believing *Gentiles* being circumcised in order thereunto, how comes it to pass that I still undergo, and cheerfully submit to the severest persecutions from the bigotted *Jews*, as it is notorious I do wherever I come? Were I once to comply with their corrupt notions about superadding the works of the law to the merits of Christ, the chief ground of their being offended at the doctrine of salvation by a crucified Saviour would immediately cease. and I should be no longer exposed to their furious outrage for preaching it. My great and continual sufferings therefore on this account are a standing confutation of all suggestions of this nature to defame me.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you

12 I heartily wish that they who have so grievously perplexed and disturbed you, and subverted the faith of some among you, were cast out of the church by a solemn sentence of excommunication in the name of the Lord Jesus; and so turned over to him for the vindication of his own cause, and bringing them to repentance; or that in God's own way they may be hindered from bringing any further mischief

N O T E S.

* 'Tis not improbably thought that judgment may have a reference to the censure of the church, which the apostle wishes might be inflicted on this person and his associates, ver. 12. whom he had likened to a little leaven that leavens the whole lump, ver. 9. just as he did the incestuous person, when he wrote to the *Corinthians* to cast him out of the church, 1 Cor. v. 5, 6. And yet it is proper to take in a consideration of the judgment of God; because this confirms, and gives the most awful sanction to a church-censure duly pronounced; and God will deal with the man that deserves it, whether the church doth its duty towards him or not.

† The apostle here plainly intimates, that some, to lessen and expose his character, had suggested as if he were an unstable man, preaching up circumcision in some places, though in others he preached it down. They might probably take occasion for this from his circumcising *Timothy*, to prevent offence to the *Jews*, and remove that obstruction to the usefulness of his ministry among them; (see the note on *Acts* xvi. 3.) and from his speaking for a charitable forbearance, as he often did, with regard to circumcision, when no stress was laid upon it, and yet *Jewish* prejudices remained in its favour.

mischief and dishonour upon his name, church, and gospel.

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

13 For ye, my brethren, have been called by the gospel to a noble liberty of spirit in dealing with God as your Father, and in your deliverance from ceremonial observances, and from the curse of the law; a liberty which ought not to be broke in upon by any one whatsoever, and which ye ought to abide by as more valuable than your lives: Only remember, that it is not a liberty which discharges you from obligations to keep the moral law as the law of your creation, and the indispenfable and unchangeable rule of righteousness; and therefore it is not to be abused unto licentiousness, and taking occasion to gratify your pride, passion, and sensuality, or any other corruption of human nature; nor is it to be managed in such a manner, as to lead others into sin; but it is to be improved unto all kind and brotherly affection and friendly offices in serving one another, by all proper means, as those that are bound to seek each other's edification and advantage.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

14 For all the precepts of the second table of the moral law are summed up by our Lord himself, (*Mat. xxii. 39, 40.*) in *one* so very comprehensive, that a due regard to it, from a principle of love to God, would readily lead you to a compliance with all the rest; and that is this, Your benevolent temper and beneficent behaviour toward your fellow-creatures, and much more fellow-Christians, of every civil or religious character, shall be sincerely such as ye owe to yourself, and as, were you in their circumstances, and they in yours, you would think reasonable for them to exercise toward yourself, as partaker of the same human nature, and especially as being of the same Christian-community with them.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

15 But if, in defiance of this great commandment of the law, ye, like ravenous wild beasts, rather than Christians, or rational creatures, endued with sentiments of humanity, fight and quarrel, reproach and abuse each other with as much severity and fierceness, as if ye would bite and tear, and eat up one another, there is great reason to fear, lest at length the God of love and peace forsake you, and ye on both sides, through mutual heats and feuds, be brought to utter ruin, with relation to your church-state and privileges, and all your best interests.

16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

16 My advice then; yea, my solemn charge in the name of the Lord Jesus, for preventing these and all other dreadful eruptions of the body of sin, is, that ye labour, and beg of God to enable you, to live and act in the constant course of your walk with him

him and conversation in the world, according to the dictates, and under the influence and government of his good Spirit, and of that supernatural principle of grace and holiness, which, I trust, he has planted in many of your hearts, and which therefore may be also called *Spirit*: (John iii. 6.) And this will have such a powerful effect upon you, that ye will not yield yourselves up to the inclinations and propensions of that carnal principle, which still in measure abides with you, and may well be called *flesh*; much less will ye ever be suffered to finish sin, (*καὶ μὴ τελευτήσῃτε*) in such a manner as would bring forth death. (*Jam. i. 15.*)

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

17 For in regenerate souls, the remainder of indwelling corruption struggles against, and vain would suppress the gracious principle and all its holy workings in them, and expel the Spirit of God from them: And, on the contrary, the spiritual principle that is wrought in them, by the Holy Ghost, and sides with him, as living and acting under his conduct and assistance, heartily desires (*ἐπιθυμοῦμαι*) and labours after the mortification and entire destruction of the body of sin: And these two principles, the old and new man, the law of the members and the law of the mind, are directly opposite in their nature, tendencies, and actings, one against the other; insomuch that, through the prevailing bias of the better part in you, ye do by no means give into a chosen and deliberate commission of those sins, which your remaining corruptions would prompt you to, any more than that, through their counter-workings, ye * do not perform the duties ye are called to, with such an entire freedom, constancy, and fervour, as ye ought, and gladly would.

18 But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

18 But if, upon the whole, ye be under the guidance and influence of the Spirit of God, according to the rule of his word, and the principle of that new nature which he has given you; and so, in the habitual frame of your hearts and course of your lives, are led off from the ways of sin into the paths of righteousness, it is evident that ye are not under the law, as a covenant of works, nor under its curse; for *ye received not the Spirit by the works of the law, but by the hearing of faith*; (chap. iii. 2.) and *there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit*. (Rom. viii. 1.)

19, &c.

N O T E.

* The strict and proper sense of these words (*καὶ οὐκ*) is, *ye do not*; and I see no reason why they should not be so rendered.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things, shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

23 Meek-

19, 20, 21 Now, if ye would know what are the different operations of these two contrary principles: As to the evil workings that are produced by the corruption of nature, some of which may be called the *filthiness of the flesh*, as they most immediately defile *the body*; and others, the *filthiness of the spirit**, as they most immediately defile the *soul*, (2 Cor. vii. 1.) they are too obvious and odious to be concealed, or admit of any colourings to recommend them, and are such as these, whoredom in thought or deed, or both, between married men and women, or at least where one of the parties is so; simple fornication between single persons; impurity or lewdness, and immodesty of every kind; an unchaste, indecent, and wanton temper and behaviour; all idolatrous worship; enchantments, divinations, and magic arts by real or pretended converses with familiar spirits; ill-will towards others, together with enmity against God and godliness; litigious contentions; bitter zeal and rancour; a swelling revengeful temper; scoldings, wranglings, and provocations to evil; a riotous turbulent behaviour to cause dissensions; fundamental errors, obstinately persisted in against the plainest light and evidence; uneasy grudgings at the prosperity of others; maliciously designing, and wilfully accomplishing the death of men without any just cause; drinking strong liquors to excess; gluttonous featings, ranting, and raving; together with many other debaucheries, lusts, and passions of a like nature, concerning which I now assure you before-hand, as I also did when I was personally present and preached among you †, that they, who commit any of these crimes, allowing themselves therein, and are not brought to repentance, and recovered from them, shall not be admitted to the inheritance of the saints in God's heavenly kingdom.

22, 23 But, in opposition to these and such sort of detestable works of the flesh, the effects that are produced by the Holy Spirit, and by the principle of divine life under his influence, and that, like the most grateful fruits, are well-pleasing to God through Jesus

N O T E S.

* Some of the *works*, hereafter mentioned, arise principally, if not entirely from the *mind*, such as *idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, heresies, and envyings*; and yet are called the *works of the flesh*. We have therefore reason to conclude, that by *the flesh* the apostle does not here mean the *body* and its sensitive appetites and inclinations *only*, but *the corruption* of human nature, as it

spreads through and defiles all the powers of the soul, as well as all the members of the body, by which it discovers itself, and breaks out into overt-acts. (See the notes on *Rom. vi. 13, 19.*)

† These are such *works of the flesh*, as seem to have much abounded among the *Galatians*, and therefore are so particularly specified.

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Jesus Christ, and profitable to yourselves, are such as these, A universal love to God and Christ, his word and ordinances, fellow-Christians and fellow-creatures, by which I have told you (*ver. 6.*) faith works, and proves itself to be sincere; *joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we receive the atonement,* (*Rom. v. 11.*) and rejoicing in the happiness of others, and in contributing towards it; peace of conscience under a sense of peace with God through the blood of Jesus, and a peaceable temper and behaviour towards our Christian-brethren, and towards all men; a patient bearing of affronts and injuries, and long forbearance toward those that offend us; an affable and courteous, harmless, sweet and winning disposition and carriage towards all we have to do with; a benevolent temper and beneficent course of life; fidelity to all the trusts committed to us, as also in our words and promises, and in all our dealings with regard to God and man, as springing from faith in Christ, and in God through him; a meek and humble, calm and quiet frame of spirit, diffusing itself, in imitation of our blessed Lord, through our whole conversation in the world; and a regular government of our passions and appetites, that we may not go into any excess in the pursuit and use of earthly enjoyments. Against such Christians, as are possessed of these and the like fruits of the Spirit, there is no law in force to condemn them; because, as has been observed, (*ver. 18.*) these are the persons, that are not under the law to be dealt with according to its strict tenor, and subjected to its curse.

24 And they that are Christ's, have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts.

24 And they that belong to Christ, not only in name and profession, but in truth, as his peculiar property and charge, and as members of his mystical body vitally united to him, interested in him, and devoted to him, are obliged, earnestly endeavour, and have been actually enabled by his Spirit, in virtue of his crucifixion, and in conformity to him therein, to subdue the power of the old man, the body of sin, or the corruption of human nature, that it may not reign in their mortal bodies; (*Rom. vi. 6, 12.*) and to break the force of its grievous and defiling passions, such as *hatred, wrath, and envy*; and of its eager desires after sensual pleasure, such as *drunkenness and uncleanness*, together with all the other works of the flesh, and ungovernable propensions toward them, before-mentioned, (*ver. 19,—21.*) that they, like a crucified man, may be continually losing strength, and gradually lingering more and more till they quite expire.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain-glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

25 If we are indeed quickned and made alive to God by the power of the divine Spirit, let it be our daily prayer, labour, and concern, to act up to our principles, characters, obligations, and advantages as Christians, by departing from all iniquity, and walking in all holy conversation and godliness, according to the gracious suggestions and assistances he affords us.

26 And as we are indebted to him for all the good that is in us, let none of us over-rate our own endowments or performances, as though we were in ourselves more worthy than others; nor aim at making a vain glorious shew of them, as those that seek the applause of men, and despise others on account of their lower attainments: Let us not, in violation of the great law of love, (*ver.* 14.) provoke one another to angry resentments; nor give occasion of stirring up envious passions in one against another, on account of his superior advantages of any kind.

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

Behold the danger of turning aside from the true gospel-doctrine of justification alone by the free grace of God, through faith in Christ, and seeking it by the works of the law! This is to lose all benefit by Christ, and to be obliged to keep the whole law, as the condition of life, which we never can fulfil. How unhappy is it, that any who seemed to set out well in the Christian faith and profession, should, instead of standing fast in a gospel-freedom from *Jesuisb* ceremonies, and from the curse of the law, subject themselves to both! The doctrine of a crucified Christ, and salvation alone by him, is what we must adhere to, amidst all reproaches and persecutions on that account; and they who would introduce pernicious errors, in opposition to it, are such troublers of the church as ought to be cut off from its communion. And, ah! how great is the punishment due to their sin, which, sooner or latter, they must bear; unless God grant them repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth! But believers, who are made alive to God by his Spirit, and walk under his conduct and influence, wait with earnest desire and expectation of eternal life (the great object of their hope) on the foot of the righteousness of Christ, through such a faith in him, as works by love. How happy is their state! Neither circumcision, nor uncircumcision, as considered merely in themselves, can any way affect it; nor is there any sentence of law-condemnation in force against them, they not being under its covenant. But as they are still under the commanding power of the moral law, as a rule of life, how carefully should they guard against turning their holy liberty into an occasion of licentiousness! And with what benevolence should they serve one another in every work of love, which summarily includes all the duties we owe to our neighbour! But if any, under a pretence of zeal for truth and holiness, fall into intemperate heats and quarrels one with another, let them remember what a desperate risk they run of ruining themselves, and the cause of religion together. Would we be preserved from gratifying these, and all other corrupt dispositions, that still too much remain and oppose the principle of grace, in regenerate souls? Let it be our daily prayer, and endeavour to walk under the light and influence of the Holy Spirit, whose blessed fruits lie in direct opposition to all the works of the flesh, any of which, being indulged and persisted in, will certainly exclude a man from the kingdom of heaven. But they that are indeed united to Christ, through faith in him, have gained such a victory over the corruption of nature, and all its evil motions and appetites, that, like a crucified man, it is ready to expire in them. And if we have any good hope that, through the Spirit's operations, this is our case, how highly doth it become us to take heed of assuming honour to ourselves, or vaunting of our attainments; and so provoking some to wrath, as being despised; and others to envy, as being outshone by us!

C H A P. VI.

The apostle proceeds in exhortations to meekness, gentleness, and humility, 1,—5. To a generous maintenance of ministers, and beneficence towards all men, but especially toward professing believers, 6,—10. Sums up the main design of his epistle, for guarding the Galatians against their Judaizing teachers that wanted them to be circumcised for selfish ends, directly contrary to his own in preaching a crucified Christ, 11,—17. And concludes with a solemn benediction, 18.

TEXT.

BRETHREN, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

PARAPHRASE.

ACCORDING to the rule of Christian charity, which I have laid down, (*chap. v. 13, 14, 15, 22, &c.*) If any one among you, my brethren, fall into an erroneous notion or immoral act, like one caught by surprize before he was aware, (*προληψθη*) through unwatchfulness, ignorance, human frailty, plausible insinuations, the example of others, or the power of temptation, I beseech those of you that are more advanced and confirmed in knowledge and grace, (see the note on *1 Cor. ii. 15.*) to do your utmost to reduce such an one, like a dislocated member, (*καίναρτιζετε*) to his proper place in the body of Christ, by informing his judgment, and dealing closely with his conscience, for bringing him to repentance; not in a rough and angry way of treating him, but with such meekness and patience, tenderness and compassion in your temper and behaviour, as may convince him that what ye do to reclaim him, proceeds not from passion or prejudice, but merely from an affectionate concern for the glory of God, and the good of his own soul: And to induce every one of you hereunto, reflect seriously on your own infirmities, while you dwell in mortal flesh, and carry a body of sin about with you; and consider the danger you are in, lest, while you are too severe upon others, God should leave you to fall by temptation into the like, or some other evil, as bad, or worse.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and to fulfil the law of Christ.

2 In this manner, instead of imposing heavy yokes on one hand, or refusing any offices of kindness on the other, see to it, that ye sympathize and bear with, pray for, and assist each other, especially when any are troubled in spirit for what they have done amiss; and endeavour to *support the weak*, (*1 Thes. v. 14.*) to lighten and relieve one another's loads and grievances, trials and exercises of every kind; and so put that excellent law of love into practice, which has been already mentioned, (*chap. v. 14.*) and which our Lord himself has recommended, as summarily comprehending

comprehending all the duties of the second table of the law. (*Matth.* xxii. 39, 40.)

3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

3 For if any one hath high thoughts of his own attainments, as though he were sufficient of himself to resist temptation, and do great things in religion; and so despises and insults others, while at the same time he is really destitute of what he pretends to, he dreadfully deceives his own soul.

4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

4 But that none may be forward to judge and censure others, nor be sadly mistaken about himself, let every one narrowly search into, try and prove his own principles, motives and ends, temper and behaviour, that he may form a right judgment concerning them; and if, upon serious examination, they appear to be according to the truth of the gospel, and his holy profession of it, he then will have great matter of rejoicing, even unto a humble glorying, (*καυχνησα*) not in taking any honour to himself, but within his own soul, on account of what God has wrought in him, and enabled him to do; and on account of the witness, which his own conscience and the Holy Spirit bear to his sincerity, and to God's approving and accepting him and his services, through Jesus Christ. And having this delightful consciousness in himself, he need not be solicitous about the good opinion and applause of others, or about glorying in them as his profelytes; nor doth his happiness at all depend upon what he is, in a mere comparison of himself with others of a worse character, or upon what esteem they have of him; since *he who judges him is the Lord.* (1 Cor. iv. 3, 4.)

5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

5 For as *every one must give an account of himself to God;* (*Rom.* xiv. 12.) so he will be judged and dealt with for happiness, or misery, in that awful day, not according to what he is in comparison with, or in the opinion of others, nor according to any over-weening thoughts of his own, concerning himself; but only according to what he really is, and shall then be found to be in heart and life, before God.

6 Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth, in all good things.

6 In order to your being acquainted with, and established in these important things, there is need of a standing ministry; and as it is equitable in itself, and the Lord Jesus has ordained that *they, who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel,* (1 Cor. ix. 14.) let no differences among you prevent your supporting his faithful servants in their work; but let him that has the benefit of being taught the truth, as it is in Jesus, and especially him that has been effectually taught of God by this means, contribute cheerfully and liberally, according to his worldly substance,

stance, to the comfortable maintenance of the minister, that spends his time and pains in preaching the gospel to him, which brings better blessings than all the good things of this life.

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

7 Let none of you be deluded or misled by any plausible suggestions, or by your own covetous tempers, as if this, or any other instances of liberality, as occasions require, were not your duty. How much soever a man may prevaricate, to the deceiving of himself, or others, the great God, who sees your hearts, and has a supreme right to your obedience, will not suffer himself to be imposed upon, or treated with a contempt or neglect of any of his commandments, under fallacious pretences of obeying them: For, to speak in the language of a metaphor, taken from the ordinary course of Providence in the works of nature, a man's reaping shall be according to the goodness or badness of what he sows.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

8 For as in the natural world, the husbandman reaps the fruits of the earth, according to the different kinds of seed he has sown; so in the moral and spiritual world, every man will receive the fruit of his doings, answerable to their nature and quality; inso-much that he who, like a sower of bad seed, lays out his temporal enjoyments, or spends his time and strength, with selfish and corrupt views, shall reap the sad and rotten fruit of such a carnal temper and conduct, in only perishing acquisitions here, and endless destruction hereafter: But, on the contrary, he who, through the power of divine grace, employs his earthly substance, and improves his various talents, like a sower of good seed, for promoting spiritual things, in subservience to the work and design of the Spirit of God, agreeable to his holy nature and will, as revealed in his word, shall reap glorious fruit unto holiness in this world, the *end* of which shall be *eternal life* in the next, as *the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Rom. vi. 22, 23.)

9 And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

9 Being animated by this comfortable view and prospect, let us take heed that, like people weary of their enterprizes, we do not grow remiss and negligent about, much less cease from, doing good to others by any means that we may be capable of: For we shall certainly have a plentiful harvest of blessings in proper time, if not in this world, yet at the resurrection of the just, in case we do not, through unbelief and discouragement, covetousness and impatience, or some other evil principle, desist from our duty, as counting it an irksome task; but persevere in it to the end.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer periecution for the cross of Christ.

13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you

10 While therefore God, by his providence, gives us abilities, and proper opportunities and occasions, Let us labour and exercise ourselves (*εργαζομεθα*) in every work of beneficence towards the necessitous, and all our fellow-creatures, without restraining it, like the *Jews*, to those of our own religion and nation; and yet this ought to be done most especially, with care and delight, to those, who, in the judgment of charity, have cordially embraced the faith of Christ, and are brought into his church and family, as his domestics and children of his household. (*Epb. ii. 19.*)

11 Now, to draw to a close, ye see, and pray observe, my brethren, what important things I have wrote; and to how great a length, in my abundant zeal and concern for you, I have stretched this letter, and *that* not by the assistance of an *amanuensis*, which I mostly make use of, but all of it with mine own hand-writing*.

12 As to all these that would pervert you, whatever their figure and pretences be, or how much soever they be ambitious of recommending themselves to the favour of men, by external flourishing professions of religion, and zealous observations of ceremonial rites and carnal ordinances, which sanctify only to the purifying of the flesh, (*Heb. ix. 13.*) their chief and governing end, in so strenuously insisting on the necessity of your being circumcised, (though many of you never were under the *Mosaic* law) is not out of any love to you, or concern for your salvation; but only that they themselves may escape the persecutions and reproaches, which the furious unbelieving *Jews* would bring upon them, were they to hold, that faith in a crucified Saviour is sufficient for justification, without joining to it an observation of the law of *Moses*. (See the preface to this epistle, and the note on *chap. iv. 11.*)

13 For these very zealots that have been circumcised, and thereby, in effect, obliged to keep the whole of the *Mosaic* law, as ever they would be justified by it; (*chap. v. 3.*) even they themselves do not come up to its high demands of moral duties †, how

N O T E S.

* The verb (*ιδτε*) *ye see*, may be rendered in the *imperative* as well as *indicative* mood. And *how large a letter I have wrote* (*παιδικις γραμμασιν εγραψα*) may probably signify not only *the length* of the epistle, but likewise *the important matter* contained in it. (See Mr. Pyle's note on the place.) However, the apostle mentions his writing it *with his own hand* to shew his zealous concern for

them; because, as seems from *Rom. xvi. 22* *1 Cor. xvi. 21.* and *2 Thess. iii. 17.* he usually either dictated his epistles, and some other person wrote them; or, if he wrote the originals, others transcribed them, and then he sent the copies to the churches, attested by his own hand to be genuine. (See the note on *Rom. xvi. 22.*)

† These judaizing Christians were zealous

you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

how strict and zealous soever they may be for observing its ceremonial rites and ordinances; nor indeed are they so much concerned about the first, as about the last: But they would fain have you brought under the bond of circumcision, that they may boast of you as their profelytes from among the *Gentiles*; and so make a merit with the carnal *Jews* of your being circumcised in the flesh through their instigation, and thereby obliged to observe the law in its full extent for justification to eternal life.

14 But, as to myself, far be it from me, it is a detestable thought in my account, that I, like them, should be ambitious of human applause, or boast of what I have done, or rely on any thing as the ground of acceptance with God, except it be on the atoning sacrifice of our crucified Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for whom I am willing to *suffer the loss of all things*, &c. (Phil. iii. 8, 9.) Such is my entire dependence on this, my triumph in it, and expectation from it, that by faith in him, and by virtue derived from him, and in conformity to him, as crucified, I am dead to all the allurements, interests, ease, and honours of this world on one hand, and all its terrors, persecutions, and reproaches on the other, so as not to be moved by them: (*Acts* xx. 24.) And it is on account of my preaching the pure doctrine of salvation alone by the cross of Christ, without any mixture of the works of the law, that men of a worldly spirit, who are chiefly governed by secular interests, are dead in their affections toward me, despise and hate me, and would be glad to crucify me, as they did my dear Redeemer.

15 For with regard to union with Christ, and justification to life, through faith in him, a man's being circumcised, or not circumcised, considering these things barely in themselves, is of no manner of account, as all distinctions of that kind under the New Testament-dispensation are at an end. The great thing that belongs to, and is necessary for proving our interest in him is, that we be indeed *created in Christ Jesus*

N O T E.

zealous for circumcision and all other ceremonial ordinances; and therefore when the apostle says, that *they themselves did not keep the law*, he seems to have his eye principally on the *moral law*, in obedience to which they were sadly defective, and yet were undoubtedly as much obliged by circumcision to attend to, as they could be to external rites and ceremonies, if they would pretend to be justified by the works of the law: And

as he mentions this by way of censure upon those zealots, for not sincerely acting up to their own pretences, it seems too jejune to suppose, with some, that their *not keeping the law* only means that they, being in *Galatia*, could not regularly observe the *Jewish* feasts, or offer sacrifice, or cleanse themselves from their defilements by touching any thing that was unclean.

Jesus unto good works; (Eph. ii. 10.) or be formed a-new in our principles, temper, and designs; and so brought to deal with God for all acceptance, and to walk in all holiness before him, according to the tenor of the gospel, in an exercise of that faith, which works by love. (Chap. v. 6.)

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

16 And as many professing Christians, whether Jews or Gentiles, as shall walk orderly, (*εὐτακτοὶ*) and within the boundaries of the rule, which has been laid down in this epistle, with respect to the grounds of acceptance with God, the right use of Christian liberty, the law of love, and the new creature, without any regard to circumcision or uncircumcision, I earnestly pray with assured confidence, that all the blessings of peace with God, with one another, and in their own consciences, and all the kindness and tender compassion, that wretched sinful creatures stand in need of, even every good thing, that can be included in *peace* and *mercy*, may be richly bestowed by the God of all grace upon them, and upon all sincere believers; and I authoritatively pronounce all these blessings upon them, who, in distinction from *Israelites*, only after the flesh, are the true and spiritual *Israel*, which God has formed for himself, and receives and owns for his peculiar church and people, through his Son.

17 From henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

17 Upon the whole then, after all that has been said in this epistle, let no one give me any further trouble, by disputes and quarrels about circumcision and other observances of the law, or by injuriously reproaching me, as though I had sometimes preached them up as necessary things: For many are the persecutions which I have already endured; and to this very day I carry about in my mortal body the visible scars of those stripes, wounds, and bonds, (*Acts* xx. 23. and *2 Cor.* iv. 10. and xi. 23, 24.) which I have suffered for the sake of, and in conformity to my crucified Lord and Saviour, as evident marks of my being his devoted servant, and proofs of my faithful adherence to, and zeal for promoting the pure gospel-doctrine of justification alone through faith in him.

18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

18 To conclude, brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is, that his free love and favour, together with all its blessed manifestations, fruits, and effects, may plentifully abound toward you, and sensibly rest upon your souls, to lead you in the way of faith, comfort, and holiness, till ye shall arrive at the complete possession of everlasting life. In testimony of my sincerity herein, and of my hope with respect hereunto, I cordially say, *Amen.*

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

With what meekness and humility, compassion and sympathy, should Christians of superior attainments labour to recover their brethren, that have been overtaken with a fault through infirmity and temptation! To induce them to this, let them consider that, in the present state of human frailty, they themselves are liable to slips and falls: and that though they be delivered from the ceremonial law, and from the covenant of works and its curse, they are still under the moral law to Christ, who enjoins all obedience to it, and every office of love one towards another. How dreadful is it to deceive one's own soul, through self-conceit, or hypocritical mockeries of God, who neither will nor can be imposed upon! But what a noble pleasure has a man in himself, when, upon close trial, his conscience bears him witness that he is approved of God in Christ; and is enabled to prove his own faithfulness in the management of his worldly enjoyments, for supporting a gospel-ministry, and doing good, as opportunities offer, to all men, and especially those that belong to the household of faith! And O how solemn is the thought, that in the judgment of the great day every one must reap the fruit of his own ways, whether of sin unto death, or of holiness unto everlasting life! What signifies making a fair shew of religion, in outward appearances, if our hearts and ends are wrong, and we are so fond of the favour and applause of men, as to be afraid or ashamed to own a crucified Christ, and the doctrine of salvation alone by him, lest we should suffer reproaches and persecutions on that account? But they are Christians indeed, and ought not to be suspected to be otherwise, who can glory in the cross of Christ, as the only ground of all acceptance with God, and who, by virtue derived from him, are as dead to the world, as the men of this world can be to them. Whatever be our professions, denominations, and external privileges, nothing will turn to our saving advantage, unless we be new creatures, and have that faith which works by love. But grace, mercy, and peace, will be upon all *Israelites* indeed, who walk by rule, according to the gospel, in their dealings with God and man. The Lord Jesus himself will freely bless them; and his servants cannot but heartily wish that they may be abundantly blessed, and in hope of it say, *Amen*.

A P R A C-

A PRACTICAL
E X P O S I T I O N
O F T H E
APOSTLE PAUL'S EPISTLE
T O T H E
E P H E S I A N S,
I N T H E F O R M O F A
P A R A P H R A S E.

THE PREFACE TO THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS.

EPHESUS was the metropolis of the proconsular *Asia*, which was a part of the province that went by the name of *Asia the Less*. Here stood the celebrated temple of *Diana*, which was called one of the seven wonders of the world; and the inhabitants of this city were on the one hand eminent for human wisdom and learning, and on the other remarkably infamous for idolatry, lasciviousness, and magical arts, as appears from *chap. v. 5.* and *Acts xix. 19.* And yet from among persons of these characters, sovereign grace raised a church, the greatest part of which were *Gentiles*, by the ministry of the apostle *Paul*, who continued preaching to them about *three years.* (*Acts xx. 31.*)

Some time afterwards he took a journey that way, and sent for the elders of this church to *Miletus*, where, among other things, he appealed to them, that he had diligently and affectionately laboured among them, and *kept back nothing that was profitable to them; but had testified both to the Jews and Greeks repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ; and had not shunned to declare unto them the whole counsel of God:* He then charged them to *take heed to the flock, over which the Holy Ghost had made them overseers,* telling them by the spirit of prophecy, that *grievous wolves would enter in among them not sparing the flock,* and that *of their own selves many would arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them, &c.* (*Acts xx. 7,—10.*) And the account we have of this church, *Rev. ii. 1,—6.* shews how sadly this prediction was verified.

To guard them therefore against those seducers, which, perhaps, by this time, began to appear among them; and to confirm them in the faith, which he had preached, and they had received, he wrote this epistle, in which he gave them an *epitome* of that gospel, which he had preached to them more at large, with respect to the

important doctrine of God's free love and grace, particularly in election and effectual calling, which he illustrates and enhances from a consideration of what they were by nature before conversion, and of the glorious blessings which they were made partakers of through the gospel, *chap. i, ii, iii.* These contain the *doctrinal* part of the epistle, which he delivers in sublime, moving, and rapturous strains, like one whose heart was deeply impressed and delighted, and almost overcome with the great things he was speaking of; and then, according to his usual method, he proceeds in the three last chapters to the *practical* part, in which he exhorts them to various duties, civil and religious, personal and relative, suitable to their Christian character, privileges, assistances, and obligations.

Dr. *Mills*, in his *prolegomena* to the New Testament, p. 9. and some others both before and after him suppose, that this epistle was written to the *Laodiceans*, and that the apostle ordered a copy of it to be sent to the *Ephesian* church, and so it came to be very early called the epistle to the saints at *Ephesus*; others suppose that it was a sort of general epistle for the use of such *Gentile* Christians, especially those of *Asia*, of whose conversion the apostle had only heard. But as the principal doctrines of this epistle agree with the account he gave the *elders* of *Ephesus* of what he had preached to them, and suit the design of fortifying them against the errors he foretold would spring up among them; *Acts xx. 20,—29.* (see Dr. *Whitby's* preface, and Dr. *Goodwin's* premise concerning this epistle, p. 3.) and as all the ancient copies and versions, that are come to our hand, read at *Ephesus*, and none of them at *Laodicea*, the laboured arguments of these learned gentlemen seem not to be fully conclusive; and the passages in the epistle itself, on which they are founded, will be considered, as they occur in the course of the exposition: However, the epistle might be wrote to *Ephesus*, not only for the immediate use of the church there, but likewise of other churches in *Asia*, of which *Laodicea* was one; accordingly some have thought that they are included in the latter part of the inscription, which is indefinitely *to the faithful in Christ Jesus*: *chap. i. 1.* And if it was written with a particular view to the *Laodiceans*, as well as the *Ephesians*, it might possibly be sometimes called the epistle to the *Laodiceans*, as some suppose it is, *Col. iv. 16.* (See the note there.) But as this is a matter of little or no moment, we may be very easy about it, since it is agreed, on all hands, that it was wrote by the inspired apostle *Paul*, and is of equal use to us, whether it was written immediately to the *Ephesians*, or any other church.

As to the *time* when this epistle was wrote, it is concluded to be, as some think, about the year of our Lord 58 or 59, or as others 62. However, it is certain that this and the epistle to the *Colossians* are a sort of twin epistles, as they were dictated or wrote about the same time, and on much the same subjects, and so cast light one upon the other; and both were wrote when the apostle was a prisoner at *Rome*: For in this epistle, *chap. iii. 1. and iv. 1.* he calls himself *the prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the prisoner of the Lord*; and

and in that to the *Colossians*, chap. iv. 18. he speaks of himself as *in bonds*. Accordingly it has been observed, that what he wrote in those circumstances had the greatest relish and favour of the things of God, which eminently appears in these two epistles, and in that to the *Philippians*, which was also wrote in prison, and about the same time.

C H A P. I.

The apostle prefaces his epistle, as usual, with an inscription and salutation, ver. 1, 2. Gives a general account of saving blessings in a way of thanksgiving and praise, 3. Enlarges upon them, as prepared in God's eternal election, as purchased by Christ's blood, and as conveyed in effectual calling, 4, — 10. Applies all this, first to the believing Jews, and then to the believing Gentiles, 11, — 14. Thanks God for what he had heard of their faith and love, and prays for the continuance of their knowledge and hope, with respect to the heavenly inheritance, and to God's powerful working in them, answerable to what had been wrought in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ, 15, — 23.

TEXT.

PAUL an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

PARAPHRASE.

I PAUL, who have the honour of being an apostle of Jesus Christ, (see the note on *Rom. i. 1.*) immediately sent forth, authorized and qualified by him, to publish his glorious gospel, and am called to this important office according to the sovereign will of God, who of his own mere favour appointed me to it, I, in the execution of this high trust, send this epistle under divine inspiration * to those Christians at *Ephesus*, who, as members of the church there, are by profession, and, as I trust, really renewed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit; and to those believers there, or elsewhere, that have obtained mercy to be faithful to their light and obligations, in their adherence

N O T E.

* And to the faithful (*και πιστοις* without the article) might be translated *even* to the faithful; for the particle (*και*) rendered *and*, frequently signifies *even* in the New Testament, when it comes between two nouns, the first of which has the article and the other not, as may be seen in many instances, where it is sometimes translated *and*, at others *even*, as in *ver. 3. Rom. xv. 6. 2 Cor. i. 3. and xi. 31. Phil. iv. 20. Col. ii. 2. 2 Theff. ii. 16. 1 Peter i. 3.* and several other places: And the word here rendered *the faithful* signifies also *believing*, or *believers*, or them *which believe*, and is of-

ten so translated, as in *John xx. 27. Acts x. 45. 2 Cor. vi. 15. 1 Tim. iv. 3, 10, 12. and v. 16. and vi. 2.*; and so may intimate that faith and holiness go together, or that all true believers are real saints, or holy persons: But some have thought that *and to the faithful in Christ Jesus* is added by way of intimation, that the epistle was directed to the rest of the believers in the Lesser *Asia*, as well as those at *Ephesus*; and whether this were the apostle's immediate intention or not, he doubtless designed it for their use, and for the use of all the churches of Christ in succeeding ages.

herence to the truth as it is in Jesus, and by virtue of their union with him, the only Saviour, from whom all their faith and faithfulness is derived, and in whom it is acceptable to God.

2 Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 May all the riches of divine *grace*, as consisting of the free favour of God, (see the note on *Rom. i. 7.*) and all its happy fruits, manifestations, and effects, which may be summed up in *peace* with him, with one another, and in your own souls, and is the peace that passeth all understanding, (*Phil. iv. 7.*) May all this, together with every kind of prosperity, abound towards each and every one of you here, till it be completed in eternal felicity hereafter, from our covenant-God and Father in Christ, as the fountain and first moving cause; and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ himself, as the purchaser and dispenser of all the blessings, that are comprehended in the peace, which he bequeathed to his disciples when he was going to the Father. (*John xiv. 27.*)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

3 All possible honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise are infinitely due, and are cheerfully paid by me, and ought to be so by you, to the ever-blessed God*, whose most endearing title formerly was *that of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, but who has now revealed himself under the still more encouraging and delightful character of God, even the Father, in the highest and most peculiar sense, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, his only begotten and eternal Son, and the Divine Mediator between him and us,

N O T E.

* God's blessing us is his conferring all spiritual and heavenly blessings upon us in his peculiar love to us, which distinguishes it from his bestowing only spiritual gifts and providential bounties, in a way of common goodness, which are not always blessings to those that have them; but our blessing God is only paying our solemn, grateful, and honourable acknowledgments of him, and ascribing glory to him, from the affection we bear to him, and the delight we have in him, on account of his own blessedness, and of the blessings which he confers upon us; and so our blessing him is not only distinguished from his blessing us, but likewise from those praises that redound, or are offered to God, but do not proceed from love to him as the principle of them. Thus it is said, *Psal. cxlv. 10.* that *all his works praise him, and his saints bless him*, because they only have such a love to God, as gives them pleasure in the thoughts of his glory, and in their ascriptions of it to him. Here a-

gain the particle *and* (see the note on *ver. 1.*) may be taken *exegetically*, as signifying *even* the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if we consider these as distinct characters, according to the view that our Lord himself gives of them, who ordered Mary Magdalen to say to his brethren, *I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God*, (*John xx. 17.* see the paraphrase there,) the matter is to be considered thus: The Father is Christ's God as *man* and *mediator*, and one in covenant with him, who was his hope and strength in every difficulty and danger, and gave him his reward: and he is his *Father primarily* with respect to his *divine nature*, as *his only begotten Son*, and *secondarily* with respect to his *human nature*, as that is *personally* united with the *divine*, and so comes into the relation of a higher sonship to the Father, than can belong to any mere creature whatever.

us, who, in the immense riches of his love and grace to those of us, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles* * that are *saints and faithful in Christ Jesus*, (ver. 1.) has freely and bountifully bestowed upon us, not only some, but all, and all manner of spiritual blessings, that are heavenly in their nature, original, and tendency, and shall be completed in the heavenly mansions †. They are already enjoyed in their beginnings and earnestly by us, and are secured, and taken possession of in heaven for us, in and by Jesus Christ, as our head and Saviour, and the only purchaser of them, and grand medium of their conveyance to us.

4 According as he hath chosen us in him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love :

4 All this took its rise and was prepared in the eternal counsel of God, wherein he eminently, and in a distinguishing manner, blessed us by a free grant of it all to us † ; and it is brought to pass according to, and in performance of his gracious and unchangeable purpose, even as he of his own mere love and favour has made a sovereign choice of us in and together with Christ, as our great head and representative, who as

such

N O T E S.

* I cannot see sufficient reason to think, with some commentators, that *blessed us* ought to be entirely confined to the *Gentiles*, and that merely in a national consideration of them : For the apostle here, and in several following verses, includes, together with *himself*, all those whom he had styled *the saints at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus*, and had saluted, as such, in the two immediately preceding verses ; and though the church at *Ephesus* mostly consisted of *Gentile* believers, and the grace of God to them is considered particularly and at large in several parts of the epistle ; yet there were some of the *Jewish* sort among them, as may be gathered from *Acts* xviii. 19, 20, 24, &c. ; and this was commonly the case of all the churches of the Lesser *Asia*, and particularly of this church, whether it were the church at *Ephesus*, or not, as appears from ver. 12. of this chapter, where the apostle speaks of those among them, that *first trusted in Christ*, in distinction from the *Gentile* part of them ; and chap. ii. 16, 18. he mentions *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as being both reconciled to God in one body by the cross of Christ ; and says, *through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father* ; and surely, *we were by nature the children of wrath, even as others*, (chap. ii. 3.) can never be meant merely of the *Gentiles*, since the only doubt could be, whether the *Jews* were by nature children of

wrath, as well as *Gentiles* ; and not whether the *Gentiles* were by nature the children of wrath, as well as the *Jews*. And as the apostle often varies the person in this epistle, sometimes speaking in the first person plural *we*, and *us* ; and and at others in the second *ye* and *you* ; it will hardly be found that he ever uses the pronoun *we* and *us* in any passage, that could not belong to *himself* and the believing *Jews*, while *ye* and *you* frequently relate to things peculiar to the *Gentiles* ; though, some few times, to things that were common to both.

† The words in *heavenly places* (*ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς*) signify in the *heavens*, and so may relate either to *places* or *things*, in opposition to the carnal privileges of the *Jews*, and their notions of earthly blessings in the Messiah's kingdom.

‡ God's choosing us may be considered, either as one instance of all those spiritual blessings wherewith he hath blessed us, or as a model or plat-form in his own eternal mind, according to which he has blessed us with the other blessings ; for the word (*καθώς*) *even*, or *according as*, fairly admits of both those senses ; and the apostle's saying this, inclusive of himself, who was a *Jew*, shews that God's eternal choice was not of *Gentiles* nationally considered, but was of persons from among the *Jews*, as well as from among the *Gentiles*.

such is styled, by way of eminence, *his elect*; (Isa. lxii. 1.) which choice was made before the *foundation of the earth was laid*, even from all eternity: And this he has done, not because he foresaw that we would be holy, but that we might be so by a work of renewing grace begun here, and to be perfected hereafter, he having *chosen us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience*, (2 Thess. ii. 13. and 1 Pet. i. 2.) and that our holiness might not be in outward appearance only, but in sincerity and truth; such as is without hypocrisy and deceit, and, at length, shall be entirely sinless, without exception, in the sight of God, who searcheth the heart; and such as in great measure consists of, as well as proceeds from, that love unto God and one another, which works in us as under his all-seeing eye, and inclines us to keep his commandments without counting them grievous. And all this is the fruit of his love to us, who *hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.* (2 Tim. i. 9.)

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

5 And God, in the same eternal decree, whereby he graciously separated us from the rest of mankind*, has fore-ordained us to the dignity of adoption into his family, that we might be brought into the relation of sons and heirs to God, and joint-heirs with Christ; and so might have a right to the heavenly inheritance, and to all the honours, privileges, and blessings, that belong to his children; some of which are to be enjoyed in this world, till they shall issue in all the glories of our adoption, that shall be consummated, both in soul and body, *at the manifestation of the sons of God*, in and for ever after their resurrection from the dead: (Rom. viii. 19, 23.) Which glorious adoption is designed and brought to pass, through our union with Jesus Christ, his eternal and only begotten Son, that we might be brethren to him, and he might be glorified in and by us, as he is the *first born among many brethren*, to whose image we are predestinated to be conformed, and who in all things has the pre-eminence; (Rom. viii. 29. Col. i. 18.)

N O T E.

* God's *choosing us in Christ*, as our common head may relate to his singling us out in his love from others, whom he passed by or left to themselves; and some, putting a stop after, *before him*, join in love, at the close of the last verse,

to the beginning of this; and his *predestinating us* may relate to the great and glorious things to which he chose us in Christ, that we, as the children of God, might have all blessedness and honour in and through him.

18.) and that we, through him, * might be brought to the most intimate union and communion with, and enjoyment of God himself, as a peculiar people appropriated and consecrated to him, and *formed for himself, that we might shew forth his praise*: (Isa. xliii. 21.) All which entirely proceeds from, and is owing, not to any worthiness in us, nor to any necessity or obligation that lay upon him, but merely to that free determination of his own sovereign will and pleasure, which moved him to it, and which he takes the greatest complacency in, above all the other purposes of his heart, as he *delights in mercy*. (Mic. vii. 18.)

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved:

6 His ultimate end in all this was † that, as his great *goodness, benignity, or kindness*, is that perfection of his nature, which sheds a glory upon all the rest, and which he rejoices in with peculiar delight, and on account of which he is infinitely amiable in himself, and worthy of all possible honour, blessing, and praise; so it might be illustriously manifested and displayed in the most endearing manner to the objects of his love, as superlatively and adorably glorious; and revenues of admiration, blessing, and praise might be paid to his great name for it, who by the free determination and exercise of his grace, has rendered us acceptable to himself, as his children, in and through his first, and best, and eminently Beloved, even his own emphatically *dear Son*, (Col. i. 13.) in whom he is well pleased, and for whose sake, and on whose account, he is so with us, as we are looked upon and considered in him. (Matth. iii. 17.)

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

7 In this beloved Son, as our Head and Redeemer, and by virtue of our union with him, we, whom God has chosen, predestinated and accepted in him, (*ver. 4, 5, 6.*) have a complete and glorious deliverance from all evil, and a recovery to all blessedness; and *that* at the ‡ inestimable price of his own precious blood which he shed at his Father's call, in the most terrible

N O T E S.

* *To himself*, or as it might be rendered to him (*ως αυτου*) may refer either to *Christ*, or to *God the Father*.

† Here is a noble, beautiful, and affecting gradation from *his grace* to *the glory of his grace*, and from the glory of his grace, to the *praise of its glory*.

‡ Several interpreters of no small note have observed that the *tense* is here changed from the *past* to the *present*, which they suppose is to distinguish the blessings here mentioned as what we receive in time, from those that were spoken of in the preceding verie, as what was

done in God's gracious acts concerning us from all eternity. But though this may be allowed, with regard to the blessings mentioned, *ver. 4, 5* yet I much doubt whether there be any solid ground for this observation, as it relates to God's having *made us accepted in the Beloved*, which is the last thing mentioned before the alteration of the *tense*; for in the next following veries, *S. 9, 11.* the apostle re-assumes the *past tense*, where he says, *God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence having made known to us the mysteries of his*

terrible manner, for the satisfaction of his law and justice in a way of atonement for sin; so that on this account, in conjunction with all his sufferings and obedience which were finished at his death, we have free and full forgiveness of all trespasses, (*Col. ii. 13.*) which includes, or draws after it, a deliverance from the curse of the law and the wrath of God, from the power of sin and Satan, and from the sting of death, together with a recovery to all possible happiness and glory in our whole persons, which shall be perfectly enjoyed at the *redemption of our bodies*: And these, as well as all the rest of the fore-mentioned benefits, are not from any desert or worthiness in us, but merely from the inexhaustible fulness, excellence, liberality, and boundless overflowings of the free mercy and favour of God the Father *, as he of his own good pleasure

N O T E S.

will; and we have obtained an inheritance in Christ, all which, as these interpreters themselves allow, relate to the blessings bestowed in time, as much as our having redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sins, can be supposed to do.—As to the nature of this redemption, we may observe that the scripture sometimes speaks of redemption by power, as when God said he would redeem Israel from their Egyptian-bondage with a stretched-out-arm, and with great judgments. (*Exod. vi. 6.*) But at other times it speaks of redemption by price, as when the houses and lands of Israel were to be redeemed by a proper price paid for them, and when a poor Israelite, who had sold himself to a stranger, was to be redeemed by his kinsman's paying the price of his sale. (*See Lev. xxv. 23,—52.*) And what the apostle here speaks of is manifestly redemption by price; for that is the primitive signification of the word (*ἀπολυτρωσις*) here used, which is elsewhere called Christ's having obtained eternal redemption, (*λυτρωσις*) by his own blood; (*Heb. ix. 12.*) and is expressed by his giving his life (*λυτρωσάμενος πολλῶν*) a ransom or price of redemption for many; that is, by his dying in their room and stead for their deliverance from all the captivity, bondage, and miseries, which sin had subjected them to. Accordingly it is here called redemption through Christ's blood; and answerable hereunto, we are said to be bought with a price, (*1 Cor. vi. 20.*) and what this price is we are told, when it is said ye were redeemed (*ἐλυτρωθήκατε*) with corruptible things, as silver and not

gold, but with the precious blood of Christ; (*1 Pet. i. 18, 19.*) and in the passage before us, they that are made accepted in the Beloved, ver. 6. are said to have redemption in him, as in their public head and representative, sponsor, and surety, who has actually paid down the price of it for them, and is, and for ever will be, the subject of all its glory, and of all that merit and efficacy, whereby they are made partakers of it, to the forgiveness of their sins in virtue of their union with him.

* *The riches of his grace* may indeed, by the construction, refer to Christ, who is the nearest antecedent; and therefore I have glanced at it in the paraphrase: But it is more generally, and I think most properly, referred to the Father; because the glory of his grace had been spoken of in the verse next before it; and it is he that is meant in the progress of the discourse, as the person who bestows all the farther blessings, mentioned in the three following verses: And though the endearing love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was exceeding and abundant in redeeming us to God by his blood; yet all the blessings of salvation are most usually through the scripture, and particularly in this epistle, ascribed to the Father's grace, as their original source and fountain: And the riches of his grace are very consistent with Christ's paying the full price of our redemption for the reasons assigned in the paraphrase, by which it appears that, how dear soever it cost Christ, it is all entirely free, without the least expence to us, or motive taken from any good in us; and the riches of the grace of God are magnified

pleasure contrived, appointed, gave, and accepted of Christ; who also, in the greatness of his love, graciously consented to lay down his life for our ransom, without so much as our knowing or desiring it: And God has graciously appointed and revealed this, and laid out the way and method of freely making over all the benefit of it to us in a way of believing, and has freely given us faith therein, on Christ's account, for our own salvation. (*Chap. ii. 8.*)

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

8 In the breaking forth and over-flowings of this rich grace, as from its fountain-fulness, God has abundantly manifested to us the highest wisdom and counsel, in contriving and executing his eternal scheme for advancing the glory of all his perfections, that his holiness, truth, and justice, together with every other attribute of the divine nature, might concur and harmonize with his grace, in saving us through Christ's redemption: (*ver. 7.*) * And, in this his abundant grace, he has given to us, at our conversion, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of himself and of his Son, (*ver. 17.*) *whom to know is life eternal*; (*John xvii. 3.*) and has made our *love to abound in knowledge and in all judgment, that we may approve things that are excellent*; (*Phil. i. 9, 10.*) and that the benefits of his own love and of Christ's purchase might be effectually applied to us through faith, whereby we are brought to trust in Christ, (*ver. 12, 13.*) are made *wise to salvation*, (*2 Tim. iii. 15.*) and are taught to know, regard, and practise our duty with understanding and discretion.

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure, which he hath purposed in himself:

9 All this wisdom and prudence has God discovered and conveyed to us, by means of the gospel-revelation, and by the attending illumination of his Spirit in our hearts, as he therein has opened to us his gracious scheme of salvation by Jesus Christ for lost sinners of all sorts, and of what nation soever; which may be called a *mystery*, because it was from all eternity hid as an impenetrable secret in God's own breast, (*chap. iii. 9.*) and was but obscurely hinted in the dark types, promises, and prophecies of the

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fied in much higher and more affecting strains, by its most freely providing for an honourable forgiveness of our sins at so costly and self-denying a rate, as by delivering his own eternal, dearly beloved Son in our nature, to the worst of deaths, than if it had been granted by a mere act of sovereign prerogative, without any regard to the rights or satisfaction of justice.

* *All wisdom and prudence* in this verse may relate either to God, in his scheme of salvation by Jesus Christ, and discovery of it by the gospel, and in his actings toward believers; or may relate to *them*, in what he has wrought in them. The connection with *ver. 7.* may lead us to the *first*, and with *ver. 9.* to the *last* of these.

Old Testament, compared with the brighter and fuller revelation that is now made of it to the saints; (*Col. i. 26.*) and it is such a great *mystery of godliness*, and contains such *unsearchable riches of Christ*, that, notwithstanding the gospel-revelation, it still is hid from unbelievers, whose minds the god of this world has blinded; (*2 Cor. iv. 3, 4.*) and has breadths, and lengths, and depths, and heights, that surpass all the knowledge of true believers themselves. (*Ephes. iii. 18, 19.* See the note on *1 Cor. ii. 7.*) And it may be called the *mystery of his will*, because it took its rise merely from his own sovereign will, according to his free determination, as seemed good in his sight. (*Matth. xi. 27.* and *Luke x. 21.*) And this he resolved upon from all eternity for his own glory, without the least motive or inducement from any other whatsoever.

10 That, 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.

10 That in the last dispensation of God's grace under the gospel-state, which may be called *the dispensation of the fulness of times*, because it is a completion of the various seasons of his gracious dealings with the apostate sons of men, and was introduced as soon as the time was fully come, which he had appointed for it, and had foretold in ancient prophecies, and in which all things were ripe for it by a general expectation of the Messiah, and by a most deplorable and universal degeneracy and corruption in doctrine and manners among both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, which made it the most seasonable time of God's appearing for their help and recovery, and for magnifying the glory of his grace therein: At this fittest time, I say, he, in his adorable wisdom, condescension, and kindness, took the opportunity to bring in this concluding administration of the richest mercy, that he might set to rights all the disorder and enmity that sin had introduced, and (*ανακεφαλαιωσασθαι*) by gathering together the scattered parts of intelligent creatures, might recapitulate, reduce, and place them in order again under Christ, as their head, including both the holy angels, as also the glorified saints in heaven*, and believing *Jews* and *Gentiles* of all nations and degrees of sinners upon earth, by re-uniting them into one body for mutual affection and communion, and for joint-worship (*Phil. ii. 9, 10.* *Heb. xii. 22, 23.* and *Rev. v. 11, 14.*) under Christ, who is a head of confirmation and government

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* *Ανακεφαλαιωσασθαι* (*τα παντα*) in the neuter gender, is sometimes used for *all persons*, as appears from *Gal. iii. 22.* compared with *Rom. xi. 32.* in the first of which

places, *He has concluded all under sin*, the neuter, (*τα παντα*) and in the second, *has concluded them all in unbelief*, the masculine gender (*τους παντας*) is used

to angels; a head of righteousness, of representation and redemption, as well as of the most peculiar influence and government, to the church that is gathered from among men; and a head of reconciliation to both the *Jewish* and *Gentile* sorts of them between themselves, and between God, angels, and them, (*chap. ii. 14, 15, 16.* and *Col. i. 20.*) that they might all be brought into a new state of peace and friendship with God and one another, and might be all set in their proper *place*, and all summed up and comprehended in Christ, as head over all things to the church. (*ver. 21, 22, 23.*)

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will;

11 In whom also, for the accomplishment of this great design *, we of the *Jewish* nation, who believe, have been admitted in our effectual calling, to a part and portion in, and have a right and title to, and possession in Christ our head of, the glorious inheritance of eternal life, † which is disposed of by sovereign grace to us, as it were by lot, and belongs to the adoption of sons, to which we were predestinated, (*ver. 5.*) according to the free and unchangeable purpose of God, who works with almighty energy, (*ενεργουμένη*) not at random, nor from a necessity of nature to the utmost of what he could do, but according to the contrivance and direction of his infinite wisdom, and the free determination of his own goodwill and pleasure, as to what he sees to be most fit and proper for him to do.

12 That we should be to the praise

12 That we, the natural seed of *Abraham*, to whom the gospel was first preached, and who first were

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* That this is meant of the believing *Jews* is plain to me, not only because the apostle here includes himself with the persons he is speaking of, (see the note on *ver. 3.*) but in the next verse describes them as those who *first trusted in Christ*, before the gospel was preached to the *Gentiles*: and then by way of distinction from them, he manifestly speaks of the *Gentiles*, *ver. 13.* who afterwards trusted in Christ also, when, upon the rejection of the unbelieving *Jews*, the gospel of salvation came to be preached to them; and that the *Jews*, and not the *Gentiles* at *Ephesus*, were the first that believed in Christ, appears from the account we have of their conversion, *Acts xviii. 19, 24.—25.* and *xix. 1.—10.*; and that the *Gentile Ephesians* were not the first converts among that sort of people is plain, because other *Gentiles* believed before them, as appears from *Acts xiii. 45.—48.*

† The word (*κληρονομία*) from which this (*εκκληρωθήμεν*) is derived, and is here rendered *we have obtained an inheritance*, signifies a *part* or *portion*. *Acts viii. 21.* *an inheritance*, *Acts xxvi. 18.* *Col. i. 12.* and *a lot*, *Acts xiii. 19.* with a manifest reference to God's ordering that the inheritance of the land of *Israel* should be divided among their several tribes *by lot*, *Numb. xxv. 55.* the whole disposing of which was of the Lord: *Prov. xvi. 33.* All these senses may be included in what is here said of the *heavenly inheritance*. And as an inheritance peculiarly belongs to *children*, and the apostle here speaks of being *predestinated to it*, he seems to refer back to what he had said, *ver. 5.* about their being *predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ*, which shews that it related, if not principally, yet at least equally, to *Jewish* as well as *Gentile* believers.

praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

were brought to depend upon, and hope in Christ (*πρηνελπικότας εν τω χριστω*) for all salvation, might be monuments of his grace, to its eternal glory, and might glorify him for his *mercy* in making, and his *truth* and *faithfulness* in fulfilling, his promises, which he granted to our fathers, (*Micah* vii. 20.) and which he has performed to us, as a people who were first taken into covenant with him, and to whom he primarily sent his Son to bless us in turning us away from our iniquities; (*Acts* iii. 26.) and so the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes, to the Jew first, &c. (*Rom.* i. 16.)

13 In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

13 In whom those of you that are of the *Gentile* sort have also trusted, according to the nature and design of his last gracious dispensation under the gospel-state *, and have obtained a right and title to the eternal inheritance equally with the believing *Jews*, when ye in due time came to hear the preaching of that blessed doctrine, which is infallibly and emphatically true, and the most important of all truths, as it contains the substance of the spiritual blessings, of which the ceremonial law was only a shadow, and has the highest attestation to it from heaven, as such; even the glad tidings of salvation, as they are brought to you by the gospel, which publishes it, and shows the way of attaining it, and assures every true believer of it; and which has been made effectual to the saving of your own souls through faith in Christ Jesus. In whom also, by virtue of your union with him, after ye had believed in a saving manner, ye were still further sanctified, and more evidently impressed with the holy image of God, as wax is with the lineaments of the seal †: And as the sealing of deeds of inheritance, is used to ascertain its heirs of their title to it; and

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* This expression in the *Greek* is elliptical. Our translators have filled up what is wanting in it by re-assuming the word *trusted*, from the last clause of the preceding verse; but, perhaps, it might be as well supplied by adding, instead of that, *have obtained an inheritance*, which had been affirmed of the believing *Jews* at the beginning of *ver.* 11. and is here again affirmed of the believing *Gentiles*.

† This sealing of the Holy Spirit of promise is, I think, by no means to be confined to the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, because it is such a sealing as was in care of of the inheritance, which cannot be said merely of extraordinary gifts; many having been endowed with them, who had not any security for heaven, or

earnest to assure them of it, and give them a part of the inheritance itself, as appears from *Mat.* vii. 22, 23. And therefore it seems necessary to refer this sealing of the Spirit to some further work of grace in their hearts, beyond their first believing, whereby they were not only impressed with the image of the seal, but were likewise assured of their own personal interest in Christ, and in the heavenly inheritance, with a reference to which this sealing of the Spirit is here mentioned: And this is evidently spoken of as a work distinct from that, which passed in them at their first believing, and as what followed after it; and therefore could not be of the essence of true faith.

and as merchants, after they have bought their goods, set their own seal upon them to distinguish them from others; so ye were assured of your personal interest in the eternal inheritance, or of your being heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, by his spirit of adoption, who is holy in his nature and operations, and has made you holy by his sanctifying and sealing you; and is the great promise of the New Testament, (*Acts* i. 4. and ii. 33. and *Gal.* iii. 14.) and *that* particularly under the character of *the Spirit of truth*, and the *Comforter*; (*John* xiv. 16, 17.) and who in his *sealing work* brings home and applies the promises with light and power to our own souls, for the establishment of our faith and hope in Christ. (*2 Cor.* i. 21, 24.)

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

14 Which Spirit as given to us, whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, and as dwelling and working faith and love in us, (*ver.* 15.) and as sealing us, (*ver.* 13.) is a security, pledge and earnest of the glorious inheritance of the saints in light, and gives the plainest evidence to us of our right and title to it; and is indeed itself a part and fore-taste of it for our present satisfaction and joy, till we and all God's peculiar people, who were redeemed by the death of Christ, (*Titus* ii. 14.) and are his purchased inheritance*, shall be fully delivered from all sin and sorrow, and advanced to the possession of all possible glory, which was to be redeemed by our near kinsman, because we had forfeited it by sin, which accordingly he purchased for us, and to which he will raise us, when he shall *quicken our mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in us.* (*Rom.* viii. 11.) All this tends unto, and shall issue in the highest exaltation of the glorious name of God, the Father, Son, and Spirit: And that such wonderful grace should be extended to *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, is for the greater illustration of his glory, that every subject of it might shew forth his praise, on account of the effectual application of the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to trust in Christ, and has sealed them to, and is the earnest of their inheritance, as well as on account of the *election* of the Father, who predestinated them to it, (*ver.* 4, 5.) and of the *redemption* of Christ, (*ver.* 7.) who purchased both it for them, and them for

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* *Purchased possession*, may relate either to the church of God, which are a peculiar people, whom he has purchased with his own blood, (*τελειωταιμα*) *redemption* by his blood for us, *Heb.* i. Pet. ii. 9. and *Acts* xx. 28.; or to heaven itself, which is spoken of as the *purchased salvation of the soul.* (*πρωτην ψυχην*) *Heb.* x. 39.; it having been so, when Christ obtained eternal

for it, and in whom they obtained have it. (ver. 11, 12.)

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

15, 16 In reflection therefore, on the grace of God, toward you of the *Gentile*, as well as *Jewish* sort, in his choosing, redeeming, and effectually calling you, (ver. 4, &c.) which is now still more abundantly manifested by its peculiar and abiding effects upon you, I, who have your spiritual welfare entirely at heart, greatly rejoice in it *; and ever since I received an account of the continuance and eminence of your trust and hope in the Lord Jesus, as your only Head and Saviour, and of the affectionate love that your faith in him has produced to all, without distinction, that bear his image and are his children begotten of him, whether they be weaker or stronger believers, attended with greater or lesser infirmities, or of whatever denomination or party: Ever since, I say, I heard these comfortable tidings of the faith and love that are among you, and that abide with you, (*καὶ ὑμεῖς*) and was thereby further assured of your having a real interest in all the fore-mentioned benefits; my soul is filled with so much joy on your behalf, that † whenever I make my solemn addresses to God, especially in my secret retirements every morning and evening, as well as on other occasions, public or private, I bear you continually upon

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* What the apostle says about his *hearing of their faith and love* is no proof, as some would have it, that he had not been the instrument of their conversion, or that he had never seen them; for though he speaks of the *Thessalonians*, as having received the gospel by his ministry, 1st *epistle* i. 5, 6, 9; yet he says to them, *chap.* iii. 6.—10. *when Timothy came from you to us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity—Therefore, beloved, we were comforted over you.* &c. And writing to *Philemon*, whom he speaks of as owing *even* his own self to him, probably because he was his spiritual father, ver. 19. he says, ver. 4, 5. *I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and towards all his saints;* and so his *hearing of the faith and love* of these *Ephesians*, as well as of the *Thessalonians* and *Philemon*, most naturally relates to the accounts which he had received of their steadfastness, perseverance, and increase in faith and love, since he left them,

and during the space of so many years as he had been absent from them; this epistle having been wrote, according to the lowest computation, about five years after the last time of his being at *Ephesus*; and his joy and praise on their account might be the greater, because he then told them, by a prophetic *spirit*, of the danger they would be exposed to from corrupt teachers, which would spring up among them. *Acts* xx. 29, 30.

† 'Tis not to be supposed that the apostle was *always* actually giving thanks, or praying for them; but his *not ceasing* to do it, intimates the constancy of his remembrance of them in solemn prayer; and he seems principally to refer to his daily set times for that duty every morning and evening, according to the general custom of the *Jews*, at the time of the morning and evening sacrifice; and as that was called the *continual burnt-offering*, *Exod* xxix. 42. so they were said to *serve God instantly day and night*, *Acts* xxvi. 7. and the disciples were said to be *continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.* *Luke* xxiv. 53.

upon my heart, which is enlarged for you, in a way of blessing and praising God for his grace bestowed on you, and in a way of fervent supplication and prayer, as particularly remembering and mentioning you in my humble pleas with him.

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of him:

17 That he, who is the covenant-God of our Lord Jesus Christ, as he appointed and called him to, and qualified him for, and according to his promises accepted and rewarded him in his mediatorial work, as the Head and Saviour of the church * ; who also may be styled *the Father of glory*, as he is infinitely glorious in himself, and in the whole scheme of salvation ; and is the fountain, author, and giver of all the glory, that Christ himself is possessed of in his human nature and office-capacity, and of all the blessedness and glory, that not only the angels, but the saints in heaven do, or ever shall enjoy in, through, and together with him ; and who is to be eternally admired and glorified for all this ; My earnest supplication to God under these exalted and encouraging conceptions of him is, that he would please to increase the free communications of his enlightning and sealing Spirit †, to lead you into further exercises of faith, love, and other graces, and into a still more clear and experimental acquaintance and communion with him, as those that are made wise to salvation ; and that he would yet more abundantly shed abroad his love in your hearts by the Holy Ghost, (*Rom. v. 5.*) to give you the brightest, sweetest, and most assuring manifestations of his love to your own souls, in your further knowledge of himself in Christ ‡, as your own covenant-God and Father, and in your growing and approving acknowledgment of him (*ἐν σπουδαῖς αὐτοῦ*) as such.

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* God the Father is the *God of our Lord Jesus Christ*, as *man* and mediator ; (see the note on *ver. 3.*) and his being styled the *Father of glory*, may be considered either as a *personal* character, to distinguish him not only from the *Son*, who is called the *King of glory*, and the *Lord of glory*, *Psal. xxiv. 10* and *1 Cor. ii. 8.* but also from the *Holy Ghost*, who is called the *Spirit of glory*, *1 Pet. iv. 14.* ; and so either of them *personally* and altogether *essentially*, may be called the *God of glory*, *Psal. xxix. 5.* Or it may be considered as an *economical* character, to intimate, that all communicative glory is first derived from *the Father*

† *The spirit of revelation* is not to be understood of the *extraordinary* imme-

diately revelations that were peculiar to inspired men : For this *spirit of revelation* is what the apostle prays might be given to every member of the church ; and so relates to what may be hoped for in common by all true believers as such ; and is a revelation peculiar to them in the *ordinary* way of special gracious illumination to their spiritual advantage, which our blessed Lord spoke of, *Mat. xi. 25, 26, 27.* and *xvi. 17.*

‡ *Him*, by the construction, relates to the *Father of glory*, to whom the address was made, rather than to Christ, who is mentioned only incidentally in the foregoing part of the verse. However, to include both, I have considered it as the knowledge of God in Christ.

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the fairs,

18 I humbly beseech * him to give you the illumination of his Spirit in your hearts, for irradiating the eyes of your minds to such an eminent degree, as that ye may know by daily experience, and with the utmost certainty and delight, what a sincere and genuine hope yours is †, what excellent objects it is pitched upon, and what solid never-failing grounds ye have for that hope, to which God has called you externally by the gospel, and internally by his special and effectual grace; and that by spiritual meditations, prelibations, and realizing views of faith, ye may know with lively sentiments, just propriety and great compass of thought; and may know for yourselves, what is the true nature and transcendent excellency of those invaluable and immense treasures of blessedness, which God, the Father of glory, hath provided, as an inheritance according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus, (Phil. iv. 19.) for holy souls; an inheritance which he has in the riches of his grace given to them, as his children, for an everlasting possession; which will make them exceeding rich and glorious, and consists in the enjoyment of himself, who is their *portion and glory*; (Psal. xvi. 5. and Isa. lx. 19.) and which he counts it his glory to bestow upon them, and will be eminently glorified by in them, (2 Theff. i. 10.) whom he has taken for his own inheritance, (Deut. xxxii. 9.) and on whom he, as it were, lays out all his riches to complete their felicity and glory.

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power;

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and

19, 20 My heart's desire and prayer to God for all these comfortable, edifying, and confirming manifestations of his Spirit is, that ye may not only have the most desirable insight into the exceeding riches of his grace toward you; but may likewise understand and consider, for your further encouragement and joy, what is the super-abundant, transcendent, all-conquering greatness of his power, which has already exerted itself in our favour, whether we be *Jews* or *Gentiles* †, by its working faith in us, as he then infused

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* The former part of these words (πρωτισμενους τους οφθαλμους της διανοιας υμων) being the *accusative* case after the verb give (δω) ver. 17. is apparently governed by *that*; and so, with supplying that verb, might be more grammatically rendered, that he would give *enlightened eyes of your mind*, or *eyes of your understanding enlightened*, which makes it a continuation of the prayer for still farther enlightning, even unto their knowing (εις τω υδρα) *what is the hope of his calling*.

† Hope is sometimes put for that

grace itself, Rom. v. 4. 5. and xv. 13. at other times for the *object* of it, Col. i. 5. and Tit. ii. 13.; and at others for the *grounds* of hope, Ezra x. 2. Jer. xviii. 12. Lam. iii. 29. and Rom. iv. 18. first clause; and, perhaps, all these senses may be fitly enough taken in here, though the two last seem to be principally intended.

‡ The apostle here brings in *himself*, and his *Jewish* brethren, to shew that his love was not confined in this excellent prayer to *Gentile*-believers; and very probably, when he came to speak

and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

infused a vital principle into our dead souls, and effectually subdued all the power, which Satan and this world had over us, together with the corrupt inclinations and desires of the flesh and of the mind, and the prejudices and enmity of our hearts, all which united their utmost efforts against God, and against his work upon us: (*chap. ii. 1, 2, 3.*) And I pray that ye may know the greatness of his power, which is continually employed for our safe defence, support, and preservation through all dangers and difficulties here, (*1 Pet. i. 5.*) and will be gloriously displayed in raising us up, body as well as soul, to a state of complete blessedness hereafter; as effected according to the same energy of the power of his might, which he effectually exerted in Christ himself, the Head of the church, when by his almighty power, as well as in a way of justice, he loosed the bands, and raised him up in his public capacity, as a triumphant conqueror over death and all the powers of darkness; (*Act. ii. 24.*) and when, in consequence of his resurrection, God, by the same omnipotent arm, exalted him in his human nature, to a state of all possible blessedness, majesty, and glory, and to a quiet everlasting possession of all royal dignities and delights in the highest heaven, and in things that pertain to his heavenly kingdom, as the reward of his sufferings, after he had by himself purged our sins, (*Heb. i. 3.*) which may be called in metaphorical terms, God the Father setting him at his own right hand, in token of the highest approbation and honour.

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but alio

21 He has herein advanced him far above all creatures whatsoever in place and dignity, and with such supremacy and rule over even the greatest, as well as the least of them, as surpasses all thought and expression; he has invested him with uncontrollable authority and dominion over all demons and their chief in hell;

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of the exceeding greatness of God's power toward them, he reflected on that which was so remarkably exerted in his own conversion, *Acts ix. 3,—9.*; and so to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, &c. relates to the mighty power that was put forth for the working of faith itself in their hearts at their first conversion, as well as in its subsequent acts toward them, till they should be brought safe to glory: And that it, at least, includes a reference to the first work of heart-changing grace, may be gathered from the apostle's speaking of it in the next words, as a power of the like kind with that which wrought in Christ when God

raised him from the dead; and in correspondence thereunto it is called in some following verses, *chap. ii. 1, 5.* God's quickning them that were dead in trespasses and sins, and quickning them together with Christ; and is afterwards called, ver. 10 his creating them in Christ unto good works, which carries the highest idea of divine power, that is known in all the works of nature; and in that parallel epistle, *Col. ii. 11, 12.* it is called their being risen with Christ through the faith of the operation of God, who raised him from the dead; and their being quickened together with him, as those that were dead in their sins, and in the uncircumcision of the flesh.

also in that which is to come :

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

hell ; and over all ranks and orders of angels in heaven ; (*Col. ii. 15.* See *Heb. i. 6, 14.*) * and over all the princes and potentates, nobles, powers, and magistrates on earth, and over every person, dignity, or authority of what character soever, that is or can be ever known or mentioned, not only in this present world, but likewise in that which is future to us, even in the heavenly world, where he reigns in all his glory, *angels and authorities, and powers being made subject to him,* (*1 Pet. iii. 22.*) at whose name every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, in token of their homage and subjection to him. (*Philip. ii. 10.*)

22 And as the most absolute victory and power over enemies is signified by their being put under the conqueror's feet ; (*Job. x. 23, 24.*) so God the Father, in that universal lordship which he has given to Christ over all creatures, has placed all his enemies in a state of subjection to him, that he may have them entirely under his own power, and may reign as a rightful conqueror over them †, in such a way as he sees fit, till all their opposition to him, his people and cause, shall be entirely defeated, and they be all actually subdued under him, trampled on as his footstool, and finally destroyed by him : (*Psal. cx. 1.* and *1 Cor. xv. 25, 26.*) And as the chief glory and delight of the Mediator lies in his *having power over all flesh, that he may give eternal life to as many as the Father hath given him ;* (*John xvii. 2.*) so God in his infinite love to him and them, and in the righteous and honourable recompence of his sufferings and death for them, has given him absolute and univer-

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* *Principalities and powers* are applied to good angels, chap. in 10 ; to evil angels, chap. vi 12. and 10 men. Luke xii. 11 where the same words (*αρχαι και εξουσιαι*) are used, as here, and so they are translated with reference to men. Titus iii. 1 ; and as the apostle here speaks of those that are *not only in this world, but also in that which is to come*, he, by just construction, includes them all, and intimates that there are different ranks, orders, and degrees of government and subordination among the holy angels, and evil spirits, in the future invisible state, as well as among men in the present visible world ; and that Christ is far exalted above them all, even the highest of them, under what names or titles soever they may be distinguished. (See Dr. Goodwin on the place, Vol. I. Sermon 32.)

† Though the saints, as well as all other creatures, are certainly under Christ's Lordship and dominion, and in that sense are included in the *All things that are put under his feet*, according to the widest sense of that expression, as we have it, *1 Cor. xv. 25, 26, 27.* and *Heb. ii. 5 ;* yet as in the *Corinthians* it is mentioned with a special reference to *subduing and destroying all his enemies*, so in the application of this passage here, it seems to be still more confined to that view ; because Christ's universal empire over all things had been strongly expressed in the verse before, and then, in the next verse after, the church is spoken of as *his body* in distinction from *all things that are put under his feet*, and he is said to be head over all things *to the church*, or for their good.

sal dominion in the kingdom of providence, as well as of grace, over all persons and things, with this ultimate view and design *, that he may manage, overrule, restrain, order, and issue all events for the spiritual and eternal benefit of the catholic invisible church, inclusive of every true believer; and for the preservation of the visible church, that it may never be rooted out of the world: Yea, over and above all the fore-mentioned donations, God has added this, as the highest and most eminent gift of his love to him and to his church, that he, who is Lord of all, should be in the dearest, most intimate and peculiar relation, not only a head of guidance and government, but also of life and influence, and of tender care and protection to the whole, and every true member of it, which stand in as near and vital union with him, and have as effectual communication for activity, growth, and strength from him, as the natural body has from its head,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

23 And which, taken all-together, are his mystical body, and under that notion of them are his *relative* fulness, so that if any one, even the least member of them, were wanting, he, as their head, would be incomplete, though in himself he is infinitely perfect, and has no need of them, but is the fund of all their supplies, *as out of his fulness they all receive grace for grace.* (John i. 16.) He fills all his members with his Spirit, and with the gifts and graces of every kind, which any of them have, or are found among them all, that by means of his word, officers, and ordinances, which he also fills with a divine energy, *they may be filled with the fruits of righteousness,* (Phil. i. 11.) *and grow up in all things into him who is the head, till they come to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.* (Ephes. iv. 10, 13, 15.)

R E C O L L E C T I O N S.

How free and sovereign is the grace of God! He from all eternity has chosen some, rather than others, to be sons and heirs of glory, not from any foreseen goodness in them, but merely from the good pleasure of his will, who choiceth them that they might be holy from a principle of love to him, as the means of their being happy

N O T E.

* This apparently relates, not to the original constitution of Christ's headship in the days of eternity, but to his *actual investiture* with full power for completely executing its great design, as all the preceding instances of his exaltation do, in consequence of his resurrection from the dead, and his ascension to heaven: And God's giving him to be head (*ὡς κεφαλὴ*) over all things, or as some render

it *above all*, may relate either to his *Lordship* over all things in general for the good of the church; or to his *peculiar headship* to the church itself, as the chief view and final upshot of God's intention in the foregoing steps of Christ's advancement, which are mentioned in a beautiful gradation, till they reach unto, and issue in this highest and most eminent instance of it.

happy for ever. And, O how great is the happiness of all such ! They are blessed with all spiritual and heavenly blessings, and accepted in the Beloved, in whom they have the forgiveness of sins, and obtain the inheritance of eternal life, according to the riches, and to the praise of the glory of his grace. This is discovered to them in the gospel, by means of which God abounds toward them in all wisdom and prudence ; and by this word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, we are brought to know the mysteries of God's will about all these great and important things. O wondrous grace, that this gospel should be brought, and made effectual to *Gentile* sinners ! O happy souls, that are enabled to trust in Christ for themselves, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise to the day of redemption ! How should all this engage the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus to glorify God for the riches of his grace toward them ! And as the Father, Son, and Spirit, bear their peculiar parts in their salvation, how should they abound in paying the honours that belong to them respectively, for electing, redeeming, and sealing love, and wait, with faith and hope, in a course of holy obedience, for the perfecting of their final redemption ! With what gratitude and joy should we bless God for the faith and love, which he has wrought in our souls ; for the hope, to which he has called us ; and for the exceeding greatness of his almighty power, like that whereby Christ himself was raised from the dead, which has been, is, and shall still further be exerted, to the salvation of every one that believes ! How earnest should we be in our prayers, that God would give us yet more and more of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of himself, and would still farther enlighten the eyes of our understandings, that we may experimentally know what great and glorious things he has done and provided for us ! And with what honour should we think of Christ ! In Him believers were chosen, and have redemption through his blood, and are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise ! In Him all things in heaven and earth are gathered into one, that angels and saints, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, may be brought into a state of mutual friendship, harmony, and peace. He is now ascended in our nature, in which he rose from the dead, to the highest heaven, and is enthroned in glory at the Father's right hand, infinitely above all orders of angels, and every created power and dignity that can be imagined in heaven and earth ; and has an universal empire and dominion in the kingdom of Providence and grace, that all things might be managed, in a subserviency to his own and his Father's glory, for the confusion and destruction of all his enemies, and for the preservation and everlasting welfare of his church : He is their Head, and they ate his mystical body, every member of which is so near and dear to him, that he would count it an abatement of his own *relative fulness*, were he to lose any one of them : But what a glorious Head of constant communication is our blessed Lord, that they may be filled, in his time and way, with all the fulness of God !

C H A P. II.

The apostle, still farther to magnify the riches of God's free grace towards the Ephesians, represents their deplorable state by nature, whether they were Gentiles or Jews, 1,—3. Shews what a happy change divine grace had made upon us, 4,—10. And to enhance his grace, especially toward the Gentile part among them, he calls upon them to reflect upon their former state of heathenism, and the exceeding great privileges and blessings, which they were brought into by the gospel, equally with the believing Jews, as one body with them, 11,—22.

TEXT.

AND you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

PARAPHRASE.

AS God, by the exceeding greatness of his power, (*chap. i. 20.*) raised the crucified body of Christ from the dead, and that as a public person ; so by an operation

operation of the same almighty power toward them who believe, (*chap. i. 19.*) * he has also raised you up to a life of justification from the guilt of sin and condemnation of the law, as having forgiven you all trespasses; and has quickened you to a life of holiness in the renovation of your nature, as having delivered you from the power of sin, whereby ye were *alienated from the life of God*, (*chap. iv. 18.*) that he might fit you for living to him here, and for an eternal life in the enjoyment of him hereafter: He has thus quickened even those of you who were sinners of the *Gentiles*, as well as other believers, and who, during your unconverted state, were dead men, not indeed by a physical or natural death of the soul, which is immortal, or of the animal, or civil life, which still subsists though mortal; but in a legal and moral or spiritual sense, with respect to the favour and image of God, as persons that were dead in law for your transgressions †, and had received innumerable mortal wounds by sin, to the extinguishing of the life of God in you; and so, like persons stabbed through and through to death, were killed as it were over and over again, not by one sin only, but by many,

N O T E S.

* This verse is improperly cut off from the first chapter, and made the beginning of the second; for neither *he has quickened*, nor any other nominative case and verb, are in the *Greek*. The sense therefore is to be supplied by something that went before, as it is afterwards expressed, *ver. 5.*; and the seven first verses of this chapter, and 10 on to *ver. 10.* are a continuation of the argument which the apostle had begun at the 19th and 20th verses of the preceding chapter. There he had spoke of God's Working in the *Ephesians* by an exceeding greatness of power, according to the working of his mighty power which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places: Upon the mentioning of which he, in the fulness and fervour of his heart, runs into a flow of thoughts about the height and glory of Christ's exaltation in the three following verses; then in the beginning of this chapter he re-assumes the thread of his discourse, and gives us the reddition or counter-part of what was done in believers, correspondent to what had been done in Christ their Head, as they in conformity to him, and together with him, are quickened from the death of sin, and raised up together, and made to sit to-

gether in heavenly places in Christ. And though, in the first and second verses, the apostle speaks most immediately of the *Gentile* part among the *Ephesians*; yet, to shew that what he here says about their being dead in sin was not peculiar to them, but common to all persons, *Jews* as well as *Gentiles*, in their unregenerate state, he in the third and fifth verses speaks of the *Jews*, including himself, as having been by nature the children of wrath even as others, (see the second note on *chap. i. 3.*) and as dead in sins before. (See the note on *Luke ix. 60.*)

† Both these kinds of death and life may be here included, since the *Jews*, as well as *Gentiles*, are spoken of as children of wrath, which relates to a legal death; and as raised from that sort of death in which they walked in sin, and in the lusts of their flesh, &c. which relates to a spiritual or moral death, *ver. 2, 3.*; and since as has been observed, (see the paraphrase on *chap. i. 20.*) Christ's rising in a public character, which this answers to, may be understood, not only of his body's being quickened and raised from the grave, but likewise of his discharge, as the surety of his people, from the guilt and punishment of their sins.

ny, original and actual sins, and by a multitude of all sorts of offences and errors (τοὺς παραπτώμασι καὶ ταῖς ἀμαρτίαις) in heart and life, which rendered you extremely miserable and odious, and utterly incapable, like persons corporally dead, of reviving again by any power of your own; or of living, breathing, moving, and acting in a spiritual manner toward God; or of having any comfortable communion with him, while ye, though dead in sin God-ward, were not only alive, but lively and active, in all manner of transgressions against him and his law.

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

2 In which sins (ἐν αἰσὶ) as being strongly addicted to them, and taking pleasure in them, ye formerly, in the days of your heathenism and unregeneracy, constantly, freely, and progressively, moved and acted, under one form or another of them, like persons that walked about in them, (περιπατοῦσατε) and willingly ran with the stream; according to the present corrupt age*, fashion, and custom of this evil world, which lies in wickedness; (1 John v. 19.) according to the will and desire, instigation and rule of the devil as your prince, who is also the chief of the infernal powers, that are united as a body of mighty force into one kingdom under him, the seat of whose dominion is in the air, where on some occasions he raises storms and tempests, (Job i. 19.) and makes visionary ærial representations; (see the paraphrase on Luke iv. 5.) and where he and his diabolical emissaries are continually roving about this lower world. (1 Pet. v. 8.) Ye walked, I say, according to the dictates of this prince of darkness, who is also styled *the god of this world*, (2 Cor. iv. 4.) †. and is the chief ruler of those foul spirits, by which, as by joint-concurrence, he works in the hearts of them that obey not

N O T E S.

* The word rendered *the course* (τοῦ αἵματος) sometimes signifies the *age*, and denotes the corrupt state and condition of men in this world, as in 2 Cor. iv. 4. and Gal. i. 4.

† As these words lie in the Greek, the exact construction is, *the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit which now works (τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ νῦν ἐνεργούντος) in the children of disobedience*; and to the devil is spoken of, not only as *the prince of the power of the air*, but likewise as *the prince of the spirit that works in the children of disobedience*. Children of disobedience is an *Hebraism* for *disobedient persons*, as here and in chap. v. 6; and, perhaps, may mean those that are most notoriously so, as *the sons of Belial* usually does: And the

spirit which works in the children of disobedience may mean either those *demons* or *evil spirits*, that act under him as their chief, (see the note on chap. i. 21.) and are spoken of in the *singular* number, because they are *one*, in their design and influence, though in themselves *many*, as that *legion* of evil spirits which possessed the *Gadarene*, is sometimes spoken of in the *singular*, and sometimes in the *plural* number, Mark v. 7,—13. and Luke viii. 28.—33.; or we may understand it of that *wicked spirit* or *temper* in sinners which the devil is the author of. (See Zanchy. and Dr. Goodwin on the place, and Mr. Joseph Mede's *Diatribæ*, Vol. I. pag. 30, &c. of his works.)

not the gospel, and is the exciter and manager of that malignant spirit, which evidently works in these sons of contumacy and unbelief, (*ἐν τοῖς υἱοῖς τῆς ἀπειθείας*) who at this very day addict themselves to all iniquity.

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

3 Among which children of disobedience, (*ἐν οἷς*) all of us, as persons of the same depraved spirit and temper, way and walk, in the days of our unregeneracy*, even we *Jews* as well as the *Gentiles*, continually moved, lived, and acted, as I myself particularly did, while I was a proud Pharisee, persecutor, and blasphemer; and we were led away with divers lusts and pleasures, (*2 Tim. iii. 6.*) sometimes seeking to satisfy one, and at other times another of them, *such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life*: (*1 John ii. 16.*) Under the power of those evil propensions and workings of corrupt nature, which may be called *our flesh*, as it is conveyed to us by fleshly generation, and is inherent in us, we then walked according to the dictates and inclinations of the body of sin, gratifying, acting over, and indulging the irregular desires and appetites of the animal body in all its members, which are brutal †, and of the soul in all its powers and faculties, and particularly in its wishes and contrivances, which are diabolical; we therein freely consented and yielded to them, and chose them: And in opposition to what the carnal *Jews* boast of their privileges by birth, as the seed of *Abraham*, (*Mat. iii. 9.* and *John viii. 33, 39.*) and in distinction from the actual sins that any, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, have been guilty of by imitation and custom ‡, we, all of us universally by

reason

N O T E S.

* As in the epistle to the *Romans* the apostle proved first that the *Gentiles*, and then that the *Jews were all under sin*, inasmuch that they were no better than those, *Rom. iii. 9.*; and did this to shew the necessity of justification and salvation merely by grace for one, as well as the other; so here, that he might magnify the exceeding riches of the grace of God to both these sorts of people, he having shewn in the two first verses that the *Gentiles* were in the most deplorable circumstances of sin and misery, goes on in this verse to shew the like concerning the *Jews*, including himself, before they were effectually called; and exactly parallel to this, he with the like view speaks of himself and *Titus*, who were *Jews*; (*Tit. iii. 4, 5.*) and the apostle *Peter*, writing to the scattered *Jews*, and putting him-

self in, speaks in like manner, *1 Pet. iv. 3.*

† *Flesh* in the foregoing clause relates to the whole man, and so signifies the corruption of human nature, as in many other places of scripture; (see the note on *Rom. vii. 5.*) and is opposed to the spiritual and holy principle, which is called a *divine nature* in them that have escaped the corruption, which are in the world through lust. (*2 Pt. i. 4.*) But here *flesh* manifestly signifies the body, and is opposed to the soul of man, to shew that the lusts of corrupt nature spread through body and soul, and are acted by both. (See the paraphrase on *2 Cor. vii. 1.*)

‡ If we consult the scripture-use of the term *by nature* (*φύσει*) we shall find, that when it is applied to God, it relates to what he is (*ὁὐσα*) by his own nature

reason of original corruption, which contains the seeds of all iniquity, and is interwoven with our nature, as derived, according to the law of ordinary generation, from an older father than *Abraham*, even from fallen *Adam*, our common head and representative, in whom we all have sinned; (*Rom. v. 12.*) we all, I say, by our natural birth, and as long as we continued in a state of nature, deserved, lay exposed unto, and were under a law-sentence of the wrath of God, which then *abode upon us.* (*John iii. 36.*) This was the case of every one of us, *Jews*, as well as, and equally with the *Gentiles*; of the elect and called of God among both, as well as of others, there being no difference *by nature* between us and the rest of mankind.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

4 But, O matchless, surprising, and affecting grace! the infinitely holy and blessed God, instead of taking vengeance upon us for all this, as was reasonably to be expected, has gone into a quite contrary course, because he, who is *the Father of mercies*, and *delights in mercy*; (*2 Cor. i. 3.* and *Micah vii. 18.*) whose riches of mercy are most excellent and abundant, inexhaustible and overflowing, to pity, help, and save sinful and miserable creatures, and to enrich them with the multitude of his mercies; this God, without any thing in us to induce him to it, has from all eternity set his love in a peculiar manner upon us, whom he has chosen and called, designing therein to bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (*Chap. i. 3, 4.*)

5 In

N O T E.

nature and perfections, in opposition to all *false gods*, *Gal. iv. 8.*; and when applied to *men*, it relates either to what remainders there are of *the light of nature* (*φύσις*) in mankind, that directs and excites them to *do the things contained in the law*, as in *Rom. ii. 14.*; or to what they are in *their natural state*, or *by birth*, as when the *Gentiles*, in opposition to the covenant-privileges of the *Jews*, are spoken of as the *olive-tree*, which is wild *by nature*, (*γεννηθεὶς φύσιν*) and as the *uncircumcision* which is *by nature* (*ἐκ φύσεως*) is opposed to the *Jews* *by nature* (*φύσις*). These, I think, are all the places, besides this before us, (*τις φύσις ὁμοιωσεν*) where the term *by nature* occurs, either in the Old or New Testament; and there is no appearance in any of them, that it ever signifies *by custom*, or *by practice*, or *customary practice*, as some would have it here, which would indeed make the apostle guilty of a needless tautology;

for their *customary sinning* had been fully expressed in the former part of the verse; but all these passages agree in expressing what belongs to the *nature* of the persons to whom it is applied: And when we are said to be *by nature children of wrath*, the word (*τις φύσις*) *children* in its primary sense, has a peculiar reference to *birth*; and, though it is sometimes used in a laxer signification, it has a respect to being some way or other *born*; and as the apostle varies the word, and instead of that which he had used *ver. 2.* where he spoke of *children* (*υιοί*) of *disobedience*, substitutes another that relates to persons being *born*, and says, as it lies in the Greek, *were children by nature of wrath*, he seems to have done it with a design to strengthen the force of the term *by nature*, as signifying, according to the *Hebrew* idiom, what we are in our *fallen state of nature by birth*.

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)

5 In this wonderful love, with which he of his own sovereign will and good pleasure has loved us, even when we *Jews*, as well as *Gentiles*, one as much as another, were in such forlorn, wretched, and desperate circumstances, as to be dead in sin, and so helpless, hopeless, and loathsome in our fallen state; He even then infused into us a principle of spiritual life, and recovered us to a state of favour with himself, in which is life, by virtue of our union with Christ, and in conformity to him, and together with him. (See the note on *chap. i. 19, 20.*) O astonishing instance of the free love of God *! and *that* particularly to those of the *Gentile* sort among you, that he should quicken you, and thereby deliver you, as well as us of the *Jews*, from all the sin and misery into which ye were so deeply plunged, and should bring you into a state of favour with himself, and give you a title to, the beginnings and earnest, fore-tastes and securities of, the whole of that *salvation, which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.* (2 Tim. ii. 10.)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

6 And as God the Father raised up Christ to glory, and set him at his own right-hand in heavenly places; so he has already raised us up, both *Jews* and *Gentiles* together, without distinction, *in him* as our head and representative †; and has already made us to sit together in the heavenly mansions *in him*, who has taken possession of them, as a forerunner and public person for us; and so we are complete, though not in ourselves, yet representatively, as comprehended in him, who is our covenant-head; and we are hereby assured, that in due time we shall certainly sit in heavenly places in our own persons, together with Christ Jesus, with one another, and with all the saints.

E e e 2

7 All

N O T E S.

* As the apostle was himself much affected with the mercy of God to the *Gentiles*, and was gradually introducing his design of particularly enlarging upon that subject, which he most directly and professedly enters upon, *ver. 11.* and continues to the end of *chap. iii.* that he might the more affect their hearts with it; so in the run of his thoughts on the riches of God's grace in the whole of salvation to all that are made partakers of it, he often intermingles applications of it in a special manner to the *Gentiles*, as he seems to do here: But, to shew that the salvation of the *Jews* was also as entirely of grace, he includes them, as like objects of it, *ver. 7.* where he expresses it by the *exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness towards us, through Jesus Christ,* with reference to all that had

been said before about it, as equally extended to both sorts of believers.

† It is the observation of several judicious divines, that the apostle in the preceding verse speaks of our being quickened *together with Christ*, but here of our being raised up together, and sitting in heavenly places together *in Christ*, (*ἐν Χριστῷ*) which distinguishes our being raised up, &c. *in Christ*, from our being quickened *with him*; and shews that *quickening* relates to what is already done in, or upon us, and that *raising us up, and our sitting in heavenly places*, relates not to what is done *personally* in or upon us, but to what is done in *the person of Christ*, as our head and representative, *for us*, and cannot well be understood, with tolerable propriety, in any other sense.

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness towards us, through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace ye are saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast:

7 All which God has done to this very end and purpose, that in all succeeding ages of this world he might set forth an illustrious pattern, pledge, and earnest of the transcendent excellence and super-abounding fulness of his free favour, which he will manifest under the gospel-dispensation, both to *Gentiles* and *Jews*, as it has been exemplified in acts of special goodness, and endearing kindness, towards us of both sorts, through the person, merit, and mediation of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, for the encouragement of all sorts of sinners, *which shall hereafter believe on him to life everlasting*: (1 Tim. i. 16.) And his further design herein was, that he might for ever demonstrate and display, the super-eminent glory of his grace in all its fulness, and with the brightest evidence in the world to come; when all its riches in every imaginable instance of his peculiar and distinguishing friendship towards us, through Jesus Christ, will shine with the highest lustre, and be laid out with the greatest profusion upon us, together with all his children, to make up the glory and blessedness of the heavenly state, which is coming on, to the admiration, joy, and praise of saints and angels, through the endless ages of eternity.

8 For, as I hinted above, (*ver. 5.*) the whole of your salvation, who were *Gentiles*, as well as ours who were *Jews*, is from first to last, entirely a free and undeserved gift; it is all owing merely to the good will and favour of God, that any of you are interested in the several forementioned blessings of a spiritual and eternal salvation, which are conveyed to you through faith, not by any virtue in itself, but as the means of God's own appointment, whereby ye received Christ, and rested alone on him for all salvation, that the honour of it may be reserved entirely to his grace. (*Rom. iv. 16.*) And this faith itself, as well as every other benefit which is brought home and applied by it, is not the product of any natural principle in yourselves, not of your own good dispositions, or of the power of your own free-will, or of any improvement that ye were capable of making of the gospel itself; but it is all the free gift of God, who, of his own sovereign will and pleasure, graciously wrought it in you by the power of his Spirit; ye having *believed through grace*, (*Acts xviii. 27.*) and it being *given to you in the behalf of Christ, to believe on him*. (*Phil. i. 29.*)

9 Neither the salvation itself, nor the faith whereby ye are made partakers of it, is owing to any good works done by you, as the meritorious or moving cause of it: As there was certainly nothing of that kind

kind to be found among the *Gentile* part of you, to induce the great and holy God to shew such high favour to you, who in violation of the light and law of nature practised all abominable iniquities; (*Rom.* i. 18,—32.) so there was nothing to engage God's love and kindness among the *Jewish* part of you, who, in contradiction to the clearer light, and higher obligations of supernatural revelation, had shamefully perverted and transgressed the law of *Moses* in numberless instances: (see *Rom. chaps.* ii. and iii.) But God has manifested his grace in your respective recovery from these guilty and deplorable circumstances, that all pretences might be equally cut off from one and the other of you, as if it were owing to any works of righteousness performed by you, (*2 Tim.* i. 9. and *Tit.* iii. 5) lest any one among you, should be so vain-glorious, as to take a share of that honour to himself, which belongs to God alone, (*1 Cor.* i. 29, 30, 31.) or should vaunt and glory in himself, as if he had done something to render him worthy of mercy, (*Rom.* iii. 27. and iv. 2.) which indeed in this wretched state of things was absolutely impossible.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

10 For all of us, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, were so far from having done any works spiritually good, previous to our conversion, that every thing of that kind is *the effect and consequence*, and not *the cause* of the grace of God towards us, who, as believers and saints, to allude to the fine composition of a *poem*, (*ποιημα*) are a curious piece of God's forming by a special operation of his infinite wisdom, as well as almighty power, answerable to that, by which he at first brought forth the beautiful and harmonious fabric of this world out of a confused chaos: We were thereby created a-new in Christ Jesus, and by virtue derived from him, as the head of our recovery, unto the bringing forth of all the good works that are now found with us, which we were utterly incapable of before; but which God, in his eternal scheme of salvation, chose us to, (*chap.* i. 4.) and which in the counsels of his will, and by a work of preventing grace, he prepared us for, (*προνομιαν*) that we, as new creatures, might live in the practice of them, and persevere therein to the end.

11 Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision, by that which is called the circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

11 Now therefore, to apply this in a particular manner to the *Gentile*-converts among you, that ye may be kept humble, and deeply affected with all the amazing grace which has been extended to you, I beseech you to call to mind, and seriously reflect upon your former deplorable state and condition, namely, that before Christ and the gospel were made known to you, ye were idolatrous heathens, wallowing in

all the defilements of apostate nature, and destitute even of the ordinance of circumcision, which by God's appointment was an external sign and token of a covenant-interest in him, and of the renovation of the heart, (*Gen. xvii. 10. and Deut. xxx. 6.*) and was to the believing *Israelites*, a seal of the righteousness of faith; (*Rom. iv. 11.*) and ye not only were, but still are, spoken of in a way of contempt and reproach by the carnal *Jews**, as an uncircumcised people, that have nothing to do with God's gracious covenant, or any of its privileges or means of salvation: Ye are thus spoken of by those, that pride themselves in being deemed the circumcised people of God, as having that distinguishing mark upon their bodies, which was made by the hands of men, but which to the unbelieving *Jews* is only circumcision in the flesh, in distinction from that which is wrought in the heart, without human hands, by the Holy Spirit. (*Col. ii. 11.*)

11 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

12 I entreat you to remember, that all along, during your state of *Gentilism* and unregeneracy, ye really were separate from Christ, (*Χριστός Χριστός*) as having no knowledge of, or faith in, the only Saviour, or any vital union or communion with him, or any claim to the blessings of the gospel, that are purchased, revealed, and brought in by him: Ye also then were foreigners to all the peculiar external privileges, sacred as well as civil, that belonged to the visible church of the *Jews*, (*Rom. ix. 4.*) and to all the internal special blessings that pertained to the true *Israelites* among them; ye having at that time no relation to them, or union and fellowship, or right of citizenship with them, as a religious, any more than a political body; and so were far from God, and from all spiritual life and happiness: And ye were excluded, like strangers, from the pale of the covenant of grace †, which, in opposition to the covenant of works,

N O T E S.

* *Uncircumcision and circumcision* are here put for the *uncircumcised* and the *circumcised*, as they manifestly are in *Rom. ii. 26.* (See the note there.)

† *Christ* was the great promise of the Old Testament, as he was characterized by the seed of the woman, and the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, and of the family of David; and as all the other promises of the covenant of grace were summed up and centered in this, they are spoken of here, and *Acts ii. 39.* and *vii. 17.* and *xiii. 32.* and *xxvi. 6, 7.* and *Rom. iv. 14, 16.* and *Gal. iii. 17.* *19, 22, 23.* in the singular number, as if

they were but one promise: But as this promise was issued out under various editions and enlargements at several periods, *viz.* to *Abraham*, and to him and his seed, and after the giving of the law, it is called here, and *Rom. ix. 4.* (see the note there) in the plural number the covenants, though for substance it was one and the same covenant, which consisted of many promises, or was all made up of free and gracious promises, in opposition to the covenant of works; and, among others, that covenant of promise which was made with *Abraham*, and had the sign of *circumcision* annexed to it,

works, consists of many exceeding great and precious promises, that were delivered with various enlargements in the publication of them at different times, and all centered in Christ and salvation by him, in whom all nations were to be blessed; (*Gen. xxii. 18. and xxvi. 4.*) and being in these miserable, helpless, and abandoned circumstances, ye neither had, nor could have any solid, rational, or well-grounded hope of deliverance from deserved wrath, much less of a glorious resurrection of the body, and an inheritance of eternal life; yea, with respect to the knowledge, belief and fear, worship and profession of the only true God, ye really were *practical* and *speculative* atheists, (*αθεοι*) and lived, as such, after the course of this world, (*ver. 2.*) and in all parts of the earth wherever your lot was cast; and consequently, ye then had no spiritual communion with him, or gracious communications from him; ye neglecting him, and being neglected by him, while ye worshipped and served only them *that are by nature no gods.* (*Gal. iv. 8.*)

13 But now in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

13 But now, unworthy as ye were, and unlikely to find mercy, ye, through the astonishing dispensation of divine condescension and grace, are brought into a special relation and union to Christ, the only Saviour, by means of the gospel, and through faith in him; so that ye, who in the days of your former unregeneracy were in a perishing state, far from God, (*Psal. lxxiii. 27.*) and far from Christ, and from his church and covenant, and from all good hope of salvation, (*ver. 12.*) are recovered to a state of friendship with God, and of intimate communion with him and with his church, and to a humble hope and confidence in him, according to his covenant, into which he has taken you, through the merit and application of the atoning blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

14 For he is the great and only peace-maker, medium, and center of union between God and us and one another, whether we be believing *Jews* or *Gentiles*: And our reconciliation to God and each other, after all the variance that has been between him and us, and between us among ourselves, is brought about alone by him, who has united the believers of both these two grand divisions of people into one church or fold under himself, as their great Shepherd,

N O T E.

it, is by no means to be excluded, but seems rather to be particularly referred to, because the apostle had just before been speaking of *circumcision*, which was a peculiar privilege of the church

of *Israel*, and the external token of their visible covenant-relation to God, in which the *Gentiles* formerly had no share or interest.

herd, (*John* x. 16.) and has cemented them together in heart and affection, as one family, or mystical body, that are partakers of the same privileges by the gospel: (*Gal.* iii. 28, 29.) And as there was a wall of separation in the temple, under the Old Testament-economy, between the court of *Israel* and the court of the *Gentiles*, which admitted the former to, and excluded the latter from, a near access to God in the holy place; and as this wall was emblematical of the ceremonial law, which kept the *Jews* and *Gentiles* at a distance from each other, and the *Gentiles* at a distance from God, Christ has now demolished or taken away that, and every other mark of distinction and distance between us, who were of different nations, by introducing a better and more extensive dispensation of grace, wherein believing *Gentiles* are allowed to make as near access to God, and to be partakers of all the privileges of his sanctuary, (which was typical of the gospel-church) as fully as the believing *Jews*.

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in himself of twain, one new man, so making peace;

15 He has done this, as having by his crucifixion in the flesh, (*ver.* 16.) fulfilled, and so put an end to, vacated and disannulled the force, and taken away the obligation of any longer observing that*, which had eventually proved the occasion and cause of the most inveterate animosity and hatred, opposition and contention, with regard both to spiritual and temporal concerns, between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*, even the ceremonial law, which was a system of positive precepts, consisting of abundance of ritual institutions, that in themselves were of an indifferent nature, and were obligatory to the *Jews*, only by virtue of a divine command. Christ, I say, has abolished these by his death, to the end that, as the great Head, in whom all things were to be gathered in

N O T E.

* *The enmity*, here signifies the *cause* of enmity by a usual metonymy, which puts *the effect* for the *cause*, in like manner as *Christ*, who is the procuring cause, the author, the maker, and giver of peace, was called in the preceding verse *our peace*; and so by *the enmity* is meant *the ceremonial law*, which was as a wall of separation between *Jews* and *Gentiles*, and in the next words is styled *the law of commandments contained in ordinances*, by way of distinction from the *moral law*, that great rule of righteousness, which, as such, neither was, nor can be abolished, as the apostle says this law is. And in the parallel epistle to the *Colossians*, chap. ii. 14, 16, 17. this ceremonial law is called the

hand-writing of ordinances, so far as they related to *meats and drinks, new-moons and holy-days*, which were a *shadow of things to come, the body of which is Christ*. And this was the law, that occasioned the most bitter enmity between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as it was zealously contended for by one, and violently opposed by the other, and kept up such a distinction and difference between them, as made them refuse the offices of common civility to each other, which was carried to such a height of uncharitableness among the carnal *Jews* against the poor *Gentiles*, as even to *forbid the apostles to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved.* 1 *Thess.* ii. 16.

in one, (*chap. i. 10.*) he might unite both these distant parties to each other; and that he might make out of both one church, formed, as new creatures, according to the image of God by the renewing of the Holy Ghost, and framed together for gospel-worship and new obedience, and equally partakers, by a new constitution under him, of all the blessings that pertain to the kingdom of grace in this world, and kingdom of glory in that which is to come. In this manner he has brought about an entire harmony and friendship between believers of all nations among themselves, as one spiritual body, they being united by faith and love to him, and to one another in and through him.

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity there-
by :

16 And that he might not only bring *Jews* and *Gentiles* into a state of spiritual and holy friendship and communion one with another; but might likewise make up the great controversy that lay between God and each of these parties, on account of their transgressions of the law, which they respectively were under, and might bring believers of both sorts, without any further distinction of nations, into a state of peace and favour with God in one church, or mystical body, of which Christ is the Head *, he has reconciled them to him by virtue of his sufferings on the cross, *when his ownself bore our sins in his own body on the tree; and once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God; (1 Pet. ii. 24. and iii. 18.)* he having thereby not only taken away the ground of enmity that had so long subsisted between *Jews* and *Gentiles*, by abolishing the ceremonial law, but having also *taken away sin by the sacrifice of himself*, which had made the breach between God and *them* severally, and had cast him and them into a state of enmity to each other.

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

17 And in pursuit of this great and blessed design, that it might be effectual to both these parties of men, he came in the ministry of his servants after his ascension to heaven, and by the powerful operation of his Spirit, and published the glad tidings of restored peace and friendship to those of you that were *Gentiles*

N O T E.

* *In one body* may relate either to Christ's mystical body, the church, of which he is Head, as it is styled, *Col. i. 18.* with regard to which it is said of all believers, *that being many, they are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.* (*Rom. xii. 5.*) or it may relate to the natural body of Christ, with regard to which it is said, (*Col. i. 21, 22.*) *Ye that were some time alien-*

ated. and enemies in your minds by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight. And as the epistle to the *Colossians* is similar to this, and casts great light upon it, we are naturally led to take in both these senses.

tiles in a state of nature, and as such were far from God, and Christ, and the covenant of promises, and far from any good hope toward God, and from a state of favour with him: (*ver.* 12.) And he made this preaching of the gospel effectual to the salvation of those believers * of the *Jewish* nation, who had the gospel of peace preached to them; and so, without distinction of nations, he has brought some of both sorts into a state of peace and friendship with God and one another, they being all one in Christ without any difference.

15 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

18 For such is the efficacy of Christ's death, and of his gospel, attended with the power of his Spirit, toward sinners of all nations, that in his name and through his mediation, who speaks of himself as *the door* of entrance, and *the way* to the Father, (*John* x. 9. and xiv. 6.) all of us, whether we be believing *Jews* or *Gentiles*, have equal liberty of drawing nigh to God, and coming to him by faith in prayer, and in every other sacred ordinance, and are introduced like favourites into his gracious presence, that we may freely pour out our hearts before him, and offer up our addresses to him with humble confidence of being heard and answered; and so, according to the scheme of gospel-worship, answerable to the economy of salvation, we have this comfortable access into the holiest through the blood of Jesus, (*Heb.* x. 19.) by the guidance, aid, and assistance of one and the same Spirit, who is given to true believers of both sorts, as the Spirit of grace and supplication, and the Spirit of adoption, to encourage and enable us to come to God the Father, as the Father of our Lord Jesus,

N O T E.

* *By them that were afar off* is undoubtedly meant the *Gentiles* before their conversion, as they had been described under this character, *ver.* 12, 13; and, in opposition to these, *by them that were nigh*, is not meant them that were made nigh by the blood of Christ, as the apostle had spoke of the believing *Gentiles*, *ver.* 13.; but it is meant of the *Jewish* nation, who, on account of their external relation to God, as his visible church, were said to be a *people near to him*. (*Psal.* cxlviii. 14.) Now according to that ancient prophecy, *Isa.* lvii. 19. where God says, *I create the fruit of the lips, Peace, peace to him that is afar off, and to him that is near.* Christ, in his *personal* ministry, came to the *Jews*, who, by reason of their visible relation to him, as the God and

King of *Israel*, are called *his own*, to whom he came, and *his own* received him not: (*John* i. 11.) And his being most immediately sent to the *lost sheep of the house of Israel*, (*Mat* xv. 24.) his personal ministry was chiefly confined to them. But as the apostles and others of his servants preached by his commission, and in his name and stead, as ambassadors for him. *2 Cor.* v. 18, 19, 20.; so he may be said to have preached to *Jews* and *Gentiles* by them, in like manner as he is said to have preached by his Spirit to the old world in the ministry of *Noah*, *1 Pet.* iii. 10. This is what our apostle calls *Christ's speaking in him*, *2 Cor.* xiii. 3.; and this I take to be principally intended in the words before us.

Jesus, and as our reconciled God and Father in him.
(*Rom.* viii. 15.)

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

19 Now therefore, ye *Gentile* believers, being reconciled and brought nigh to God, are no longer strangers to him and his covenant of promises, nor aliens from the common-wealth of *Israel*, and from the privileges of their church-state, as ye formerly were; (*ver.* 12.) but, like free-men and fellow-citizens of the heavenly *Jerusalem*, ye are now entitled to, and made joint-partakers with the believing *Jews*, of all the blessings that pertain to the inheritance of the saints; and not only so, but ye are brought into a near relation to God, as domestics that dwell in his house, and are employed in his service under his special care, and as children of your heavenly Father by regeneration and adoption, and consequently *heirs of God through Christ*: (*Rom.* viii. 17. and *Gal.* iv. 7.)

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone;

20 And ye are still more closely united to Christ, and to God in him, not only as citizens to their sovereign, and as children to their father; but as a building to its foundation, which is another figure under which the church of Christ may be considered in its relation to him, (*1 Pet.* ii. 4, 5.) who is a sure foundation, which God himself has laid in *Sion*, besides which no man can lay any other, but which is ministerially laid both by my preaching, (*1 Cor.* iii. 10, 11.) and by the doctrine of the twelve apostles, as master-builders, under Christ, in the New Testament-dispensation; (*Rev.* xxi. 14.) as it also has been in the writings of the ancient prophets, (*Psal.* cxviii. 22. and *Isa.* xxviii. 16.) which testified of Christ: (*John* v. 39.) The doctrine of all these is for substance the same, with regard to eternal life and salvation by Jesus Christ, who is not only the rock, on which he has built his church; (*Math.* xvi. 18.) but is also the principal corner-stone, which unites, holds, and binds together both believing *Jews* and *Gentiles* in himself as one church, and gives strength, solidity, and beauty to the whole spiritual edifice that is erected upon him*.

21 In whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy

21 In union with whom, and by virtue derived from him, the whole fabric of the universal church, consisting of believing *Jews* and *Gentiles*, and every member of it, being placed in proper order for the

F f f 2

use

N O T E.

* *The heads of Israel* that bore the weight of government, and were their glory, are called the *chief*, and the *stay*, or, as it is in the *Hebrew* (אֲבִנֵי) *the corners of the people*; (*1 Sam.* xiv. 35. and *Isa.* xix. 13.) accordingly Christ is called the *chief corner-stone*, and the

head-stone of the corner, *Psal.* cxviii. 22; because the church depends as entirely upon him, as its *foundation*, when considered in allusion to a house or building, as it does upon him, as its *head*, when considered in allusion to a natural and political body. (*V. d. Eccl.* in loc.)

holy temple in the Lord :

use of the whole, rises up like a great pile of living materials into a spiritual building, by a continual addition of new converts, and by a further growth of each of them, which are animated and influenced by their living foundation, unto the completing of a sacred temple; not like that of stones, which God ordered to be built at *Jerusalem*, and was typical of this: But a temple of a spiritual nature, even his church, which is formed by and for Christ, and is dedicated to him, and inhabited by him, who is *the Lord of his own house*, (Heb. iii. 6.) in which he manifests his gracious presence, displays his glory, and is worshipped and glorified.

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

22 In whom, as vitally united to him, and framed into the order of the gospel by his authority and influence, and in his name, ye also, as a particular church made up of *Gentile* and *Jewish* believers, are built together, without difference of privileges and benefits, as a living temple, which God has consecrated for himself, and resides in, as he also doth in the heart of every true believer, by the special presence, light, and grace of his Holy Spirit, *who dwells in you, and shall be in you*, (John xiv. 17.) till ye be received up to himself in glory.

RECOLLECTIONS.

How deplorable is our state by the fall! We were dead in trespasses and sins; children of wrath by nature, and of disobedience by practice; and strongly addicted to a gratification of all abominable appetites of the soul and body, according to the evil customs of this world, under the power and influence of Satan, who rules and works in us by our own free consent. But how amazing is the grace of God, in recovering sinners of these characters from this hideous state! He is rich in mercy toward them, through Jesus Christ, in the greatness of his love, with which he has loved a chosen people among them, and which he manifests with endearing kindness in all the ages of time, and to an endless eternity: He quickens them from their death in sin, to a life of righteousness, by virtue of, and in conformity to their risen Saviour; and highly advances them in him, as their head, in whom they, though not personally, yet *representatively* are already raised up, and made to sit together in the mansions of heavenly glory, till they shall actually, in their own persons, sit down there with him: And he has shewn the exceeding riches of his grace to former converts, even among *Gentile*-sinners, as patterns and earnest of what he designed to do in succeeding generations, through Jesus Christ, for all that shall, through grace, believe in him after their example. Behold God's way of saving sinners! 'Tis not by any works of their own; lest they should take the glory of it to themselves; but merely by his own grace through faith in Christ Jesus; and this faith is not wrought in them for any worthiness, or by any power of their own; but is the free gift of God, whose curious workmanship they are, by a new creation in Christ unto good works, according to his eternal appointment, that they should practise and persevere in them. How humble should we be in reflection upon what we were by nature, as without Christ, and all the blessings of the new covenant, without God, or any good hope towards him; and in a perishing state, as strangers far from him. But how should we of the believing *Gentiles*, as well as believing *Jews*, rejoice and bless God for what we are made to be in Christ through faith in him! All obstructions to our reconciliation with them, and to a reconciliation of both with God as one body, are now removed; we are brought nigh, into a state of peace with God, by the blood of Christ's cross, and have free liberty of access to the Father, by one Spirit, through him;

are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the family of God, equal partakers of all those privileges and blessings by means of the gospel, which Christ himself may still be said to preach to us by the ministry of his servants: And we are built on him as the only foundation, which is laid in the inspired writings of the apostles and prophets; and are built up together as his church, for a habitation of God through the Spirit, till we come to dwell in his immediate blissful presence for ever.

C H A P. III.

The apostle sets forth the dignity of his office in its relation to the Gentiles, for which he suffered imprisonment, 1, 2. His qualifications for it, 3,—6. His call to it, together with the noble purposes that were answered by it, 7,—12. He offers up a most excellent and comprehensive prayer for the Ephesians, 13,—19. And concludes with a grand and suitable doxology, 20, 21.

TEXT.

FOR this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ, for you Gentiles:

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace

PARAPHRASE.

ON account of my asserting and maintaining that the believing Gentiles are now *no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, &c.* (chap. ii. 19. &c. *) I Paul, am at this very time suffering bonds and imprisonment at Rome, through the implacable malice, and indefatigable opposition of the carnal Jews, who have brought me under this confinement; and they are especially exasperated against me, as they were at *Ephesus*, (Acts xxi. 27,—33.) for my faithfulness and zeal in preaching to you and other *Gentiles*, the doctrine of justification alone through faith in Christ, without the deeds of the law; (Acts xxii. 21, 22. and xxvi. 17,—21.) under which consideration of my sufferings, I glory in them: And ye cannot reasonably doubt, but that I undergo them on your account, and for your spiritual advantage;

2 Since † ye must needs have heard of the divine commission, which was freely given to me, as a steward in Christ's house and kingdom, to go to the *Gen-*

N O T E.

* Some expositors, to make out the connection of this verse, consider all that follows it, 'till we come to the 14th, as a parenthesis, and join *this* and *that* together, where the words *for this cause* are re-assumed in the apostle's prayer for the *Ephesians*. But if in the first verse we only supply the verb *am*, which is often defective in the *Greek*, and read it with *Erasmus*, *Beza*, and many others. *For this cause I Paul am the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles*, its connection stands obvious and easy, both with the latter part of the preceding

chapter, and the verses that immediately follow it.

† The particle (*εἴτε*) if may be considered, not as a particle of *doubting*, but of *affirmation*; and so may be rendered *inasmuch as*, or *since*, or *seeing that*, as the like particle (*εἰ*) signifies, when our Lord said, *If, or as surely as, I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again*, &c. John xiv. 3.; and so no argument can be drawn from hence, that the apostle had not preached at *Ephesus*. (See *Whitby* on the place.)

grace of God, which is given me to you-ward :

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery, (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

ties, (Acts ix. xv. and xxii. 21. and xxvi. 17, 18.) and to dispense the gospel of the grace of God chiefly to you, and others of that character, which I have accordingly done for many years, wherever I came, that by means thereof ye might believe and be saved.

3 It is evident from what ye have heard of this, that, to fit and qualify me for so important a service, the Lord Jesus has discovered to me, by the immediate inspiration of his Spirit, (*ver. v.*) and by repeated visions and revelations, (*Acts xxvi. 16, 17. 2 Cor. xii. 1, 7.*) the great mystery of the gospel concerning salvation alone through him, as God manifested in the flesh, and the calling of the *Gentiles*; which is indeed a matter of stupendous wisdom and sovereignty, condescension and grace, surpassing all our thoughts, (*ver. 19.*) according to what I have (*ἐν ἑλαττώσει*) briefly said a little before in this epistle about it, (*Chap. i. ii.*)

4 By which, when ye review and reflect upon it, and compare it with what I am going still further to advance, ye may clearly perceive, that the knowledge of this profound and astonishing mystery has been revealed to me by Jesus Christ, and that I am fully acquainted with it, as it relates to his unsearchable riches, (*ver. 8.*) that are preached, and distributed even among the *Gentiles*.

5 Which mystery, in the former ages of the church, before the law, and under the law, was not made known to the *Gentiles* at all; nor so fully, distinctly, and plainly revealed, especially in many of its glorious circumstances, to any of the human race; no, not any of the most eminent of God's favourites under former dispensations, (*Matth. xiii. 17.*) * as it

N O T E

* The gospel had been indeed preached unto Abraham, and the calling of the *Gentiles* had been revealed in many ancient promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, as in *Gen. xxii. 18.* and *xlix. 10.* *Psal. ii. 8.* and *Isa. xi. 10.* and *xlix. 6.* But in what manner, by what means, and at what time, this salvation should be accomplished, and extended to them, and that as they should be one body and fellow-heirs with the believing *Jesus*, was little known or understood; and notwithstanding the plain declarations of our Lord himself about it. (*John x. 16.* and *xii. 20,—33.*) and his express commission and promise to his disciples relating to it, *Matth. xxviii. 19, 20.* and *Mark. xvi. 15, 16.*; yet some of the apostles themselves, as well as other converted *Jesus*, were surprised

and shocked at the thought of the *Gentiles* being made equal partakers of the blessings of the gospel with themselves, and that without their being circumcised, and observing the law of *Moses*, as appears from the scruples that *Peter* made about going into the *Gentiles*, and the astonishment of the *Jesus* at their receiving the Holy Ghost, *Acts chap. x.* and from the debates that arose in the council at *Jerusalem*, upon *Paul* and *Barnabas'* reporting the conversion of the *Gentiles*; by their ministry, *Acts xv. 1,—29.* These, and such like, were the things that were not known before, as they were now revealed to the holy apostles and prophets, which is meant not of the *Old Testament*-prophets, but of the inspired prophets of the *New Testament*, such as are mentioned *chap. iv.*

it is now manifested in a supernatural way to the apostles of our Lord, whom he has sanctified, that they may be holy in heart and life, and has set apart for his service; and to the New Testament extraordinary prophets, by the immediate inspiration of his Spirit, in consequence of his ascension to heaven, *that he might fill all things.* (Chap. iv. 10, 11.)

6 That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ, by the gospel:

6 The mystery which I have chiefly in mine eye is, that even the *idolatrous Gentiles*, (chap. ii. 12.) should not only be admitted to some share of advantage under the expected Messiah; but should, together with the believing *Jews*, be fellow-citizens and joint-heirs of the heavenly inheritance with them, through the faith of Christ, as if they had been the natural seed of *Abraham*; (Gal. iii. 29.) and that they should be incorporated with them into the same church, to partake of all its privileges equally with themselves, and be members of the same mystical body of Christ, to derive all enlightning, quickning, sanctifying, and comforting influence from him, and hold their right and claim to all the blessings of the new covenant under him, as their head; and that they, in as full a manner as any of the *Jews*, should be interested in the whole covenant of promises, inclusive of all its spiritual and eternal benefits; and particularly that the great promise of the New Testament, even the Holy Ghost, that eminent promise of the Father, (*Acts* i. 4.) should be fulfilled unto them, and they should be made partakers of his gifts and saving graces, as he is shed upon them abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, in virtue of his purchase for them, and of their union with him, *in whom all the promises of God are, yea, and amen*; (Tit. iii. 6. and 2 Cor. i. 20.) and so the blessing of *Abraham*, in its utmost extent, should come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that they, as well as *Jews*, might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith, (Gal. iii. 14.) by means of the gospel, which is now preached unto them.

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me, by the effectual working of his power.

7 Of which gospel I have the honour of being ordained and called to be a preacher and an apostle, that I might publish it in all its light, fulness, and glory, and in its widest extent to *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*. I did not thrust myself into this high office, or take this honour to myself; no, nor did I receive it of man, or by the hands of any man whatsoever; (Gal. i. 1.) but I came into it by the immediate authority of Jesus Christ himself, and of God the Father who raised

N O T E.

11. and 1 Cor. xiv. 29, 32.: For what was now revealed to them is here spoken of, in opposition to what was not made known in former ages.

raised him from the dead, according to the free gift or grace of the apostleship *, which God of his own mere favour conferred upon me, in that he not only converted me, but likewise led me into the deepest mysteries of the gospel; and so furnished me for, and called me to this honourable office, which he made effectual by the mighty operation both of his miraculous and saving power in and by me, to the benefit of my own soul, and of multitudes of others, especially among the *Gentiles*. (Gal. ii. 18.)

S Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the *Gentiles* the unsearchable riches of Christ;

S Unto me in a peculiar manner, who, while I magnify my office, and extol the riches of divine grace toward me, and toward *Gentile*-sinners, cannot tell how to think and speak meanly enough of myself, and want words sufficiently to express the humbling sense I have of my own unworthiness †. Unto me, who really am, and unfeignedly account myself unworthy to be numbered among the saints, when I consider what an inveterate enemy and injurious violent persecutor of Christ, his people and cause, I formerly was, and should have continued to be to this very day, had I been left to the chosen way of my own heart; yea, in reflection on these detestable things, I think of myself as the meanest, ay, far below the very meanest of all that are truly sanctified, (which, blessed be God, is now my case) and as *not meet to be called an apostle*: (1 Cor. xv. 9.) Even unto such a worthless, undeserving, hell-deserving wretch as myself, this astonishing, matchless, condescending favour is shown, that I, above all the rest of the apostles, should be pitched upon, and employed to publish among the poor idolatrous *Gentiles* the glad tidings of salvation, and to be instrumental, in the hand of the Spirit, of making known, and conveying to multitudes of them, those exceeding riches of mercy and merit, of grace and glory, that are treasured up in Christ, and proposed in the gospel, by and through him, to the worst of sinners, even among *them*;

N O T E S.

* As in *ver. 2. the gospel* is called *the grace of God*, which it also is, *Tit. ii. 11.* because it is the gift of his free favour, and discovers the grace that is in his heart, and that he has provided in Christ for sinners, and because it is the means of his conveying grace to them; so here the apostleship seems, for like reasons, to be meant by what the apostle calls *the grace of God given to him*: for the following words shew that he had herein a peculiar respect to the grace which called him to, and endow'd him with, gifts for the apostolic office; and

this at other times he speaks of as *the grace*, and *the grace of God that was given to him*. (Rom. xv. 16. and Gal. ii. 9.)

† Here are the noblest strains of flowing eloquence, to paint out the exceeding low opinion the apostle had of himself, and his exalted thoughts of Christ, and of the fulness of the excellent blessings that are treasured up in him, and diffused abroad by him. He seems to stretch the powers of language to set himself as low, and the riches of the grace of Christ as high, as possible.

them; and riches that can never be fathomed or exhausted, told over or traced out (*απειρίτων*) in all their endless variety, excellence, and fulness.

9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

9 And the great design of God, in honouring me with this commission, was to enlighten all sorts of men among *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, by means of my ministry, that they might clearly perceive what a happy communion believers of all nations have in the exceeding great and glorious blessings of the gospel, as they are one church or body under Christ their head; which may very properly be styled a *mystery*; not only because of the unfathomable depth of God's sovereignty, wisdom, and grace therein, but because it lay concealed as an entire secret in his eternal counsel and purpose, (*ver.* 11. and *chap.* i. 11.) before all ages, and has under all former dispensations, ever since the beginning of this world, been suggested only in some general hints, while the whole scheme, as it is now revealed by the gospel, was still reserved with impenetrable concealment in the mind of God himself, who created all things, from the highest to the lowest of them, by Jesus Christ, the Father therein acting by, and together with his Son; so that *without him was not any thing made that was made.* (John i. 2, 3. Col. i. 16. and Heb. i. 2.)

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places, might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

10 This glorious revelation is also now made, to the end and purpose that all the ranks and orders of the angelic nature, which may be called *principalities and powers in heavenly places*, because they *excel in strength*, (Psal. ciii. 20.) and are employed as *ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation*, (Heb. i. 14.) in this lower world, though their ordinary residence be in heaven. (See the note on *chap.* i. 21.) This discovery, I say, is now made, that they, who desire to look into those things, (1 *Pet.* i. 12.) might behold, and contemplate with joy and praise, the adorable wisdom of God, which now shines forth in numberless displays of various glories, as exhibited in the doctrines and ministrations, blessings and privileges of the New Testament church.

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in

11 All which is now done exactly agreeable to God's eternal pre-ordination, or *purpose in himself*, (*chap.* i. 9. *) which he formed with a gracious regard

N O T E.

* The word here rendered *purpose* (*προβλεσις*) is in the New Testament always, except in the case of the *shewbread*, (Heb. ix. 2.) translated *purpose*, and signifies an *internal* act of the will or mind; but I do not find that it is e-

ver used for disposing by *external* operations or events; and therefore I take it here, as usual elsewhere, to relate to the *original purpose* of God *before the world*, (*προ των αιωνων*) as it is expressed 1 *Cor.* ii. 7.

in Christ Jesus our Lord :

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

gard to his church, as considered in Christ their head, even our Saviour and Lord, and which he intended in due time to execute just after the manner in which he has now brought it to pass by him, (*Rom. viii. 28. and 1 Pet. i. 20, 21.*)

12 In and through whom, as the only mediator between God and man, we have great liberty and enlargement of spirit in our transactions with God, as our reconciled God, Father, and Friend, and make near approaches to him on a throne of grace in our solemn acts of worship, and in the delightful communion which he admits us to, and *that* with humble assurance as to his favour towards us, and our acceptance in his sight, and as to the audience of our prayers for things agreeable to his will, and our final salvation; which holy confidence results from, and is produced in us by the faith which Christ is the author of, and which terminates immediately upon him, in a firm dependence on what he has done and suffered for us, and in a fiducial commitment of ourselves and all our concerns to him, who *is in us our hope of glory.* (*Col. i. 27.*)

13 In reflection therefore on all these things, I earnestly entreat you to labour, by divine grace, not to be disheartened, (*μη ενθουνηθητε*) or any way frightened into negligence or despondency in your Christian course and profession, by reason of the sufferings which I endure, not for any evil done by me, but merely in the cause of Christ, for the sake of my preaching the gospel to you *Gentiles*; (*ver. 1.*) but I beg that ye may rather be encouraged, strengthened, and animated in his ways by them, which are really a peculiar honour put upon you, as well as me, inasmuch as Christ has not only sent me to publish the glad tidings of salvation, but has likewise called me to sufferings on that account, in confirmation of the truth of the doctrines which I preached unto you, and by means of which ye were brought to believe in him*. And this will be indeed your glory, if ye are so far from being dismayed or offended at my tribulations, as to be so much the more established in your faith by them.

14 For this reason, I, in the most humble, reverential, and solemn addresses on my bended knees, recommend you to the grace of the eternal and covenant-Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is also our covenant-Father and friend in him.

15 Of

N O T E.

* *Beza* observes upon this place, that the church is *watered* by the blood of martyrs, but is only *washed* by the blood of Christ.

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

15 Of whom, and of the Father through him, the whole body of true worshippers, which make but one family, consisting of all the saints, together with the angels in heaven*, and of all believers in every place and nation upon earth, as being gathered together under Christ their head, have received a much more excellent name than that of the children of *Abraham*, in which the carnal *Jews* vainly boast; they have the title, honour, and advantage of being called the children of God, as high favourites, nearly related to him, owning and loving him, and being owned and beloved by him, and living in their Father's house.

16 That he would grant you according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

16 My prayer to this great and blessed God, who has done so much for you already, is, that in a way and manner like his infinite self, answerable to his own immense fulness of wisdom, faithfulness, and power, goodness, mercy, and grace, which is his glory, and in the enjoyment of which the most glorious riches consist, My prayer, I say, is, that he would please, in his free favour, and inexhaustible liberality, to grant unto you that ye may be, yet more and more, fortified against all the corruptions of your own hearts, and the temptations of Satan and of this evil world; may be invigorated for, and in, every duty and service; may be animated with holy courage to do and suffer the whole will of God; and may be enabled to exercise every grace, and abound in all comfort and holiness, and to hold on your way, and hold out to the end, through all opposition and danger, by the powerful operation and assistance of the divine Spirit, who, according to his peculiar province in the economy of salvation, carries on and perfects, as well as begins his good work in the renewed soul, which is the best and inmost part of the man. (See the note on *Rom. vii. 22.*)

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love,

17 I further humbly and earnestly beseech him, that Christ, together with, and by his Spirit, may be constantly present to your minds in realizing and appropriating acts of faith, whereby he is received and entertained in the soul; and may have a sensible abode in your hearts, by continual gracious impres-

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sions

N O T E.

* *Of whom*, by the construction may refer either to our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the next immediate antecedent, and gives power to believers to become the sons of God: (*John i. 12.*) or may refer to God the Father who is the principal subject of the foregoing sentence, and makes believers his sons. (*1 Cor. vi. 18.* and *1 John iii. 1.*) The *Jews*

commonly speak of the angels as God's family in heaven, and of men, especially of his covenant-people, as his family on earth. (See *Dr. Whitby* on the place.) And, supposing the apostle to allude to this, the angels must be at least included in the family which he here speaks of. (See the note on *chap. i. 10.*)

sions and delightful manifestations of his love to you, as those that are united by faith and love to him; that so, like trees well rooted and settled in a good soil, ye may be deeply fixed, and firmly established in an experimental and assuring knowledge of his matchless and endearing love to you, and in the best returns of stedfast and ardent love to him again, and to the Father through him, and to all his children for his sake, *because he first loved you.* (1 John iv. 19.)

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

18 And I humbly beg of God, that being thus rooted and grounded in love, ye may be enabled, as far as the human mind can reach, under the utmost advantage of divine revelation, faith, and experience, and of the enlightning and sanctifying influences of the Spirit, to apprehend, (*καταλαβειν*) and be suitably affected with, the immense love of Christ, that ye may conceive, as clearly as possible, what is the unmeasurable extent of it, as it reaches to the *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, to all ranks and degrees of sinners, and to all manner of spiritual and heavenly blessings, according as God has chosen you to them in him: (*chap. i. 3, 4.*) And what is its unbeginning and endless length, as it is from everlasting to everlasting: (*Psal. ciii. 17.*) And what is its unfathomable depth, as it hath brought him, who thought it no robbery to be equal with God, to the lowest state of humiliation and sufferings in the form of a servant, and to the ignominious death of the cross; (*Phil. ii. 6,—8.*) and as it has stooped and condescended to you in your low estate, to raise you out of the deepest abyfs of sin and misery; (*Psal. xl. 2. and Zech. ix. 11.*) and to deliver you from the wrath to come: (*1 Thef. i. 10.*) And what is its superlative height, as he is still mindful of you in his exalted state at the Father's right hand, where he is placed in mediatorial honours higher than the heavens, and ever lives to make intercession for you; (*Heb. vii. 25, 26.*) and as he has advanced you to all the inconceivable dignities and privileges that belong to the adoption of sons, and will in due time raise you up to the heavenly mansions of unspeakable and endless glory. (*John xiv. 2, 3.*)

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

19 And my heart's desire for you is, that ye may be enabled, yet more and more, to have just apprehensions and enlarged views by faith, together with an experimental feeling of the virtue, power, and sweetness of the transcendent, free, and sovereign love of Christ, and of God through him, in its most excellent manifestations, fruits, and effects, which in itself, and in its wonderful operations, provisions and designs, infinitely surpasses all the comprehension or adequat-

adequate ideas of men and angels, (*ver.* 8. and 10.) in every one of the aforefaid boundless dimensions : And all this I beg of God for you, to the end that, (*vix*) upon the whole, ye may be, ftill more and more, partakers of a divine nature, (*2 Pet.* i. 4.) and may be enriched, as much as poffible, with all that fulnefs of light and grace, holinefs, joy, and peace, in this prefent life, which God has deiigned and prepared in his eternal counfels of wifdom and love, and in the merit of his Son, and has promifed in his covenant, and communicates to his chief favourites, at their beft feafons, while they are here ; and that ye may, at length, arrive at the moft perfect vifion and enjoyment of him, and fpotlefs conformity to him, in his immediate prefence, where *is fulnefs of joy, and at whofe right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* (Pfal. xvi. 11. and fee the note on Col. ii. 9.)

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

20 Now therefore, to fhut up this comprehensive prayer on your behalf, with a doxology, that may raife our hope, unworthy as we are in ourfelves of its full accomplifhment, unto the great and bleffed God, the only object of our faith and expectation, worship and obedience, * to whom I have prefented my humble fupplications in the name of our Lord Jefus Chrift, as the only mediator, (*ver.* 14.) for the higheft and moft extenfive bleffings, that can be wifhed, or that we can be capable of enjoying : To him who is almighty, with whom nothing is too hard to do, but who is infinitely able to answer this and every other, even the moft enlarged prayer of faith, and to fulfil our utmoft defires, according to the propenfions and defigns of his boundless love ; yea, who is eafily able to do fuperabundantly more, than we have already asked, or can poffibly petition for, or conceive of, and *that* in a way of divine operation, which we have already had abundant experience of, and which is correpondent to the exceeding greatnefs of his power to us-ward who believe. (*Chap.* i. 19, 20.)

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Chrift Jefus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

21 To this all-fufficient, gracious, covenant-God, be afcribed all poffible honour, in a way of faith and love, adoration, worship, and obedience, thanksgiving, bleffing, and praife, on account of his infinite perfeftions, and of his counfels and works of creation, providence and grace, in the univerfal church, both vifible

N O T E.

* This noble doxology is admirably adapted to encourage and ftrengthen our faith, that it might not ftagger at the great things which the apottle had been praying for, as though they were too much for God to give, or for his people

to expect from him, whofe thoughts and ways are as much above ours as the heavens are above the earth, and whofe love exceeds all the dimensions whereby we ufe to meafure things.

sible and invisible, in heaven and earth, and in every particular church, and by all the members of each of them, which are included in the catholic church; may this solemn tribute be presented to him by them, in the most spiritual and acceptable manner, through Jesus Christ, as the only mediator, in and by whom all our prayers and praises are to be offered, that they may be accepted on his account, (*John* xiv. 13, 14. and xv. 16. *Col.* iii. 17. *Heb.* xiii. 15. and *1 Pet.* ii. 5.) and may this be done through all the periods of time, and all generations in this world, and to the endless ages of eternity in that which is to come! Thus it shall be, and thus I, and all that love him in sincerity and truth, heartily wish and pray it may be, in token of which let them all join with me in saying, *Amen.*

RECOLLECTIONS.

What a blessed dispensation is that of the gospel! The wisdom of God in the mystery of salvation, and the riches of his grace, even to us *Gentile* sinners, according to his eternal purpose in Christ Jesus, are now displayed, to men and angels, with much greater evidence and extent by the Holy Spirit, in the writings of inspired men, than ever were experienced or made known to former ages. How equal now are believers of all nations in spiritual privileges and blessings! They are fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of the great promise of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ, by means of the gospel; and they have holy boldness and freedom of access to a throne of grace, with humble hope and confidence of acceptance, by faith in him. How gloriously does grace reign throughout the gospel! It is the gospel of the grace of God: Grace has provided and given it, and sends and qualifies ministers to preach it with success; its whole scheme is a doctrine of free grace, and all its important blessings are conveyed merely by grace. And O how unsearchable are the riches of Christ, that it reveals and brings to us! With what deep self-abasement, and affecting admiration of divine favour, should ministers reflect upon the honour of being called and qualified to preach them! And who can express the happiness of those that are enriched with them! They have the sweetest supports under all present tribulations; and when they are enabled, with faith and patience, to bear them, especially those that are, even to imprisonment, for the sake of Christ, this will prove to be an honourable testimony to the truth and power of the gospel, and will turn to their own best account, and be their glory: And all this they may comfortably hope for, since nothing is too great or good for faith to ask, or for God to give, on Christ's account. What more comprehensive prayer can be offered, than "that God would grant us, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner-man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge; and that we may be filled with all the fulness of God?" Whose thoughts can fully stretch to all this? "But God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." In what a humble and adoring manner, as with bended knees, and yet with what encouragement and hope should we address him, as the Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named! And with what high ascriptions of glory should he be worshipped, through Jesus Christ, by the church, in all generations upon earth, and by saints and angels to all eternity in heaven! *Amen*, so let it be, and so it shall be.

C H A P. IV.

The apostle proceeds from the doctrinal to the practical part of this epistle, which he introduces with a general exhortation to the whole church to walk worthy of their Christian calling, 1. And then, to recommend and exemplify it, he excites them by several weighty arguments to mutual forbearance and union, 2,—6. To a due use of all their spiritual gifts and graces for edification, 7,—16. To purity and holiness in heart and life, 17,—24. And to take heed of several sins that were practised among the heathens, but were inconsistent with their Christian profession, 25,—32.

TEXT.

I Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

PARAPHRASE.

SINCE such great and glorious privileges and blessings, as have been hitherto discoursed of, are freely bestowed upon all, and every one of you that are true believers in Christ, whether ye be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, (chap. iii. 6.) I therefore, who am a prisoner in bonds, not for any fault of mine, but by the wise and holy disposal of the Lord Jesus, and for his sake, because I faithfully preach his gospel, in all its extent to *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, (chap. iii. 1.) and for his honour and glory, that I might bear a noble testimony, by not only preaching, but also suffering for him; Even **I**, who am not ashamed of my chain, earnestly entreat you, in his name, and by these bonds, to live, and act with constancy and perseverance to the end, at such an honourable rate as becomes the gospel, (see the note on *Luke* xxi. 36.) and is every way agreeable and ornamental to the high and holy calling of God in Christ Jesus, wherewith ye are called externally by the word, and internally by the efficacious operation of his Spirit, *to glory and virtue, and to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (2 Pet. i. 3. and 2 Theff. ii. 14.)

² With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love;

² As ever ye would bring credit to the gospel, and act suitable to its spiritual privileges and obligations, see to it, that the whole of your behaviour be with all humbleness of mind, esteeming others better than yourselves, (*Phil.* ii. 3.) and abasing your souls before God, under a sense of what ye were by nature, and of your utter unworthiness of the high favours that he hath bestowed upon you; and, with all courteousness, candour, calmness, and sweetness of temper and deportment towards one another: Let this humility and meekness prevail unto all restraints of angry passions, on account of affronts and injuries, though often repeated, that ye may bear them without retaliating or revenging them: And as to the weaknesses and indiscretions, frowardness, and peevish

vish tempers of any of your brethren, of whom better things might be expected, overlook them, or sustain them with a calm and composed spirit, that rather pities and excuses, than is offended with, and would distress your fellow-Christians: And let all this be done from a principle of love to Christ, and to them for his sake; only let it not be in such a way as shall countenance, or indulge them in any thing that is sinful, which would be, in effect, to hate, rather than to love them. (*Lev. xix. 17.*)

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

3 In this manner carefully study, and lay out yourselves, with the utmost speed and diligence, and by all proper means to maintain and preserve that spiritual union and harmony of souls, which is the fruit of the Spirit, and consists in that mutual peace, which, upon the principles before-mentioned, is the best and strongest bond of your religious society, and of your holy fellowship together in a church-state.

4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

4 This amiable union ought, by all means, to be cultivated among you, considering the joint-interest and concernment that ye have in such excellent things, as direct and oblige you to be united in heart and affection; as, to mention a few remarkable particulars, The catholic church is but one mystical body, of which Christ is the Head, and ye are all alike members; and therefore ye should have the same fellowship, concern, and care one for another: (*1 Cor. xii. 25, 26, 27.*) And one and the same Divine and Holy Spirit, of which ye are partakers, animates, guides, and dwells in the whole mystical body, and in every member of it, in whom he also has wrought the same spirit and temper after his own likeness, who is the Spirit of love and peace; and therefore ye ought to act with united hearts, according to his dictates, under his influence, and in resemblance of him: But to have hearts disaffected one to another, is like having two or more souls, and *that* of contrary dispositions and qualities, in one body. Ye are likewise called, by grace, to God's kingdom and glory, (*1 Theff. ii. 12.*) as the *one summary object* of your hope; and in your effectual calling, ye are partakers of *one and the same grace* of hope, which terminates on Christ, as its only foundation; and therefore ye should live in harmony and peace, as heirs together of the grace of life, and expectants of one and the same blessed inheritance of the saints in light.

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

5 There is *one* Lord and Saviour of all true believers, even Jesus Christ, who is the only Mediator, Head, and King of the church; and therefore ye ought to unite, as with one heart and soul, in your dependance upon him, in your allegiance, love, and obedience

obedience to him, and in your sincere affection to all his subjects, according to the laws of his kingdom: There is also *one* and the same *rule* and *doctrine* of faith, and *one object* of it, and *one sort* of like precious faith, which is common to the whole church of Christ, and these are to be entertained and improved by the *same actions* of faith in every member of it; and therefore this faith should work by love to him, its glorious object, and to one another for his sake: And the baptism of all, that belong to the church of Christ, is but *one* in its nature, tendency, and design, whether ye consider it as the *internal* baptism of the Holy Ghost, by which they are renewed and sanctified; or as the *external* ordinance of baptism with water, which is to be *but once* administered, and by which that spiritual benefit is signified; and they, in token of it, are visibly and solemnly devoted to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and are enrolled in the Christian church, and brought under the strongest bonds, to be entirely and unreservedly the Lord's, in whose *one* name, in opposition to all other gods, they are baptized; (see the note and paraphrase on *Mat.* xxviii. 19.) and therefore ye should behave with the utmost unanimity in acting up to character, and answering your obligations, according to your holy principles and profession.

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

6 To conclude these engaging *unities*, The covenant God and Father of all sincere believers, whether they be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, is but *one*; (*Rom.* iii. 29, 30.) and they all stand in the nearest relation to him, as his people and his children *, who is infinitely above

N O T E.

* Though *God* may be styled *the Father of all things universally, who is above, through, and in them all*, as he created and upholds them, and has supreme dominion over them; and as in him we live, and move, and have our being; yet *the Father of all, &c.* in this place evidently means something more peculiar and distinguishing, with special relation to all *his people*, and to his gracious and effectual operation in them: For this best suits the design of the apostle's argument, and is most agreeable to all the other instances of union before recited, which undoubtedly have a particular and restrained reference to *the church*; and the *all* here intended, admits of a very easy construction, as answering to the *one body*, ver. 4. and to *you all* in the close of this verse. But when the Father of all true believers is said to be *one God*, this no more ex-

cludes the Son and Spirit from being God, together with the Father, than Christ's being called *one Lord*, and the Holy Ghost *one Spirit*, ver. 4. 5. excludes the Father from being *Lord* and *Spirit* together with them: And what is here said of *God the Father* as *over* or *above all* (*ἐπι παντων*) is said of *Christ*, as *over all* (*ἐπι παντων*) *God blessed for ever*; (*Rom.* ix. 5.) and as the Father is *through* and *in all* believers, and all things that refer to them; so it is said of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all things are *by him*, or *through him*, (*ὑπο καὶ διὰ αὐτου*) *1 Cor.* viii. 6. and that he *fills all in all*, *Eph.* i. 23.; and believers are the *temples of the Holy Ghost, in whom the Spirit of God dwells*, *1 Cor.* iii. 16. Therefore *one God and Father of all* may be considered either as a *personal* character, and so the meaning is, that there is but one God the Father in distinction

above them all in his own nature and perfections, and in his dominion over them; yea, is exalted above all blessing and praise; and whose special influence diffuses through all and every part of the mystical body of Christ, to preserve, govern, and supply them; and who, by his Spirit and grace, dwells in all of you that believe, as in his temple, and works in every one of you *that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ*; (Heb. xiii. 21.) and therefore ye ought to be of one heart and soul in your acknowledgments, love, and reverence of him, and in your obedience and subjection to him, as your own God and Father; and should love as brethren, and as children, that have one and the same God for your heavenly Father.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

7 But though we are all members of one catholic church, and there are so many important things, in which we are agreed, and therefore ought heartily to unite in the bonds of love and peace; yet there are other things in which, as members of the same body, there is a beautiful difference between us, with respect to spiritual offices and endowments, which all proceed from one and the same Author, and are fully consistent with the most excellent and desirable union, and subservient to the same common end. And that none may be discontented on the one hand, or proud on the other, and none may envy or despise another, Let it be considered, that all the variety of graces, and spiritual gifts and attainments, which, in one degree or other, we are severally favoured with, are given to us, not according to our deserts, but by an act of mere grace, in such measures and proportions, as Christ sees fittest and best to bestow them upon us, not only for the benefit of our own souls, but likewise for the edification of one another. (1 Cor. xii. 7.)

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave his spoils to men.

8 This appears from a remarkable scripture-prophecy of Christ, where God speaking by *David*, in allusion to the triumphs of conquerors, says, with reference to the Messiah, (*Psal. lxxviii. 18.*) when, after victory obtained over all his enemies, he ascended in grandeur and triumph up to glory, thousands of angels attending him, as his pompous train, he led sin, Satan, the world, and death, as his spoils of war.

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unction from God the Son and Spirit; or as an *essential* character, and so there is but one true God, inclusive of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom we are devoted in our baptism, *ver. 5.* in opposition to all false gods; and with

just the same propriety it may be said there is *one God the Son*, and *one God the Spirit*, to distinguish them *personally* from the Father, and *essentially* from all false gods.

war, and captives in chains; even those very enemies that had taken multitudes captive, and enslaved them*: And as great generals and princes use to scatter largesses or donatives among the people, with a liberal hand, in days of public entry, with the spoils of war, into their capital cities; so our Lord Jesus Christ, having *spoiled principalities and powers*, (Col. ii. 15.) distributed the most excellent gifts and graces of his Spirit, with the richest profusion †, among men of all nations upon earth, as free and glorious ascension-gifts to them, for whom he, as Mediator and Head of the church, received them of his Father, as the reward of his sufferings and death, that he might give them, even to the most unworthy and rebellious sinners, inclusive of the *Gentiles*, that a reconciled God might place his tabernacle, and take up his gracious abode among them.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

9 Now when it is said that he ascended up on high in such a victorious and triumphant manner, as was fit for none but a God to be honoured with, and as none could have been capable of, but he who was *declared to be the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead*, (Rom. i. 4.) What does this intimate to us, but that, as his mediatorial triumph was founded on his obedience unto death; so antecedent, and in order to his glorious exaltation, he descended from heaven to earth in the assumption of the human nature into personal union with himself, and was conceived in the womb of the virgin *Mary*, (Luke i. 30, 31. †) and, being brought forth, lived

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* The learned Mr. *Peirce* in an appendix to this verse, p. 74. conjectures, that Christ's leading *captivity captive*, is to be understood of *good angels*; and yet he allows that, if we were to be entirely guided by the etymology, the word there used would relate to persons taken in war; and the instances he alleges from the *New Testament* for a different sense, either allude to *war*, or a violent *capture*; or when any were brought into captivity with the consent of the captive, it is sometimes taken in a bad, as well as at others in a good sense; so that his notion rests on a very uncertain foundation; and I do not easily apprehend, how the holy angels can be called a *captivity*, which our Lord led captive. (See also the note on Col. ii. 15.)

† The *gifts* here intended most directly refer to those extraordinary ones that were bestowed upon the church in its officers, but may likewise be extend-

ed to *all the gifts and graces of the Spirit*, that private members, as well as church officers, whether ordinary or extraordinary, are favoured with: For the allusion is to conquerors throwing their largesses among the *common people*; and the gifts here meant were received by Christ, as Man and Mediator, in order to his giving them to the *rebellious*, that *the Lord God might dwell among them*, as it is expressed, *Psal. lxxviii. 18.* to which this passage refers. Accordingly *he ascended that he might fill all things*, ver. 10. and the *edification of the body of Christ*, that many might be framed into it, and all its members might derive virtue from him, as their Head, seem to be included in these gifts, as the apostle afterwards explains himself, ver. 12.—16.

‡ *The lower parts of the earth*, is a phrase used in the Old Testament for the *womb*, *Psal. cxxxix. 15.* and for the *grave*, *Psal. lxxiii. 9.*; and Christ's being

buried

in a state of humiliation and sufferings in this lower world, for the satisfaction of divine justice, till at length he was crucified and buried in the grave?

10 He that descended, is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things)

10 That Jesus, who in this manner humbled himself to such an amazing degree, (see *Phil.* ii. 8.) is the very same divine person, that also (after he had conquered all his spiritual enemies) ascended up to the throne of God his Father, to sit down on the right hand of the Majesty on high in the third heaven, far above the region of the air, and all visible heavens; and he ascended for this important end and purpose, that in virtue of the merit of his death, and of the victory and triumph of his resurrection and ascension, he might fill the whole church, and all its officers and members, and might fill up all its ordinances and administrations with the gifts and graces of his Spirit, by pouring them out abundantly from on high; and so might perfect all things that relate to the further execution of his offices, and to the salvation of the church; and might fulfil all types and prophecies concerning himself, that are not yet accomplished.

11 And he gave some, apostles: and some, prophets: and some, evangelists: and some, pastors and teachers:

11 And in pursuit of this great and gracious design, he among other of his liberal and free donations, and in subservience to all the rest, furnished the church, first, with *extraordinary* officers, that were only temporary, as needful in its infant-state and first plantation of the gospel: Of this sort he appointed and ordained some *apostles*, that were to be his chief ministers and special witnesses, as having seen him after his resurrection, and received their commission immediately from himself, and been endowed with privileges peculiar to themselves; such as an ability of fully communicating the whole scheme of the gospel under divine inspiration, and a furniture of powers, not only of working all sorts of miracles, but also of conveying the Holy Ghost to believers by the laying on of their hands. These our blessed Saviour most solemnly confirmed in their office, and eminently qualified for it, by a plentiful effusion of his Spirit after his resurrection and ascension, though he had chosen and sent forth many of them to it before his death.

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ascended is called his being *in the heart of the earth*, *Matth.* xii. 40.: But as his *ascending* contains every thing that relates to his *glorification*; so his *descending* may be considered as including, not only his *incarnation* and *burial*, but the *whole state of his humiliation* upon earth: And as his *descending* is inferred from his *ascending*; this goes upon a sup-

position of his being God, who was originally from above, as he said of himself, *John* iii. 13.; otherwise there is no consequence from his *ascending* to his *descending*, since all the saints will ascend to heaven, though none of them first descended from thence. (Vid. *Zanch.* in loc.)

death. He also gave some *prophets*, that were enabled to explain the Old Testament prophecies, and foretel things to come, by an immediate inspiration; and some *evangelists*, whose office it was to attend and assist the apostles in their travels, and in their work, and to go on their messages, and settle churches in various distant places, where the apostles had preached the gospel, but could not stay any length of time to carry on and finish the begun work: And besides these, he, in the riches of his love and care, appointed *ordinary officers*, to be of perpetual standing use, as what will be needful to the church through all generations to the end of the world: Of these he instituted, and endowed with spiritual gifts and graces, some *pastors*, who are also stiled *bishops*, and *elders*, that should be settled in particular churches to take a peculiar care of them, to preside, watch, and rule over them in the Lord, and to administer all the ordinances of worship and discipline, as well as to preach the word to them: And for assistants to these, in like manner as the evangelists were to the apostles, he graciously appointed other *ministers of the gospel at large*, to be employed in various churches and congregations, as occasions might require, though not with full power to perform all the parts of the pastoral office*.

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;

12 This wise, holy, and gracious appointment, of these various officers, is suited and designed, and, by the blessing of the Lord upon them, is successful (*προς τον κτιστισμον*) for jointing in and completing the number of the saints, and their various gifts and graces, that they may adhere to Christ by faith, and to one another by love; and for uniting and compacting those that are renewed and sanctified, by means of their ministrations, into a regular and orderly society, and setting those members to rights, and reducing them to their proper place, that are, at any time, dislocated by their falls †. He also ordained them

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* Some think that *pastors* and *teachers* mean the same office; and its not being said *some pastors*, and *some teachers*, just in the same *distinctive* way, as is used with respect to *extraordinary officers*, may seem to countenance that thought. But as all teachers are not *pastors*, though all pastors are *teachers*, and as all the forementioned officers are distinguished from each other, I rather choose to understand pastors and teachers, with the difference made between them in the paraphrase.

† The learned *Grotius* would have a

transposition of these clauses, so as to place *the work of the ministry* before the *perfecting of the saints*. But, as far as I see, they may stand with propriety enough, in the order in which we find them, according to the sense given in the paraphrase; and this order is extremely beautiful, if we receive Dr. *Marshall's* rendering of the original, which stands thus, *for the fitting out holy persons to the work of the ministry, to the edifying the body of Christ*; in *Blackwall's Sacred Classics*, Vol. II. p.

them to their respective offices, for their faithfully dispensing the word and ordinances with labour and diligence, and for his rendering the work of the gospel-ministry authentic, and effectual to all spiritual and saving purposes: And he gave them for the building up of the mystical body of Christ, the church, in light, faith, love, and joy, and in all holy obedience; as also for making continual additions to them of such as shall be saved. One or other of these officers, as particularly *pastors* and *teachers*, are to be continued in the church, by the institution of Christ, for serving these blessed purposes;

12 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

13 Till all of us, whether *Jews* or *Gentiles*, weak or strong believers, that are members of this mystical body of Christ, (including those that now do, and hereafter shall believe in successive generations to the end of the world) shall meet, and be cemented together in an entire agreement about the doctrines of faith, and in the sweetest harmony, union, and oneness, by means of the same kind of special faith in Christ; and of a clear, affectionate and fiducial knowledge, and (*επιγνωσεως*) approving acknowledgment of the eternal Son of God, as a divine person, and the only Lord and Saviour; and so, by gradually improving in gifts and graces, shall, at length, arrive at a state of complete manhood in spiritual understanding, vigour, strength, and attainments of every valuable kind, even unto the full proportion of that mature age and spiritual stature in Christ, which he designs us for, and which is acquired by derivation from his mediatorial fulness, and makes up the utmost fulness of his mystical body, that it is capable of under him, as its head, with regard to the perfection of its graces, comfort, and holiness in heaven, as well as to the completing of the whole number of the elect:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

14 That, in this way, we may not continue to be, as some of us too much are, like children in knowledge and understanding, weak in faith, wavering in judgment, taken with every new thing, and easily misled; nor, like a ship without ballast in a tempestuous sea, tossed and tumbled hither and thither, (*κλυδονιζομενοι και περιφερομενοι*) or driven about, like flying clouds, by every erroneous doctrine, which may be compared to the wind for instability and force, through the fallacies, sophisms, and crafty doublings of artful and designing men, who act like jugglers in casting a die, (*εν τη κωδωια*) by plausible pretences, and subtle methods of cheating and imposing upon us;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ :

15 But that, on the contrary, we may sincerely speak of, and plead for the truth of the gospel, with a spirit of love to Christ, to the truth itself, and to the souls of others ; and may, like living members of a living head, increase in all light, grace, and holiness, and in every part of the new creature, by virtue of our union with him, in conformity to him, and for his honour and glory, who is our only vital head, even Christ himself.

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body, unto the edifying of itself in love.

16 From whom, as from the head and fountain, the whole mystical body, * that is composed of many members, which are duly and orderly adapted one to another, and cemented together, like joint to joint, and all of which are united to Christ, the head, by that energy which is communicated from him through every ordinance and officer of the church, and through every private member in its place and sphere of action, according to the efficacious operation of his Spirit ; which being exerted in the proportion that is suited to the state, condition, and exigence of every part, produces an improvement of the whole body of Christ, unto the building of it up in all the love, which every member ought to have, and by which it affectionately acts towards him and one another, and toward the whole church, till it be perfected in the heavenly world.

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

17 Since therefore ye, as members of Christ, are partakers of such privileges and advantages, as have been but now recited, (*ver. 11,—16.*) I must again, as, in effect, I did before, (*ver. 1.*) earnestly entreat you, and solemnly enjoin it upon you, in the name, and by the authority of the Lord Jesus, who is witness of what I say, that from this time forward ye no more live and act like other *Gentiles*, who still remain in an unconverted state ; but that ye utterly abandon their sinful, sensual, worldly, and idolatrous courses, which are all empty, unprofitable, and deceitful, and which they go into through the vain and foolish conceit, turn, and temper of their own depraved minds.

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them,

18 For the noblest faculty and power of their souls, even their understanding, in all its thoughts and reasonings about spiritual things, is overpread with a thick mist of ignorance and error ; and their wills and affections, as well as their minds, are quite strangers and averse to the way of life, holiness, and happiness, which

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* Here is a manifest allusion to the *human body*, which is composed of different joints and members, knit together by various ligaments, and furnished with nerves, tendons, and other vessels of

communication from the head to every part of the body which, by these means, is nourished, actuated, and invigorated, and arrives to its full strength and stature.

them, because of the blindness of their heart:

which God has appointed, and to that sort of life itself, which he requires, and approves, and is the author of; by which he lives in the soul, and it lives to him; and which consists in a holy communion with him, and conformity to him. Their understanding is darkened through the innate and wilful ignorance, that is indulged, increased, and confirmed in them, relating to what they might, and ought to have known of God, even by the light of nature*: (*Rom. i. 19, 20, 21.*) And they are alienated from the life of God, not merely for want of proper inducements to seek after it; but through a chosen and customary, as well as natural stupidity, perverseness, and hardness of their own carnal hearts; whereby they resist and stifle the best sentiments of their own minds and consciences, as *not liking to retain God in their knowledge*; (*Rom. i. 28.*)

19 Who being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

19 Who through their contracted habit of ignorance, error, and hardness of heart, and through the righteous judgment of God in giving them up to their own sin and choice, (*Rom. i. 28.*) have no uneasy painful reflections upon their multiplied and gross iniquities; but are become quite insensible of, and unaffected with, what they know concerning the *judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death*, (*Rom. i. 32.*) their consciences being *seared as with a hot iron*; (*1 Tim. iv. 2.*) and so they have voluntarily, and with full consent, delivered themselves up to all manner of abominable filthiness in their affections and conversation, unto the practising of the most shameful impurities, and *that with the greatest thirst and eagerness in their thoughts about them, and in their desires and pursuits after them, as if their highest happiness, gain, and enjoyment lay in them.* (See *Rom. i. 24,—32.*) This is the hateful and deplorable case of the unconverted *Gentiles*; and gives the true picture, and an affecting view of what ye yourselves once were, and of what all mankind by nature are, or would be, as left to the power of their own corrupt hearts. (*Chap. ii. 3.*)

20 But ye have not learned Christ;

20 But as for you, my brethren, who are brought out of darkness into marvellous light, ye have not thus learned the doctrines of Christ, relating to his person, offices, and design, nor the obligations ye are

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* *Through the ignorance that is in them, (δια της αγνοιας) seems most directly to answer to their having the understanding darkened: And because of the blindness, or rather through the hardness of their heart (δια της σαρκαρι)*

answers to their being *alienated from the life of God*; and so the latter part of the verse distinctly assigns the immediate causes of the two evils respectively, that are mentioned in the former part of it.

are under to him, and the privileges ye have received from him, which are all pure and holy; ye have not learned any thing from Christ, that could induce you, or so much as give you leave to allow yourselves in, or venture upon such licentious practices as these *; No, your very souls must needs have the utmost abhorrence of them, and your lives be prevalingly free from them;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

21 If (as ye profess, and as I am persuaded of you †,) ye have indeed understood, hearkened to, believed and *obeyed from the heart, that form of doctrine*, (Rom. vi. 17.) which ye have heard from Christ, and concerning him by his servants; and if ye have not only heard by the hearing of the ear, but have also been internally and savingly enlightened, and taught by his Spirit heartily to receive the truth of the gospel in its simplicity and purity, according to its genuine tendency and design, as it was delivered by the Lord Jesus himself, and afterwards by his inspired apostles, and was exemplified in his temper and conduct, and is practised by all those, who, as living members of his mystical body, are united to him. What ye have hereby been taught, and influenced, as well as obliged to, is;

22 That ye put off, concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts:

22 That ye labour by his grace, and in the use of all proper and appointed means, yet more and more, and even entirely, to discard and abandon the old man, the body of sin, (Rom. vi. 6. see the paraphrase there) which discovered itself in your former wicked practices through all the days of your unregeneracy; and to throw it aside with abhorrence, as ye would an old filthy garment, that is no longer fit to be worn, it being in itself the most debasing evil, that corrupts all the faculties of the soul, and all the members of the body, and tends unto, and, unless cured by renewing grace, would certainly issue in eternal destruction, according to the workings of its impetuous and unlawful appetites and inclinations, which deceive

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* These words, *ye have not so learned Christ*, admit of two ways of rendering them, which amount, in effect, to the same sense. One is as we have it in our translation; and the other is, *but not so ye; ye have learned Christ*; intimating that their knowledge of him would not suffer them to go into the forementioned immoral courses.

† The apostle explains what sort of *learning Christ* he meant, *viz.* not merely that which is *external* by the word, but likewise that which is *internal* and effectual by his Spirit; accordingly the

particle *if so be* (*εἴπερ*) may be considered as putting the supposition for argument's sake; or else, as what he took for granted was really the case of these *Ephesians*: And though this form of expression might be designed to awaken a serious inquiry in their minds, whether they were in truth what they professed to be; yet it seems to be used here as a particle of *affirming* rather than of *doubting*, and so signifies *in as much as*, or *seeing that* ye have heard, &c. (See the note on chap. iii. 2.)

ceive carnal hearts with false appearances of profit, honour, or pleasure; and by specious allurements betray them into unexpected shame and misery.

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

23 And this saving knowledge of Christ excites and binds you, not only to mortify your corruptions, but also to abound in all grace and holiness, that ye may press after a still further renovation*, through the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, in the inmost powers of the soul, which is of a spiritual nature, but is all over depraved by the fall; and particularly after a growing renovation in your understanding, that superior and leading faculty, as well as in your will and affections, which are, or ought to be under its conduct.

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

24 And a further end of your learning Christ is, that instead of wearing the deformity of the old man any longer, by giving way to sin, ye may, by daily and increasing exercises of grace, dress and adorn yourselves (1 Pet. iii. 3, 4.) with all the beauties of the new creature, which is formed in the whole man, when *old things are past away, and all things become new*; (2 Cor. v. 17.) and which may be called *the new man*, because of its excellent qualities, and its being lately begotten in the soul, after sin had continued in long possession there; and because *it is not corruptible*, as the old man is; (1 Pet. iii. 4.) And this new man is God's own *workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works*, (Eph. ii. 10.) and is produced by his infinite wisdom, power, and grace, according to his holy will, and after his own image, in which he at first created man; (Gen. i. 27.) and which consists in divine principles and dispositions, habits, and acts of justice and honesty towards our fellow-creatures, and of purity and piety toward God: And all this holiness is real, internal, and effectual, in opposition to hypocrisy, and to the external and ceremonial purifications of the *Mosaic law*; and is attended with the knowledge of the truth, which is another part of the image of God. (Col. iii. 10.)

25 Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his

25 Therefore, according to these advantages and obligations, take heed of all those sins which ye formerly have been addicted to, but which are directly contrary to your Christian character; as for instance, see

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* As the apostle supposed that these Ephesians had *learned Christ, and been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus*, ver. 20, 21 he could not but look upon them, in the judgment of charity, as already regenerated, or born again; and

therefore *renewing in the spirit of their mind*, must relate, not to the first work of the Spirit in their conversion, but to a progressiveness in those holy principles and dispositions that were wrought in them by heart-changing grace.

his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

see to it, that ye banish falshood and lies, deceit and frauds of every kind, to the remotest distance from your designs and conversation, as the most detestable sins, that sap the foundation of all good morality itself, and are utterly unworthy of the man, and much more of the Christian: And, as God commanded *Israel*, (*Zech. viii. 16.*) let every one of you sincerely make conscience of, and pay a strict regard to truth, at all times, in every circumstance, and in every thing that he says and does to others, whatever temptations he may have, and whatever any of the heathens may teach or practise, to the contrary*. For we, who believe in Christ, are as much members of *civil* society as ever; and therefore ought to be true and faithful to all mankind, as having a joint-interest and concernment in the welfare of the whole: And we are members of the same *spiritual* body, of which Christ is the head; and therefore ought, in a special manner, to avoid deceit, and speak the truth to our fellow-Christians, that we may not injure, but be helpful to one another, as members of the natural body use to be.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

26 Watch over your passions, that they may be kept under due government; and as anger is apt to get the ascendancy, upon every little provocation, labour to regulate and restrain it †, that it may not become sinful, either by your being angry, without a cause, or to answer some bad end; or by letting it rise to excess, and degenerate into fury, rage, and revenge, even when there may be just occasion for a holy resentment: And if at any time it throws you into a wrathful, discomposing perturbation of spirit, which is in itself sinful, be as speedy as possible, in looking up for divine assistance, and endeavouring to suppress it, and to be reconciled to your brother, according to our Lord's own direction, (*Mat. v. 23, 24. †*) that it may not rest in your bosoms like the anger

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anger

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* It appears from several *heathen* writers, that they thought it lawful to tell a lie, when it might be profitable for them; and that, in such cases, it was better than a hurtful truth. (See various testimonies to this purpose in *Dr. Whitby's* note on this verse.)

† *Be ye angry* is not to be taken as an *exhortation* to anger, which, alas! we are naturally too prone to of ourselves: And yet it intimates, that all anger in its own nature is not sinful; but may be allowable upon just occasions, as it is in itself an innocent passion, planted in the original frame of human nature to be

exercised in a proper and decent manner; and was so, by the blessed and holy Jesus himself. (*Mark iii. 5.*)

‡ *Let not the sun go down upon your wrath*, seems to be a sort of *proverbial* expression, to signify things that ought to be done without delay, in allusion to the law of God, which ordered the criminal, that was hanged upon a tree, to be buried the same day, and the hire of a poor servant not to be kept back till the sun should go down upon it, (*Deut. xxi. 22, 23, and xxiv. 14, 15.*) And even *Pythagoras*, a heathen philosopher, in-joined his disciples, that after any quar-
rel,

anger of fools; (*Eccl. vii. 9.*) and may by no means remain with you till sun-set, to distract your minds, and unfit them for evening prayer, which ought to be *without wrath and doubting*; (*1 Tim. ii. 8.*) nor may lie down with you to disturb your sleep in the night, or rise with you the following day.

27 Neither give place to the devil.

27 'Tis the work of your great adversary, the devil, to irritate and inflame, and keep up turbulent and revengeful passions, to your own and others hurt; as ever therefore ye would not suffer Satan to have a place in your hearts; nor would gratify him, nor give him an advantage against you, by yielding to his malicious and destructive designs; nor would be hurried, through his instigations, into still greater sin and mischief in word or deed, stand upon your guard against his temptations whenever ye find your spirits heated; and resist him stedfastly in the faith, who watches all occasions to ensnare you, and *walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*: (*1 Pet. v. 8, 9.*) * And take heed of giving ear to false accusers and slanderers of your neighbours, who, as Satan's instruments, would incense you against others without any just ground; and so would put you upon such unjustifiable expressions of undue anger, as might give occasion to heathens and unbelievers of reviling your holy profession of Christ and his gospel.

28 Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

28 And if there be any among you, who, before he was brought to the knowledge of Christ, had accustomed himself, and thought there was no great harm in it, as some of the heathens do †, to pilfer, wrong, and cheat his neighbour in a clandestine manner, to supply his own wants, or maintain himself in idleness; or if, even since his conversion, he retains light thoughts of this sin, and continues to be still addicted to it, let such an one henceforth show that he has so learned Christ, as utterly to abhor and abandon these unrighteous and injurious practices, which are not only inconsistent with all the institutions of Christianity; but are destructive of personal property, and direct violations of the moral law, and the

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† *tel.*, or contumelious behaviour through anger, they should shake hands and become friends again, before the sun went down. (See Dr. Hammond's note here.)

* As (*δ. αβολος*) the words here rendered *the devil* signifies any *false accuser*, I have, with the *Syriac* version, *Erasmus*, and others, taken that sense into the paraphrase.

† *Stealing* properly signifies *private*

thefts and frauds, in distinction from public or violent robbery; and as in many of the *Gentile* nations theft was thought to be no sin; so, perhaps, some of the *Ephesian* converts had not quite divested themselves of their own immoral notions about it, nor consequently got thoroughly off from their former habitual inclinations to it.

the common rights of mankind: But, on the contrary, let him think it his duty, and make it his care and practice, to lead an honest and useful life of labour and service, according to the station and employment to which God, in his providence, has called him; and if his circumstances and calling be of such a nature, as require earning his daily bread with the sweat of his brow, (*Gen. iii. 19.*) by any handicraft trade, or other lawful and commendable, though laborious business, let him apply to it with industry and pains-taking, that, by the blessing of God on his honest endeavours, he may not only get enough for his own and family's subsistence, if he has one, and may be under no temptation to defraud others; but may also have something to spare, on proper occasions, for relieving the necessities of the poor, and especially of such as are of the household of faith, that they may not be tempted to steal, as he himself formerly was; and that he may be a blessing, and no longer a nuisance and burden, to civil, or religious communities.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

29 Furthermore, as to your *words*, as well as your temper and actions, carefully avoid all light and frothy, and especially all profane, indecent, obscene and opprobrious language, that proceeds from a corrupt heart, and has a dangerous tendency to corrupt the minds and manners of them that hear it; (*1 Cor. xv. 33.*) let nothing of this kind ever, like stinking and infectious breath, go forth out of your mouth; but, on the other hand, let it be always with grace, as if it were seasoned with salt, even such as is under the conduct of a gracious spirit; and is wise and prudent, opportune and suitable to persons, times, and places, and to the circumstances and occasions that are before you; and is adapted, in a way of counsel, caution, reproof, or consolation, to promote the spiritual benefit of the company you converse with, that it may be a means of recommending religion to the hearers, of favourizing their spirits and giving them a good turn, of communicating some useful instruction to them, and of helping forward the work of grace in their hearts.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

30 And as all the things, which I have been cautioning you against, are directly contrary to the holy nature, will and operations, gifts and graces of the good Spirit of God; and as he (speaking after the manner of men) is grieved at them, as a friend uses to be at the disagreeable and ungrateful behaviour of one that he dwells with, and has treated with kindness and favour, have a care, lest by indulging any of them ye offend and rebel against him, as *Israel* did
of

of old, (*Isaiab* lxiii. 10.) and provoke him to withdraw his gracious presence, and deprive you of his comforts, who is not only infinitely pure and holy in himself, but loves holiness, and is the author and worker of its first beginnings, and of all its increases in you; by which, in some remarkable manifestations and impressions of light and grace, consequent to your first believing, (see the note and paraphrase on *chap.* i. 15.) ye are evidently sealed as with his own image, and are thereby distinguished for his own, with assuring tokens of salvation; and have the pledge and earnest of it in yourselves, for your present security and comfort, until ye be possessed of the heavenly inheritance, (*chap.* i. 14.) at death, when your souls shall be compleatly delivered from all the evils ye feel or fear; and at the day of judgment, when your bodies shall be redeemed from the power of the grave to a glorious immortality, that they may share with your souls in the eternal happiness, which shall be fully revealed at the final manifestation of the sons of God. (*Rom.* viii. 19, 23.)

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

31 This Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of love and peace; and therefore as ever ye would not grieve him, and lose his comfortable and sealing presence, take special heed that all rancour, severity, and sourness of temper; and all furious, raging and ungovernable passions; and all causeless and excessive anger; (see the note on *ver.* 26.) and all loud threatening and scolding, noisy quarrels and contentions; and all railings, defamations, and backbitings, under the power of a boisterous and tumultuous mind, either to the reviling of men, or to the dishonouring of the name of God, which may be called a sort of blasphemy: (*βλασφημία*) See that all this be laid aside, discountenanced and removed to the farthest distance from you, together with all malicious, spiteful, envious, and injurious thoughts, or heart-burnings: Let all these sorts of evil be resisted and banished, as highly displeasing to the good Spirit of God, and repugnant to his free and friendly communion with you.

32 And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

32 On the contrary, as ever ye would hope for his sweet and satisfying abode with you, labour, under the influence, and according to the mind and will of this divine Spirit, to cultivate an affectionate, affable, and benevolent disposition and behaviour, as persons that take pleasure in doing all offices of kindness and friendship one towards another*; sympathize with, and

N O T E.

* *One another* (*αλλήλοις*) is put for *αλλήλους* here, and *chap.* v. 19. *Col.* iii. 16. and seems to be so. *Jude* *ver.* 20, 21. and, perhaps, *Phil.* ii. 22.

and shew all tenderness, pity, and bowels of mercy, (*Col. iii. 12.*) toward the weak, afflicted, and discouraged: And if any of your brethren affront or injure you, do not grow hard-hearted toward them, nor seek a retaliation, or owe them a grudge for it; but frankly and freely forget and forgive, and entirely pass it by, in consideration, and imitation, of the infinitely greater forgiveness of the manifold and aggravated transgressions, which God in the riches of his grace has extended to you; and *that* not at so cheap a rate as ye are called to forgive your brethren, which will cost you nothing; but on account of the death and sufferings of his own dear Son Jesus Christ, whom he of his mere favour appointed, provided, gave, and sent to make an atonement, by his precious blood for *them*, as well as for yourselves, that he might freely, fully, and honourably forgive both them and you.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How amiable is a holy conversation, answerable to the nature and design of that happy state, into which God calls his people by his grace! Nothing can be a greater credit to it, than to be of an humble, meek, calm, and patient temper, bearing with, and forbearing our fellow-Christians in love, and studiously pursuing, as with one heart and soul, the things that make for mutual harmony and peace. How great are the obligations to Christian-love and unity among true believers of every denomination! They are all members of the same mystical body of Christ; animated by one and the same Holy Spirit; partakers of one hope of the heavenly inheritance; related to, and interested in one Lord and Saviour; agreed in the same fundamental doctrines of faith; under the same baptismal engagements; and have all one and the same covenant God and Father, who is infinitely above them all, and dwells in them all by his Spirit. And what may we not hope for from the exalted Redeemer! He, who, by divine dispensation, descended from heaven to the deepest humiliation and sufferings on earth, is now ascended to the heaven of heavens, as a triumphant conqueror over all his and our enemies. And with what bounteous favour does he scatter his ascension-gifts among the children of men! He lives and reigns in all his glory, to fill his church and every member of it with various gifts and graces. And what ample care has he taken of them in the institution of a gospel-ministry! He gave and furnished out apostles, prophets, and evangelists, as long as occasions required such extraordinary and inspired officers; and he appoints and qualifies pastors and teachers, as ordinary officers, to continue to the end of the world, that, by means of their ministrations, he may carry on the designs of his kingdom and grace, and the good of his people through all generations. How important then is the work of the ministry! It is for filling up the church with converts, and bringing them into gospel-order; and for edifying all its members in knowledge, faith, and love, and every other grace, and establishing their minds and hearts, that they may be guarded against the artifices of subtle deceivers, and not fluctuate, like children, between truth and error; but may grow up in all things into Christ, who is their Head, and may derive all supplies from him, till they attain the complete stature of manhood in him. But what a deplorable state of ignorance, sin, and ruin are we in, 'till grace makes a holy and happy change upon us, by means of the gospel! Our understandings are darkened through wilful ignorance, and we are strangers and aliens to the divine life, through the obstinacy of our own perverse hearts. How should we dread adding sin to sin, lest we provoke the just and holy God to leave us to ourselves, 'till we become utterly insensible of our guilt and danger, and run into all iniquity with greediness! But the true knowledge of Christ has a quite contrary tendency and effect; and if we know him, and the truth as it is in him, under the light and influence of his Spirit, it will effectually restrain us from all known iniquity. How odious

odious is *the old man*, the body of sin; and how resolutely should believers set themselves, against it! It is abominable, corrupt and deceiving in its various lusts, as appears from the conversation of unregenerate sinners; it perverts and inflames their passions, and fills them with bitter anger, wrath, and malice; it carries them into deceit and lying, idleness, frauds, and thefts; renders their discourse unfavourable and defiling, clamorous and injurious to their neighbours; and is a gratification of the devil, and an offence to the Holy Spirit of God. But how excellent is the *New Man*, which believers are clothed with, as with a beautiful garment! It is a renewal of the spirit of our minds, and a new creation, according to the image of God in righteousness and true holiness; it subdues our wrathful passions, and will by no means suffer them to rest in our bosom, but gives them a softening turn into all kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness of offences; it makes us honest, upright, and faithful in all our dealings, and industrious in the business of life, to which God calls us; it brings our lips under the law of truth, and renders our conversation good and edifying. And how should Christians be excited to such a temper and conduct, that they may not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, whereby they are sealed to the day of redemption; but may act according to the endearing obligations of the superlative love of God, who for Christ's sake forgives them all trespasses!

C H A P. V.

The apostle concludes his exhortation to brotherly love, 1, 2. Repeats his caution against several sins, as particularly against all uncleanness, covetousness, and drunkenness, with a variety of arguments to enforce the caution, and direct to a contrary behaviour, 3,—20. And exhorts to the relative duties of society in general, 21. And of wives and husbands in particular, which are illustrated and enforced by the spiritual relation that is between Christ and the church, 22,—33.

TEXT.

BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

PARAPHRASE.

SINCE therefore * God is so exceeding good and merciful, in the exercise of his pardoning grace toward you, (*chap. iv. 32.*) let this excite you to be (*μιμηται*) imitators of him, in exercising all kindness and forgiveness one towards another, as becomes children of his own likeness, begotten as well as adopted by him, beloved of him and loving him, and delighting to resemble him, especially in those amiable graces, and to approve yourselves to him, who is love, and is so much pleased with this part of his image, that he who *dwells in love, dwells in God, and God in him.* (1 John iv. 16.)

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath

2 And as the example of your heavenly Father should induce and animate you to this noble duty; so should the example of Christ, that your whole conversation,

N O T E.

* This, as is intimated by the particle *therefore*, is an inference from the last verse of the preceding chapter, which might have been better continued to the

end of the second verse of this chapter, where the apostle shuts up his argument then in hand.

hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling favour.

versation, all your lives long even unto death, may be friendly and affectionate one towards another, from a principle of love to God and Christ, without distinction of parties, on account of some being *Jewish* and others *Gentile* converts; even as Christ himself has with superlative condescension and grace first loved one, as well as another of us, who believe in him; and has given the most affecting and astonishing proof of it, in his freely becoming our substitute, and yielding up his great and infinite self to the most terrible death for us, as an expiatory sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and make atonement for our sins, when *through the eternal Spirit he offered himself without spot unto God.* (Heb. ix. 14.) This was so highly pleasing and acceptable in his sight, as may be called an offering and a sacrifice of a sweet-smelling favour, in allusion to the typical burnt-offerings and sin-offerings, to make atonement, (*Gen. viii. 20, 21. and Lev. iv. 31.*) which are all now fulfilled, with the richest advantage and efficacy, in the sacrifice of Christ.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amongst you, as becometh saints;

3 But, to return, there are several other sins, besides those afore-mentioned, (*chap. iv. 25, &c.*) that are practised among the heathens, and too much in vogue at *Ephesus*, which I would further caution you against; as particularly against the sin of whoredom between persons of contrary sexes, whether in the single or married life, (see the note on *1 Cor. v. 1.*) and against all manner of indecency, immodesty, and lewdness in gesture, looks, dress, and actions, that betray an unchaste disposition of heart, and have a tendency to excite the like in others; or, to carry the matter still further, I would caution you against irregular and immodest desires after forbidden objects, and an inordinate love to, and pursuit after the things of this world, that would put you upon gaining them by dishonourable and unjust means; or would make you discontented without them, and unwilling, when ye have them, to use and part with them for the glory of God, and the good of others: Let it never be said that any of you are guilty of either of these vices; No, nor let them be so much as mentioned among you without the utmost detestation, as ever ye would behave like Christians that are indeed renewed and sanctified, and ought to be chaste and pure in body and mind, and devoted to God, according to your holy profession, as saints.

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but

4 Nor let there be among you any shameful practices in secret, the very naming of which would put a modest person to the blush; nor any light, wanton, or obscene ways of talking, bantering, or joking, which are so far from innocent pleasantries, and lawful

But rather giving
of thanks.

jest, that they are not only unprofitable and vain, but very offensive to God, and unsufferable to a chaste ear, and are too great an incentive to impure thoughts and actions: Ye therefore ought to have nothing to do with them; but, on the contrary, should accustom yourselves to employ your tongues in speaking well of God, with grateful acknowledgments of his goodness, and in thankfulness and praise for his wondrous works of providence and grace, which would be honourable to him, and improving to your company, as well as to yourselves; and would be a happy means of guarding you against impure language, and all the forementioned abominable iniquities, which are of the most pernicious consequence.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, and of God.

5 For since ye have learned Christ, (*chap. iv. 20, 21.*) ye cannot but know, and ye ought seriously to reflect upon it, that, according to the holy nature and design of the Christian religion, no person whatsoever, who is addicted to, and lives and allows himself in the practice of whoredom; nor any one who indulges to any sort of impure affections, and lascivious actions; nor any worldly-minded covetous wretch, who makes mammon his god, and is, by just construction, an idolater, as he is supremely fond of earthly treasures, and rates his happiness by them, and sets them up in his heart in the room of God, and makes an idol of his riches, or other worldly enjoyments, like one entirely devoted to them; No such person, whatsoever his profession or pretences be, while he remains impenitent and persists in either of these sins, has any right or claim to, or, living and dying in that state, shall ever have any lot or portion in that pure, incorruptible, and undefiled inheritance of all blessedness, honour, and delight, (*1 Pet. i. 4.*) which consists in the enjoyment of God, and of Christ, who is one God with the Father*; and which pertains to the subjects of the kingdom of grace here, and of glory hereafter, which Christ, in a way of purchase, and God the Father in a way of free gift, on his account, has prepared to be the inheritance of the saints in light. (*Col. i. 12.* and see *Rev. xxi. 27.*)

6 Take

N O T E.

* Christ is here distinguished, as Mediator, from God the Father, according to our version of the words *the kingdom of Christ and of God*. But as the kingdom is one, and is said to be equally the kingdom both of Christ and of God, this (as Zanchy observes) intimates, that he is one and the same God with the Fa-

ther, as well as that there is no admission into the kingdom of God but by Christ: And Beza notes that there is but one article prefixed to Christ and God; (*του Χριστου και Θεου*) and so it might be rendered *the kingdom of Christ, even of God*, or *the kingdom of Christ, who is God*.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

6 Take heed that no one, either through the subtilities of *Gentile* philosophy, or through *Jewish* false glosses on the law of God, or through importunity, or any artful management, impose upon and delude you by plausible, though empty and fallacious ways of talking about these crimes, as if there were not that evil in them which I have reminded you of; and ye well know to be true; (*ver.* 5.) or as if ye might go on in them with impunity, and without danger: For, whatever they may pretend, it is certain that these are such abominable iniquities, as not only exclude the practisers of them from the kingdom of heaven; but likewise provoke and bring down the wrath of God in awful instances here, and for ever in full vials hereafter, like rushing cataracts upon rebellious sinners, who, as sons of unbelief and disobedience, (*απειθείας*) a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith, (*Deut.* xxxii. 20.) obstinately persist in them, not only in direct contradiction to the gospel, but even to the *moral law* itself.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

7 Stand therefore upon your guard; and beg assistance from above, that ye may never be the partners and companions of such abandoned creatures, nor ever countenance them in their evil courses, much less conform to them; lest ye also be partakers of their plagues, which, by the just judgment of God, will be inflicted upon them.

8 For ye were sometimes dark-ness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

8 For ye were indeed formerly, during your *Gentilism* and unconverted state, as blind as others; as ignorant and dark in your minds with regard to the true knowledge of God, and of spiritual and holy things, as darkness itself; and ye then walked in the ways of sin, which were all darkness, (*1 John* i. 6. and ii. 9.) and in which a man *knoweth not whither he goes*, (*John* xii. 35. and *1 John* ii. 11.) and therefore it is no wonder that ye then went on in the high road to destruction*. But now, upon your believing in Christ and embracing the gospel, the case is happily altered with you: A divine and spiritual light hath shone into, and filled your minds, to give you a discerning of the truth as it is in Jesus; and divine

K k k z

grace

N O T E.

* As *darkness* and *light* are used in scripture to signify *sin* and *holiness*, as well as *error* and *truth*, or *ignorance* and *knowledge*, which is the light that makes manifest, *ver.* 13. both senses are included in the paraphrase, as being adapted to represent the former and the present state of the *Ephesians*, and the nature and design of the argument in hand. Accordingly *the children of light*

stand opposed in this verse to the *children of disobedience*, *ver.* 6. and both are *Hebraisms*, to signify persons that are under the power of darkness and disobedience, as though they were *born of them* respectively; and that are addicted and affected toward them, and take pleasure in them, as children naturally do in their parents.

grace has wrought your hearts and lives into a conformity to that truth: (*chap. iv. 20, 21.*) Ye have all light and purity in the Lord, as your head of wisdom and influence; and ye have the light of knowledge and of grace by derivation from him, and by the influence of his Spirit, (*ver. 9.*) as ye are united to him; and so your former sinful ways are utterly unbecoming your present state and character. 'Tis therefore both your duty and privilege to live and act, with perseverance and daily advances, in all your walk before God, like children of light, that are brought under a new direction, and into a new sphere of holy action, and take pleasure in it, as is suitable to those that are enlightened by the word and Spirit of Christ, and have the best assistances for behaving accordingly.

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodnets, and righteousness, and truth;)

9 For the true and genuine fruit, which is produced, cherished, and perfected by the light and influence of the Spirit of the Lord, is all holy*. It consists of every thing that is good and excellent in its own nature, and beneficial to others, as well as yourselves, in opposition to covetousness, (*ver. 3.*) which is evil in itself, as it is practical idolatry, (*ver. 5.*) and turns to no good, but very bad account, as it is a *with-holding more than is meet, and tends to poverty*: (*Prov. xi. 24.*) The fruit of the Spirit also consists of every thing that is right, and just, and due, in all your behaviour toward God and man; and includes all purity of heart and life, in opposition to all uncleanness, (*ver. 3, 4, 5.*) whereby we defile ourselves, and are injurious to others; and it consists of an adherence to the light and truth of the gospel, which has irradiated your minds, in opposition to ignorance and error, in which ye formerly were involved, as in the thickest darkness; (*ver. 8.*) and consists of all integrity and faithfulness in whatsoever ye say or do, in opposition to lying and falshood, which I have also cautioned you against: (*chap. iv. 25.*) Ye therefore being partakers of these excellent fruits of the Spirit, your conversation ought to be always of a piece answerable to them, like those that live and walk in the light. (*ver. 8.*)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

10 Ye ought by the assistance, and in the light of the Spirit, to try and prove what is the mind and will of God in his word, that ye may know, and be satisfied about what is pleasing to him, and may heartily

N O T E.

* This verse is brought in, by way of exhortation to *walk in the light*; and then he returns to shew how that walk is to be pursued in the 10th verse, which stands connected with the 8th.

tily approve of it and be conformed to it; and that ye may exhibit a fair view of it in your walk, and give proof to others of your conscientious regard to it; and may approve yourselves to the Lord Christ, and to the Father through him, in performing the acceptable and perfect will of God, which is your reasonable service. (*Rom. xii. 1, 2.*)

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

11 And that ye may walk as becomes the children of light, have no manner of partnership with, nor give the least countenance or encouragement to iniquitous practices of any kind whatsoever, which are *unfruitful works*, as they are not only unprofitable, but exceedingly injurious; (*Rom. vi. 21.*) and are so very shameful, that they also may well be called *works of darkness*, as they are committed only by persons of dark and ignorant minds, and will not bear the light of a strict scrutiny of conscience, much less the light of God's word and of a future judgment, to bring them to the test of truth and righteousness; and as they are often committed in the darkness of the night, or of privacy to hide them from open view, and finally lead to *the blackness of darkness for ever, which is reserved unto the ungodly.* (*Jude, ver. 13.*) But instead of going into, or being any way accessory to these evil practices, let it be your concern and endeavour, as becomes those that are *light in the Lord*, to *rebuke your brother, and not suffer sin upon him*; to shew him, in the most convincing manner, how wicked and dangerous the works of darkness are, that he may be ashamed of them; and to put a check upon them by friendly, kind, and prudent admonitions of those that are guilty of them; and especially by your own circumspect and exemplary conversation in the shining beauties of holiness, which will expose their deformity in their own proper colours, and will carry a practical and most inoffensive and unexceptionable, though touching confutation, reproof, and condemnation of all contrary courses, as sinful and provoking to God, and unsuitable to the holy profession of his name.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

12 For it would be a reproach upon a Christian's character, and would even *shock* a religious, sober, and modest mind, so much as to mention some vile and detestable things *, unless in a way of necessary reproof for them, that are committed by persons of corrupt

N O T E.

* Some think that by the things *done in secret* the apostle refers to the shocking, abominable, and filthy practices that the heathens were guilty of in the secret acts of their idolatrous worship,

and that were not to be divulged to others: But, be that as it will, they are evidently to be understood, in a wider extent, for all unfruitful works of darkness spoken of in the foregoing verse.

corrupt minds, with the greatest secrecy and in the dark, as being themselves ashamed of having them known to others, lest they should expose their own characters; not considering that God sees them, how much soever they may be concealed from the eyes of men; and that he will bring them to light, and take severe vengeance for them in the day of judgment. (1 Cor. iv. 5.)

13 But all things that are reprov'd, are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest, is light.

13 But ye, who are now light in the Lord, (ver. 8.) are by this means enabled to judge of, and condemn the deformity and mischief of all these sinful practices, that are too vile to bear the light, and are reprov'd by the light of God's word and Spirit, and of your good conversation in Christ: For as whatsoever renders objects visible, in their true state, is light; so that which has discovered to you the odiousness, guilt, and danger of these shameful immoralities, and given you a view of them in their own hideous colours, to make you renounce, abhor, and condemn them, is light indeed; it is the light and knowledge of Christ and of his word, which has shone in your hearts, and makes you shine as lights in the world, that by your good counsel, and good works, ye may convince wicked men, and shame them out of their deeds of darkness, which they did not see the evil of before. This is the excellent light that ye are brought into, and are called to walk in.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that

14 Therefore, to shew that ye, even the *Gentiles* among you, are now brought into this happy state*; As

N O T E.

* Various are the conjectures of expositors about the *connection* of these words, whether it should be with ver. 8. or ver. 11. or with the next preceding verse; and about what is meant by *he says*, whether it refers to *Christ's speaking by the apostle*, as he did by the ancient prophets, who often introduced their messages with a *thus saith the Lord*, and with intimations that he spake by them; or whether it refers to any particular passage in the *Old Testament* or in the *apocryphal writings*, or to the *general doctrine* of the *Old Testament-prophecies*, relating to the calling of the *Gentiles*. And they are much divided in their sentiments about the difference that may be supposed between *awaking out of sleep*, and *rising from the dead*, whether the first of these phrases may, or may not relate to *slumbering believers*, and the second to *unregenerate sinners*. But amidst all the difficulty of adjusting these things, what appears to me to be most easy and natural

is, that the *connection* stands with the next preceding verse, which speaks of *light*, as that which *makes manifest*; and so this verse is brought in to shew that the *Ephesians* though *Gentiles*, were, according to ancient prophecies, partakers of a spiritual light: And *he says* seems to relate to the sum, or *general current* of what God had said in prophecy about the conversion of the *Gentiles*, as particularly in *Isa. vi. 1, 2, 3.* and *ix. 2.* and *xlix. 6.* But there is no particular passage in any of the *prophets*, no, nor in any *apocryphal book*, as far as I find, that answers to this quotation; and the style, *he says*, I think is never used by the apostle to signify what God, or Christ, or the Spirit said by *him*. As to *awaking out of sleep*, and *rising from the dead*, I take them to be terms of much the *same import*, since death is frequently represented under the image of *sleep*, and is called *the sleep of death*: (Psal. xiii. 3.) accordingly we often read of persons *sleeping with their fathers*;

that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

As our blessed Lord, in raising the dead, said to a *young woman*, and to a *young man*, *Arise*, (Mark v. 41. and Luke vii. 14.) and to *Lazarus*, *Come forth*; (John xi. 43.) so God says in the current of the Old Testament prophecies about his calling the *Gentiles*, with a design of exerting divine energy with his call to make it effectual; Awake out of your state of ignorance, stupidity, and insensibility; and rise up from the death in trespasses and sins, in which you have hitherto lain, but from which I will quicken you by an almighty power attending my word of command; and Christ, *who is a light to the Gentiles, and my salvation to the ends of the earth*, (If. xlix. 6.) shall enlighten you with spiritual wisdom and understanding, to shew you the way to eternal life; and shall give you the comfort of both the light of knowledge, and of holiness and hope, in your own soul.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

15 Look then to yourselves, and see how carefully, exactly, and accurately (*πως ακριβως*) ye ought to walk in the whole of your conversation, as Christian converts, that it be answerable to your new light and obligations, and according to the rule of the word, as persons under the eye of God and men, of enemies as well as friends, that your behaviour may not still be like ignorant, injudicious, and unwise people, that are estranged from the knowledge of Christ, and from the way of their duty and happiness, and heedlessly plunge themselves into iniquity and error to their own destruction; but like persons, that have learned Christ, and been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus, (*chap. iv. 20, 21.*) who hath given you light; (*ver. 14.*) and like persons, that take heed of giving any occasion for stumbling, or triumph to unbelievers, or of imprudently and unnecessarily exposing yourselves to their rage, and running into danger.

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

16 And see that, by a diligent and circumspect walk, ye redeem time, and opportunity, (*τον καιρον*) and retrieve what has been lost, for the best purposes, that it may be employed in a holy manner for the glory of God and the benefit of your own souls, and for doing good to others: And as merchants improve all advantageous seasons for traffic; so be ye as it were continually buying and gaining these precious talents (*εξ αγοραζομενοι*) out of the hands of sin and Satan, to which

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and *awaking out of this sleep* is the very same thing with *rising from the dead*, as in 2 Kings iv. 31. Dan. xii. 2. and John xi. 11. And both these expressions, if we consider them as what God said by the prophets, with respect to the calling

of the *Gentiles*, relate to their state and condition, not *after* they were called by grace, but *before*, to bring them out of that deplorable state; in which, and never afterward, they were said to be *dead in trespasses and sins*. (Chap. ii. 1.)

which they formerly were devoted; out of the hands of sloth, ease, and worldly business and pleasure; and out of the hands of your enemies, that would be glad to take away your liberty and your lives: And ye ought to be the more careful herein, because the times, in which ye live, are days of great immorality, ignorance, and profaneness, and days of trouble, danger, and persecution for the sake of Christ, which may soon bring all time and opportunities of service to a period with you; and they are days, in which both carnal *Jews* and *Gentiles* continually watch for your halting, that they may speak evil against you, and against Christ and his gospel on your account.

17 Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

17 Take heed therefore that ye do not continue to act an inconsiderate foolish part, as in the days of your ignorance and unregeneracy, in things relating to God and your own duty and salvation; nor needlessly expose yourselves to the malice and fury of your enemies in these evil days: But, suitable to your present state and character, endeavour, through divine grace, to live and act, as those that understand, and attentively consider the mind and will of the Lord Christ, with respect to the cautiousness and prudence of your behaviour, that ye may *be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves*; (Mat. x. 16.) and with respect to the purity of your conversation in the world, that it may be blameless, becoming saints, and such as is acceptable to the Lord, and as he requires in his word. (*ver.* 3, 4, 10.)

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit:

18 And to prevent your running into the abominable practices that I have been already cautioning you against, Take heed of another flagrant sin, which is not only in itself a rioting upon the bounties of Providence, and an unmanly and worse than brutal vice, but throws one off from his guard, and exposes him to every temptation to lasciviousness, and all other shameful iniquities; and *that* is drunkenness*, by so free a use of wine or other strong intoxicating liquors, as is injurious to health, or clouds the mind, and enfeebles, defiles, and disorders all the powers of the soul, and renders them incapable of rational, holy, and regular conduct; and is attended with, or prompts unto, all excess (*αἰσῆ*) of intemperance and madness, rioting and debauchery, and all superfluity of naughtiness. But, in opposition to the sordid and injurious pleasure of drinking to excess, let it be your great

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* *Drunkenness* was a reigning sin at *Ephesus*, and a vice that the *Gentiles* were scandalously guilty of in some of their idolatrous feasts, as particularly in that which they celebrated in honour of *Bacchus*, whom they esteemed as *the god of wine*.

great concern, that, in the use of all proper and appointed means, ye may be filled with the holy influences, gifts and graces, joys and consolations of the divine Spirit, wherein there can be no danger of having too much, or of being misled into any indecent or unworthy behaviour by them. This, instead of carrying you into revellings and all extravagancies of mirth and jollity, will inspire you with a noble, pure, and sublime pleasure, which should vent itself in a suitable manner ;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

19 Speaking among yourselves, to your mutual edification and admonition, (*Col. iii. 16.*) by singing forth the praises of God, in all the variety of them, at your religious assemblies, by joining your voices in proper tunes, to utter poetic compositions, such as psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs*, whether those that are already left, under divine inspiration, for the use of the church, or those that inspired men among you may give out by an extraordinary gift of the Spirit, suitable to present occasions: All which are to be sung in a spiritual manner for spiritual ends; and your united praises, *with the voice together*, (*Isa. lii. 8.*) should be with the sweetest harmony and delight in your own hearts, by their ascending with your voices to the Lord Jesus, and shewing forth his glory, and the glory of God in him, which will be as pleasing to him, and to your own souls, as the most melodious music can be to your ears.

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

20 And the work of praise should not only bear a part in the solemn worship of your religious assemblies; but should run through your whole lives, that ye may always maintain a grateful disposition of heart, and may *bles*s the Lord at all times, and his praise may be continually in your mouths, (*Psal. xxxiv. 1.*) for every mercy, spiritual and temporal, and for every dispensation of providence and grace, yea, for afflictions themselves, as they work together for good, as well as for enjoyments, and sensible tokens of divine favour: And so ye ought, on all occasions, to express your thankfulness for all things, to God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father in him, as the original source and first cause of all the good

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* Some have observed, that, though most of *David's* poetical compositions for the use of the church are called in their titles *Psalms*; yet the word used in the title of *Psal. cxlv.* though rendered there a *psalm*, signifies also, and is sometimes rendered by the *Seventy* a *hymn*; and the titles of *Psal. cxx.—cxxxiv.* signify, and are rendered a *song*. But pos-

sibly the *hymns* and *spiritual songs* here meant, in distinction from *psalms*, might signify such divine odes, or poetic compositions, as our Lord is thought by some to have delivered at the institution of his supper, *Matth. xxvi. 30.* and as the songs of *Elizabeth*, the virgin *Mary*, *Zacharias*, and others spoken of in *1 Cor. xiv. 26.*

good things which we have and hope for: And this thanksgiving should be rendered to him through our Lord Jesus Christ, (*Col. iii. 17.*) with a dependence on him, and mention of his name, as our only mediator, and the purchaser of all blessings, on whose account they are bestowed upon us; and through whom our praises, as well as prayers for them, are to be presented, and are made acceptable to God. (*Heb. xiii. 15.* and *1 Pet. ii. 5.*)

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

21 And these divine influences (*ver. 18.*) will direct and oblige, assist, and enable you to behave in a becoming manner, in all natural and civil, public and private relations of life*, according to the rank which ye respectively bear in them, that ye all may perform those mutual duties one towards another, which belong to your several stations, as persons that have an awe of God upon your consciences, and are afraid of offending him, who has enjoined these duties upon you; and as persons that are under the government of his new-covenant-fear in your hearts, to keep you from sinning against him, and to engage you to submit one to another in every thing that he has commanded, and as far as may be for his glory, and consistent with other duties that ye owe to him, whose absolute supremacy claims a prior and unreserved submission to him.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

22 As to instance particularly in some *relative* duties, let those of you, that are believing *wives*, pay all becoming reverence and honour, subjection and obedience, in all lawful things, to your husbands, whom ye should consider and esteem, and be the more cheerfully

N O T E

* The *Hevcs* had such contemptible thoughts of the uncircumcised *Gentiles*, as to imagine that they were not bound to perform those duties toward them that belonged to the nearest relations in life; and it seems as if some such notion had obtained among *Judaizing* Christians, with regard to *uncircumcised believers*; and among converts from heathenism, with regard to *unbelieving* husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants; with a view to which the apostle establishes the obligations resulting from all these relations, whether both parties were believers or not, in a discourse at large, *1 Cor. chap. vii.*: And with the like view, he may be supposed in this and the next chapter, to insist on the duties of *husbands* and *wives*, *parents* and *children*, *masters* and *servants*, that believers might not think themselves released from the du-

ties, which result from either of these relations, even supposing, that it subsisted between them and such as were unbelievers: And the same may be observed with respect to the obedience that was due to *heathen magistrates*, and the offices of love and kindness, that were to be discharged towards all ranks and degrees of persons, whatsoever their characters or professions might be as to religion; which he also insisted on at large in the *xiii*th chapter to the *Romans*. All this is designed to shew that Christian religion is so far from dissolving, that it confirms and enforces obligations to duties of all natural and civil relations. And if these relative duties were to be observed, even towards heathens and unbelievers, much more must they be binding upon Christians one towards another. (See the note on *1 Tim. vi. 1.*)

fully submissive to, as your own husbands, who by the law of marriage are, and ought to be for you, and no other woman, only beloved of you, and loving you * : And let all your acts herein be as in the sight and presence of the Lord Christ, with an eye to his glory, as also in obedience to his authority, (1 Cor. xiv. 34.) and in resemblance of that subjection which the church owes to him, and by which this duty is illustrated and enforced upon you.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.

23 For by the law of *nature* and of *marriage*, (see *Gen.* iii. 16. *1 Cor.* xi. 8, 9. and *1 Tim.* ii. 13, 14.) the husband is appointed to be the head, guide, and guardian of the wife, in a somewhat-like manner, as, by the constitution of the new covenant, Christ, in his office-capacity, is the Head, Governor, and Protector of the whole church, which is espoused unto him; and suitable to this near and tender relation, into which he has taken them, he has acted the part of a kind and faithful husband, in being the Redeemer and Saviour of all the members of his mystical body, to deliver them from sin and wrath, and secure eternal happiness to them; and has therein set all Christian husbands a bright and noble pattern of that affection, care, and concern, which they ought to have for the safety and defence, maintenance, comfort, and happiness of their wives. (*ver.* 25, 28, &c.)

24 Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives &c. to their own husbands

24 As therefore the church is cheerfully and faithfully subject to the authority of Christ in all spiritual concerns; so in imitation of them, (though not with the same absolute and unlimited subjection to any creature, as is due to Christ himself) let the wives behave

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with

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* The apostle's discourse (as *Zanchy* observes) on particular relative duties, is in the natural order, in which the relations themselves commenced in the world, which was first between *husband and wife*; next between *parents and children*; and lastly, between *masters and servants*. The apostle accordingly begins with the duties of the first of these relations in this chapter, and goes on to those of *parents and children*, and *masters and servants* in the next; and he keeps the same order in his exhortations to all these in his epistle to the *Colossians*, chap. iii. 18,—25. and iv. 1, &c. But it may be farther observed, that, in both these epistles, he first insists on the duties of the *inferior*, and then on those of the *superior* relatives in every instance of them. And the apostle *Peter* proceeds in the same order, when he speaks

of the duties of *wives and husbands*, 1 Pet. iii. 1,—7. The reasons of this may probably be, because the duties of *wives, children, and servants* are most against the grain of corrupt nature, most difficult in themselves; and most apt to be objected against, and not so readily attended to, and complied with; and because, if these relatives faithfully perform the duties on their part, it would lay a more endearing obligation upon *husbands, parents, and masters* to treat their *wives, children, and servants*, with love and tenderness, and would leave them the more shamefully inexcusable, were they to be wanting in their duty toward them. Hence the apostle *Peter*, in the place but now referred to, exhorts believing *wives to win their husbands* by a becoming spirit and conversation.

bands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

with meekness, willingness, and fidelity, in a becoming subjection to their own lawful husbands in all civil things, as far as is fit in the Lord. (*Col. iii. 18.*)

25 On the other hand, husbands should consider, and faithfully discharge their duty toward their wives, as it is all comprehended in the great law of love, which sweetens the relation, and has the most powerful influence to command a friendly and becoming behaviour in it. Let those of you then, that are believing husbands, take heed of tyrannizing over your wives, or being imperious, morose, or passionate and bitter against them; (*Col. iii. 19.*) but make their yoke as easy and agreeable as possible, and allure them, by a kind and gentle carriage, to all the respect and obedience that is reasonable for you to expect from them: See that ye give honour to them, (*1 Pet. iii. 7.*) and that your hearts be full of, and all your looks, words, and actions shew forth, the most tender, ardent, and endearing love to them, in bearing with their infirmities, and doing all that in you lies for their temporal and spiritual good, and for convincing them of your peculiar affection to them: And ye should herein imitate, and be influenced by, the special and superlative love of Christ to his church, who has given the most affecting and unparalleled demonstration of his peculiar love to them, that possibly can be, in that he freely yielded himself up to the worst of deaths in their room and stead, and for their spiritual and eternal benefit:

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water, by the word,

26 That he might take away the power and pollution of sin from all its members, and infuse a principle of true holiness into them, and so consecrate them to God by the sanctification of his Spirit, as *καθαρίσας*) having purged them from the guilt of sin by his atoning blood, (see *Heb. i. 3.* and *ix. 14, 22.* and *x. 2.*) which effects of his blood and Spirit are signified by the cleansing quality of water, (*Ezek. xxxvi. 25.*) and by legal purifications *with the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean*, (*Heb. ix. 13.* compared with *Numb. xix. 17, &c.*) as also by the water, with which they are washed at their baptism*; and

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† Here, as some apprehend, is an allusion to the mode of baptism by immersion, as at other times there are allusions to the mode of sprinkling or pouring water. (See the note on *Rom. vi. 4.*) And yet I think it cannot be inferred, that the apostle here intended to refer to baptism by immersion; because the word (*λουόμεν*) signifies, as our translators

have rendered it, *washing* in general, whatsoever be the way and manner of it: (Vid. *Suid. Lexic.*) And persons might be baptized with the water of a *laver*, as is commonly done with the water of a *basin*, which is one sort of *laver*, by *pouring* or *sprinkling*, without having their whole bodies immersed in it. But others think that the allusion is

and he, in the greatness of his love, communicates these benefits by means of the gospel preached to them, and received and applied by faith, for *cleansing them from all sin by his blood*, (1 John i. 7.) and *renewing them by the Holy Ghost*; (Tit. iii. 5.)

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

27 That he might set every member of the church before his immediate presence, and exhibit them to his view, and make them every way agreeable, acceptable, and delightful to him, through the purifications and ornaments which he himself bestows upon them, as *a bride prepared and adorned for her husband*; (Rev. xxi. 2.) and so might present the whole church, *before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy*; (Jude, ver. 24.) all over beautiful and shining in illustrious honour with himself, with whom they shall *appear in glory*, (Col. iii. 4.) as being not only washed from their sins in his own blood, and arrayed with his infinitely amiable and perfect righteousness; but also sanctified throughout by his Spirit, so as to have no remainders of pollution or deformity, any more than of guilt; no, not the least spot to defile their garments, nor the least wrinkle to detract from their beauty, nor any such thing as might abate their perfection, or tarnish their lustre; but that, as the sacrifices offered to God under the law, and wives espoused to their husbands, were to be without blemish; so they might be presented as perfect in holiness, as in happiness, and without the least defect, *unblamable and unprovable in his sight*. (Col. i. 22.)

28 So ought men to love their wives, as their own bodies: he that loveth his wife, loveth himself.

28 So, to apply this to the argument in hand, all husbands, that pretend to any hope of interest in this peculiar, superlative and abiding love of Christ, ought to be influenced by a consideration of it to imitate him, as far as possible, in the sincerity, constancy, and ardour of their affection to their wives; even with such a sort of kind and tender love, as they would always maintain and cultivate for the welfare, ease, and comfort of their own natural bodies; their wives being relatively one flesh with them, and as it were the restored part of themselves, (ver. 31.) since the woman was at first taken out of the man: So that he who exercises love in its most tender and engaging forms towards his wife, does it all, in effect, towards himself, and he will find the advantage of it. It is in reality self-love; and surely nothing can be a stronger inducement to it than this.

29 For

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to *sew* washings; and others, that it is to *nuptial* washings of a bride, when she was to be presented to her husband.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

29 For no man, in his senses, ever has been so inhuman, or so very destitute of a principle of self-love, as to neglect and abuse his own body, out of enmity to it, and to its health, comfort, and ease, as it is his own flesh; but it is natural to him to feed and cloath it, for its sustenance, refreshment, and warmth, and to supply it with such things as are needful and convenient for it: And every husband ought to do the like by his wife, who is one flesh with him; even as the Lord Jesus, in his infinite love, has taken the best, the most affectionate, and effectual care of his church, which he has espoused unto, and made one with himself.

30 For we, who believe in him, are members of that mystical body, of which he is the Head; and in a spiritual sense are as closely united with him, and as dear to him, and receive all grace and glory from him, by virtue derived from his body which was broken for us, as if, by our near alliance to him in human nature, we had been *bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh*, as the wife was originally of her husband, according to what our first father *Adam* said of *Eve*, who was made of one of his ribs. (*Gen. ii. 22, 23.*)

31 And to shew how close the union is between the husband and his wife, and what mutual tenderness there ought to be between them, it is immediately added, as an establishment of the marriage-law in all future generations; (*Gen. ii. 24.*) because of this original oneness of husband and wife, whenever any man hereafter shall enter into the matrimonial state, he shall be so weaned from his father and mother, as to place his warmer affections upon his wife, though without abating the love which he owes, and is ever to continue paying to them; and shall be ready to leave his parent's family (if it be needful) to dwell with her, and cleave to her: And these two, the man and wife, shall be accounted of, and shall treat one another with as much affection, as if they were in a *literal* sense but one body.

32 What I have been *saying* about the marriage of *Adam* and *Eve*, and the union of man and wife, contains a mystical sense. as it is emblematical, and carries a lively resemblance of a still more excellent and happy marriage, and of a more intimate union, which surpasses our comprehension: I mean that strict union, which is wonderfully made between Christ and his church, as he is their husband, and they are his spouse, and as he and they are closely united together, like one body, of which they are members, and he is the head, that animates and influences, rules and governs, and takes the utmost care of them: And

as *Eve* was brought forth out of *Adam's* side while he was asleep; so the church is produced in a spiritual manner, by virtue proceeding from the side of a crucified Saviour, when he was pierced, and slept the sleep of death, that they might live with him for ever.

33 Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

33 Nevertheless, these words of *Adam* concerning *Eve*, and concerning the marriage-state, have also a literal sense, suitable to the design of the argument I have been upon, relating to the respective duties of husbands and wives: Therefore I conclude with observing that, according to the original law of matrimony, and the illustration which has now been further given of duties pertaining to it, from a consideration of the union that subsists between Christ and the church, it is the bounden duty of every husband among you in particular, and without exception, to love his wife with the same sincere, kind, and singular affection, with which he loves himself, she being his second self; (*ver.* 28, 31.) And it is no less the duty of every wife among you, to pay all becoming respect and honour to her husband, not with a slavish fear, but with a conjugal love and reverence, and cautious fear of offending him.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

With what cheerfulness should the dear children of God imitate their heavenly Father! And what an affecting and engaging motive to *brotherly love* is the dying love of Christ, who offered up himself as an atoning and acceptable sacrifice for us! But how unworthy the Christian's character, privileges, and obligations, is it to give way to any sin, especially such shameful ones as heathens and unconverted sinners are infamous for! Neither covetousness, which is constructive idolatry; nor any sort of unchastity or impurity; nor any works of darkness, should ever be found, or countenanced, by those that profess themselves to be saints: For, whatever vain deceivers may suggest to the contrary, such things are abominable and injurious, and exclude the practicers of them from the blessings of God and the Saviour's kingdom of grace and glory, and bring divine wrath upon their heads. What a visible change in conversation is to be expected from those that are awakened into life and light by the powerful voice of Christ! They should walk as children of the light, under the influence of the Spirit, unto all goodness, righteousness, and truth; their words and actions should carry such reproof to workers of iniquity, as shews that they have no fellowship with them in their evil deeds; but that they, upon trial, approve of those things that are acceptable to their Lord and Saviour, and to God through him. How watchful and careful ought they to be in their walk! They should be very circumspect to shun temptation, sin, and danger, and to redeem time for the best purposes, especially in evil days; and should behave wisely in an upright way, and not like ignorant and foolish people, who neither consider what they are doing, nor whether they are going. How pure and sublime are the joys that arise from being filled with the gifts and graces of the Spirit! There is no danger of excess in these, as there is in being drunk with wine; they dispose us for singing the praises of God with harmonious voices, and the sweetest melody in our hearts; and make us thankful to him, through Jesus Christ, in every circumstance of things. But how concerned should we be to fill up all relations of life with the duties of them, from a principle of holy reverence and fear of God! Husbands and wives should not make a jest of, but conscientiously attend to the respective duties that result from their union with each other as one flesh. And O how happy would the marriage-state be, if both relatives, in their places, would study to please one another! Conjugal love
would

would keep all right between them, and secure the duties on both sides. How intimate and endearing is the relation and affection of Christ to his church! He is full of tender love and care toward them, and freely gave himself for them, that he might take away the guilt, power, and desilement of their sins, by his blood and Spirit, and by means of his word; and might, at length, present them all to himself, arrayed in glory, like a spouse fit for such an illustrious husband to delight in, as having no spot or blemish of any kind upon them. How constraining ought his love to them be, to engage their most dutiful submission to him! And what a sweet influence should these considerations have upon every religious husband to love his wife as himself, and upon every religious wife to reverence her husband!

C H A P. VI.

The apostle proceeds to the relative duties of children and parents, 1,—4. Of servants and masters, 5,—9. Directs all sorts of Christians to put on their spiritual armour in the exercise of their graces, and in the use of those means which are necessary to defend and secure them against the enemies of their souls in this state of warfare, 10,—18. Desires their prayers for himself, 19, 20. And concludes his epistle with an account of the reasons of his sending Tychicus to them, and with his apostolic benediction, 21,—24.

TEXT.

CHILDREN. obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

PARAPHRASE.

TO proceed to some other *relative* duties that are incumbent upon Christians; Let those of you that are sons or daughters, whatsoever your age or circumstances be in the world, remember your obligations, and be careful to pay all filial duty, to your fathers and mothers, (*ver. 2.*) whether they be believers or not, or whether they be circumcised or uncircumcised Christians: (see the note on *chap. v. 21.*) Harken to their counsels and commands; and yield a submissive, chearful, and ready obedience to them in all lawful things, for the sake of the Lord Jesus, who has made it your duty to attend to their instructions, (*Prov. i. 8.*) for his glory, and suitable to your relation to him: For this obedience to parents is (*δικαιωσις*) a just debt, according to the law of nature and of all civilized nations; and is highly fit and equitable in itself, considering how much ye have depended upon, and been beholden to their care, kindness, and cost; and that, under God, ye owe your very beings to them. Still further to illustrate and enforce this duty;

1 Honour thy father and mother, (which is the first commandment with promise)

2 Remember that it is enjoined upon you in the fifth commandment of the *moral* law, (*Exod. xx. 12.*) which is particularly confirmed and enforced by our Lord, (*Mat. xv. 4, &c.*) and is of perpetual obligation, as requiring that every one of you, who

who stands in the relation of a son or daughter, should consider both your parents *, as naturally your superiors; should always think and speak honourably of them; should pay all submissive reverence and respect to them; and (if need be) should do what you can, by way of dutiful affection and requital, to afford an honourable maintenance and relief, not to your father only, but to your mother also, even in her state of widowhood, (1 Tim. v. 4.) that she may not be treated with contempt. (Prov. xxiii. 22.) This is a matter of so great importance, that the commandment, relating to it, is set at the head of the second table of the law; being the very first of all its precepts, relating to that sort of duties: And, to give the greater encouragement to a diligent observation of it, it is the only precept about second-table duties, that is backed with the gracious promise of a blessing; and is indeed the only one, in the whole system of the moral law, that has any particular promise annexed peculiar to itself; *that* in the second commandment being of a more general nature, and relating to them that love God, and keep not only *this*, but all his commandments. (Exod. xx. 6.)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

3 The blessing particularly promised, and remarkably suited to impress young minds, and to engage your obediential reverence of your Father and mother is, that by the favour of God, which ordinarily adds the blessings of providence to dutiful children, you may be happy and prosperous in your temporal affairs, through all the circumstances of this life: And that your days may be lengthened out, with comfort upon earth, to a good old age †.

4 And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

4 And as to the duties of *Christian-parents*, let those of you that are fathers ‡, in which mothers are also included, (ver. 2.) look upon your children as parts of yourselves; and (*μη παροργίζετε*) be very careful that ye do not by humourfome or unreasonable impositions and restraints, or by rigorous and harsh usage, in words

N O T E S.

* The *mother* seems here, and in several other places, to be particularly mentioned; because children are more apt to slight and disrespect their *mothers* than their fathers.

† Though this promise had a primary reference to a long-continued enjoyment of all the plenty of the land of *Canaan*; yet it has a further reach, and is ordinarily fulfilled in providential favours to religiously dutiful children, under the gospel-dispensation: *For godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that*

which is to come: (1 Tim. iv. 8.) *But the eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagle shall eat it*: He shall be exposed to the judgments of God, to bring him to an untimely and shameful end. (Prov. xxx. 17. See also *Matth.* xv. 4.)

‡ *Fathers* seem to be here specified, because they are commonly more stern and severe, than *mothers*, though these are also included.

words or blows, irritate their resentments, and exasperate their passions, *lest they be discouraged*, (Col. iii. 21.) and be prejudiced against you, and against the Christian religion itself, as though it taught you to be morose, ill-natured, and severe to them; but treat them with all kindness, lenity, and tenderness, and with persuasive arguments, to work upon their judgments and consciences, and engage their affection and duty toward you, and to make them in love with the good ways of the Lord; and give them a religious education, by making them familiarly conversant with the holy scriptures betimes, and adding catechetical instructions to assist their understandings from their childhood up; (2 Tim. iii. 15.) as also by prudent discipline and moderate corrections, when necessary and seasonable; (Prov. xiii. 24.) and by your own regular example, and daily prayers with and for them. In this manner, as a nurse cherishes her children, *nourish them up in the words of faith and good doctrine*, (1 Tim. iv. 6.) according to the commandment of the Lord, that, by his grace, they may learn to fear him and reverence their superiors, and may know the way to eternal life through Jesus Christ: Watch over and restrain the first appearances of pride and passion, vanity and deceit, and all the early bud-dings of corrupt nature in them; warn them against youthful sins and errors, that would be destructive to their comfort, reputation, and usefulness in this world, and to their eternal happiness in the next; exert your parental authority, like faithful Abraham, (Gen. xviii. 19.) to regulate their outward behaviour; and inure them to public, family, and secret worship; do all that in you lies, in a humble dependence upon the Lord for his blessing, to cultivate their minds, morals, and religion, and to *train them up in the way they should go*, in hope that *when they are old, they will not depart from it*. (Prov. xxii. 6.)

5. Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ:

5 To add one class more of *relative* duties, let those of you, that are in the quality of servants, make conscience of obeying all lawful commands of your earthly masters, inclusive of mistresses, who in things pertaining to the body and this present world, which will soon come to an end, are set over you by the providence of God, and have a right to the services of your stations, whether they be believers or not; (1 Tim. vi. 1, 2. and Tit. ii. 9, 10.) be willingly and faithfully subject to them, with a reverential and cautious fear of offending them; and with a dread of provoking their wrath, and much more the wrath of God against you, on account of your betraying your trusts, embezzling their goods, or disobeying their
just

just orders : And see that ye do all this with a sincere, ingenuous, and honest heart, without deceit or guile, as those that therein desire and intend to serve the Lord Christ, who has commanded civil, as well as religious duties, and whose name and doctrine are honoured by your performing them in obedience to him, and according to his will.

6 Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart ;

6 Let all your services to them be fulfilled with diligence and constancy, not merely while their eyes, or the eyes of other people, are upon you to observe how ye behave, as though ye only aimed at gaining their good opinion, and at approving yourselves to men, for secular advantages : But let it be done with a special reference to the Lord Christ, as those that are sensible of your being always under his eye, and that ye must give an account to him ; and as those that are ambitious of pleasing, honouring, and obeying him, by discharging your duty to your masters, with all good fidelity, from a sincere principle of religion toward God, as it is agreeable to his will, who requires it of you.

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men :

7 In this manner, apply to all the business of your stations freely, affectionately, and industriously, with all readiness of mind, as persons that love your masters, and have their interest at heart ; and that take pleasure in doing them all the service to which God and they call you ; and engage in it from a sense of duty to Christ, your supreme Lord and Master, that ye may serve, please, and glorify him, who is always observing your inmost thoughts, as well as outward actions ; and not merely to acquit yourselves well in the sight, and to gain the esteem of men.

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

8 Let servants be encouraged to be careful and faithful in performing all the duties of their places, as being well assured, from the word of God, that whatsoever good service any one does in the manner but now mentioned ; though his master, after the flesh, should reward him evil for good ; yet, the Lord Jesus, the great Judge of all, will graciously, and in faithfulness to his promise, make him a rich amends, according to his work, in the great day of account, whether he be a bond-slave, or a freer sort of servant ; which likewise is equally true, as to every other faithful person, whether he be, in any civil respect, a bondman, or a freeman*.

M m m 2

9 And

N O T E.

* As the apostle is hitherto speaking only of the duty of servants, and does not enter upon that of masters, till the next verse, *bond* or *free*, seems to relate to *bond-slaves*, that were so by birth, or

capture in war, or by purchase ; and to *hired servants*, that were comparatively free, as they were at liberty, till they had let themselves out by their own content ; and as they might use their freedom for

9 And ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

9 And as the forementioned duties are owing from Christian servants to their masters; so there are duties no less incumbent upon believing *masters* toward their servants, whether they be Christians or not, and whether they be their slaves or their hired servants; let those of you therefore, who are masters, take care that ye perform the duties of your places and relations, with the like principles and views, in singleness of heart as to Christ, and according to the will of God; and that ye behave toward them with gentleness and humanity, and not in a domineering way, with stern and severe menaces, insolence and cruelty, as if ye were a higher species of creatures, and they were to be ruled with rigour, and only by fear and terror, and were to be treated more like brutes than men: But always remember that ye yourselves have also a superior Lord and Master over you, even Christ, whose throne is in the heavens, and whose kingdom rules over all, who constantly takes notice of every part of your conduct toward your servants, as well as of theirs toward you; and will call you to as strict an account for it, as he will them for theirs: For as persons of all ranks are alike little before him, and he is not moved in his regards to them, by any secular differences of superior or inferior stations and circumstances in this world; so he will impartially judge *masters*, as well as *servants*, in the great day, and deal with them according to their respective behaviour upon earth.

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

10 Now, to conclude with exhortations that equally concern you all, my dear Christian brethren, whatsoever be your external conditions and relations in this life; as ever ye would be enabled to fulfil the duties of your several places, and to resist and overcome all the powers of sin, Satan, and the world, which will turn you aside from them, and oppose you in your progress heaven-ward; set out, and go on every step of your way, like valiant soldiers under the Captain of salvation, not in your own strength, which is no better than weakness; but in the strength of Christ, through whom ye may do all things: (*Phil. iv. 13.*) *Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.* (*2 Tim. ii. 1.*) and in his almighty aids and influences, by daily derivations from him to make you equal

N O T E

For continuing a longer or shorter time, upon proper warning in their master's service, or not; and so the exhortation suits the case of all sorts of servants in all ages. But, if we consider this passage as

a transition from the duty of servants to the duty of masters, then *bond* (as all the expositors I have met with take it) refers to *servants*, and *free* to *masters*, or at least to persons that were not servants.

equal to every duty and service, suffering, and conflict, to which at any time ye are called.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

11 And that, setting out in this strength, ye may be thoroughly equipped and furnished for all encounters against your spiritual enemies, of which Satan is their head and chief; let it be your earnest endeavour, like soldiers sensible of the power of their enemies, and of their own weakness and dangers, to live in the daily and hourly exercise of all those graces, and in the use of all those means, which God has appointed and provided, gives and makes effectual, for defence and safety, like the most excellent armour of proof, which ye are to put on to guard and cover you from head to foot, * that by means thereof, in fighting the Lord's battles, ye may be enabled to stand and maintain your ground against, and defeat the numerous, ensnaring, circumventing, fallacious, and cunning methods (*μεθοδους*) of assault, from the devil and all his instruments. And ye have the greatest need of all this help:

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

12 For in this holy warfare all of us, who have listed under Christ's banner, whether we be ministers or private Christians, are called, like persons singled out for that purpose, to close and sharp combat and contention against, not only the carnal reasonings and interests of animal-nature, consisting of flesh and blood, and against wicked men, and the ungodly rulers and magistrates of this world, (see the note on *chap. i. 21.*) who dwell in mortal flesh, and are attended with human passions, like ourselves; but we have still more potent and formidable, as well as invisible adversaries to deal with, that have the nearest access to the inmost powers of our souls before we are aware; we are called to guard, and engage against all ranks and orders of malicious, sagacious, deceitful, powerful, and diabolical spirits, even against the mighty princes and governors, that have a superior dominion over the fallen angels and fallen men, and have all the legions of hell at their beck to practise upon human nature, and execute their horrid and mischievous designs; we are called to enter the lists against these malignant spirits, that, like a strong man armed, (*Luke xi. 21.*) have, by divine permission, erected a kingdom of darkness, taken possession of, and usurped an empire over the minds and hearts of the blinded sinners of this

N O T E.

* As in the description of the spiritual armour, *ver. 14.—17.* there is an allusion to a *girdle, breast-plate, shoes, and a helmet*, that are put upon the body, and to a *sword and shield*, that are held

in the *hand*, the apostle here speaks of believers *putting on*, (*επισησασθε*) and in *ver. 13.* of *taking to them* (*αναλαβετε*) *the whole armour of God*; and so includes a proper use of every part of it.

this world, whose thoughts and ways are works of darkness; (*chap. ii. 2.*) and we are called to fight against those spiritual enemies*, who are themselves most vilely and implacably wicked; who hover about in the air very near us, and all around us, and make it their business to propagate spiritual wickedness, such as unbelief, pride, idolatry, and error, relating to spiritual things; and malice, wrath, and envy, which resemble their own wicked temper, and are most immediately seated in men's souls; and who contend with us about the spiritual things of heaven and glory, to prevent our obtaining the eternal inheritance.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

13 Since therefore ye have so many subtle and powerful enemies, above your match, to contend with, see that ye be armed *cap-a-pee*, and that in the strength of Christ, ye continually handle your arms, (see the note on *ver. 11.*) and make a proper use of every spiritual weapon, offensive and defensive, which God has furnished you with, that ye may be capable of resisting and overcoming all these formidable adversaries, in every day of trial and danger from this evil world, and from the evil one, and indeed in all the days of your lives, which are *few and evil*, (*Gen. xlvii. 9.*) as also in the day of death, which of all others is the worst to those, who are not in good case to meet it; and that when ye have gone through all the fatigues of your conflicts, acquitted yourselves as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and finished your warfare, ye may stand as triumphant conquerors, through him that has loved you; and may stand before him with boldness at his coming. (See the note on *Luke xxi. 36.*)

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with

14 In order therefore to your obtaining a glorious victory †, *stand fast in the Lord*; (*1 Thess. iii. 8.*) stand to your arms, and in your proper stations, indefatigably

N O T E S.

* *Spiritual wickedness in high places* (*τα πνευματικά της πονηρίας εν τοις ἐνευρανίοις*) might be most strictly and grammatically rendered *spirituals of wickedness in heavenlies*, whether in heavenly places, or heavenly things; and relates not to earthly magistrates, but to the fallen angels, as opposed to *flesh and blood*.

† As in the *general view*, so in the *particular description*, of the Christian's armour, all the terms are of a *military strain*, in allusion to such pieces of armour, and such weapons, as soldiers were wont to put on, or make use of in war for their own defence, and for annoying their enemies: But (as some have ob-

served) here is no armour for *the back*, which may intimate that we should never turn our backs to our spiritual enemies, by a cowardly flight, that would expose us to danger; but should always face them with holy courage, and resist them stedfastly in the faith, that they may flee from us, instead of our fleeing from them: And though the word *stand* is the same here and in the close of the last preceding verse; yet, I apprehend, it is to be considered in a different respect, as *that* relates to the standing of a conqueror after the battle is over, and *this* to standing and maintaining our ground in the field of battle, during the encounter.

with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness;

defatigably and incessantly, with all watchfulness and diligence; (1 *Pet.* v. 8, 9.) and keep your standing with steadfastness in the field of battle: And that ye may not be exposed to your enemies, but may effectually resist and put them to flight, see that no part of your spiritual armour be wanting or neglected. If ye would know what are its several parts, which ye are to put on, and take to yourselves, (*ver.* 11, 13.) and how to use them for defeating the temptations and assaults of the devil and his agents, observe the following particulars: As soldiers use to gird themselves with a broad belt to keep up their long garments, (see the note on *Luke* xii. 35.) and buckle them and the several parts of their armour close together, as also to fortify their loins, that they may be the stronger and fitter for agility, labour, and fatigue in war; so encompass yourselves as it were with sincerity and uprightness of heart, and with truth and honesty of conversation, *that righteousness and faithfulness may be the girdle of your loins*, (*Isa.* xi. 5.) to keep you steady, resolute, and active in every spiritual encounter*. And as soldiers have their *breast-plate* to defend the heart, and other vitals of the body, against the mortal wounds, which their enemies generally aim at making in those parts; so labour, by the assistance of the Spirit, to live in the daily exercise of *righteousness and true holiness*, (*chap.* iv. 24.) which proceed from faith and love, (1 *Thef.* v. 8.) and are an imitation of our Lord himself, who *put on righteousness as a breast-plate*. (*Isa.* lix. 17.)

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

15 Farthermore, as soldiers are wont to wear *greaves of brass*, (1 *Sam.* xvii. 6.) or a sort of strong boots, to guard their feet and legs against briars and thorns, traps and rugged ways, sharp spikes and stones, that are laid by the enemy to retard their marches; so let the whole of your walk and warfare be disengaged from worldly thoughts, affections, and pursuits, that would hinder you in your Christian

N O T E.

* By *truth* in the former, and *righteousness* in the latter part of this verse, some understand the *doctrine of the gospel*, and the *righteousness of Christ*: But these, I think, are rather to be referred to other parts of the spiritual armour, which are mentioned in the following verses. The *doctrine of the gospel*, or *the word of truth*, falls in with, either *the gospel of peace*, or *the sword of the Spirit*, which is *the word of God*, *ver.* 15, 17. and *Christ's righteousness*, which is so important and necessary a part of the Christian armour, that without a hum-

ble dependence upon it by faith, the warfare can never be acceptably and successfully managed and accomplished, may more properly belong to *the shield of faith*, which the apostle so emphatically speaks of, *ver.* 16. as sufficient to *quench all the fiery darts of the wicked*. (See *Gurnall's Christian armour*.) And therefore, to keep the several parts of this armour as distinct as possible, I take *truth* and *righteousness* here to signify *sincerity and holiness in heart and life*, which are spoken of as fruits of the Spirit, *chap.* v. 9.

Christian course ; and be full of holy resolutions, by divine grace, to hold on your way through all hardships and dangers, that ye may be fortified against the many snares and temptations that lie in wait for you ; and may be ready and prepared for every encounter, by a proper use of the doctrine of the gospel, in frequent meditations upon it, and in a firm belief, and regular profession, and improvement of it, according to its promises, encouragements, and provisions ; and according to its great design of promoting all manner of spiritual prosperity, which is included in the term *peace* ; as particularly, *peace* with God and in your own souls, and with fellow-Christians ; yea, *as far as in you lies*, and lawfully may be, *with all men*, (Rom. xii. 18.) that none may hurt or discompose, reproach or embroil you.

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith. wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

16 But especially, as soldiers have their *shields*, which they can turn every way for the defence of one or another part of the body, and of their other armour, that may be most exposed to danger ; and for warding off the sharp and poisonous darts and arrows of the enemy, from what quarter soever they are thrown * ; so, as the surest defence of your souls from all the fierce attacks of Satan, whether in a way of accusation for sin, or of excitation to it ; and as a sort of universal covering to the whole man, and to all the other parts of your Christian armour ; let a lively exercise of faith on Christ, *your shield*, (Psal. lxxxiv. 9.) on his blood and righteousness for pardon and justification, and all needful supplies of strength and succour, (see the note on *ver.* 14.) together with a humble and firm dependence on the power and grace of God in him, as a shield, (*Gen.* xv. 1. and *Psal.* v. 12.) and on the promises of the new covenant, with realizing views of invisible and eternal things ; let this be your shield ; in the use of which ye shall be effectually enabled to refute and silence every charge of guilt which your grand adversary would fasten upon your consciences, in order to his terrifying and driving you into despair ; and by holding up his shield of faith, ye shall be able to repel, and take off the force of all his attempts to surprize and hurry you into hard and blasphemous thoughts of God, and Christ,

N O T E.

* As the venomous serpents were called *fiery serpents*, Numb. xxi. 6. so *fiery darts* allude to those poisonous darts, which barbarous nations used in war, and which inflamed the parts that were wounded with them, and flew swiftly and secretly, like darts of a killing nature, before men were aware : And these *fiery darts of the devil* seem to be principally meant of his most horrid, violent, and sudden injections, that fill the soul with the utmost distress, and have the most dangerous tendencies and effects, when they are indulged and complied with.

Christ, and religion, and into sudden violent emotions to wrath and revenge, or into fleshly lusts, which war against the soul, or into any other sin. Whatsoever his furious temptations or sudden suggestions may be, that, like poisonous darts, penetrate and inflame the soul with horror, anguish, and guilt, wherever they strike; all of them will be as effectually disarmed of their force by this shield, as fire is of its strength when it is quenched: This will make you a match for all the assaults of that malignant evil one, the devil, whose nature and design is nothing but wickedness; and for all the efforts of this present evil world against you: For *the word of God abides in strong believers, to enable them to overcome the wicked one, and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.* (1 John ii. 14. and v. 4.)

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

17 And as warriors have their *helmets* to secure their heads; so let *the hope* of eternal life and *salvation*, (1 Thess. v. 8.) be as an helmet to guard you against fear and danger, and every mortal wound, to make you patiently endure all hardships, and to fortify you against the most furious and threatening attacks of Satan and all his confederates: And as valiant soldiers draw their *swords* to defend themselves, and cut down their enemies; so hold up, in the hand of faith, the promises, threatnings, and commands, and every other part of divine revelation, which may be called the *sword of the Spirit*, as it is a spiritual weapon of warfare, and as the Holy Spirit indited, and adapted it to all exigencies, and enables believers to consider, understand, and apply it, as circumstances require; and to make an effectual improvement of it for their own safety and comfort, and for the destruction and confusion of all their soul's enemies, who can no more withstand it, when wielded and edged by faith, than the tempter could the answers of the Captain of our salvation, which he introduced with an, *It is written*, (Mat. iv. 4, 7, 10.)

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

18 And as the war ye are engaged in, is of a *spiritual* nature, and all your own attempts to exercise any grace, or make use of any means for resisting and overcoming the enemies of your souls, will be ineffectual, without the special aids of the divine Spirit; let every conflict be attended with solemn, stated, or ejaculatory prayer, in all sorts of earnest addresses to God; such as adorations, thanksgivings, and confessions, humble petitions and pleas in the name of Christ, on all occasions, in public and private, by the assistance of his Spirit, and with your whole heart,

for all seasonable help, to enable you to make a proper and spiritual use of every part of your Christian-armour to the best advantage, for your own preservation, and the vanquishing of sin, Satan, and the world: And be assiduously careful to maintain a praying frame of spirit, and to watch for all convenient seasons for prayer; as also to watch against the designs and methods of your adversaries, and for all opportunities and assistances to annoy and defeat them; and to watch for all influences of the Spirit in prayer, and for all answers to prayer; and see that ye be constant and unwearied herein, without fainting, though ye may not receive immediate answers of peace: And, like persons of a public spirit, be importunate in your repeated addresses to the throne of grace, wrestling with God, by humble faith, to avert all evils from, and confer all desirable blessings upon, not only yourselves, but all your fellow-Christians, the best of which needs your prayers, that they, as well as you, may keep their ground in this spiritual warfare, and may be progressive in light and grace, comfort and holiness, to the glory of God, and the confusion of the devil and all his instruments.

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel:

19 And since my present trials are very great, and my work, for which I, a poor frail sinful creature, am utterly insufficient of myself, is of the highest importance to the interest of Christ and the welfare of immortal souls; and since, in my public ministerial character, I am attended with as many, or more difficulties and temptations, than private Christians are exposed to, I earnestly beg your solemn prayers continually for me, your faithful and affectionate apostle and friend, that God would give me enlargement from my present bonds, and graciously inspire me with suitable matter, and give me courage and freedom of speech in his work, that I may not be kept under restraint, nor be afraid or ashamed to preach Christ before his and my enemies; but may have opportunity of doing it openly, and may speak with all boldness, plainness, and liberty of spirit, and without partiality or reserve, in publishing the great doctrines of the gospel, which contain the unsearchable riches of Christ; and in asserting the glorious privileges of *Gentile*-believers, which, though now clearly revealed, appears to be a strange and mysterious thing to the *Jeros*.

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds; that therein I may speak

20 For the preaching of this blessed gospel, I am sent by the Lord Jesus, as his ambassador, to negotiate the great affair of peace between God and sinners; and, for my faithfulness and zeal, in executing the

speak boldly, as I ought to speak. the trust which he has committed to me, I am, at this very time, a prisoner in chains at Rome, (see the note on *Acts* xii. 6.) which I cheerfully endure, and faint not, as knowing whom I have believed, (2 Tim. i. 12.) and that my reward is with him: And I earnestly entreat the continuance of your prayers, that, under all this difficulty and confinement, I may still have opportunity, and be animated to go on *preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things that concern the Lord Jesus, with all confidence, undauntedly, freely, and plainly, according to the duty of my office, and the sense I have of it, without molestation from any one whomsoever.* (*Acts* xxviii. 30, 31.)

21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

21 But that ye may the better know how to direct your prayers to God for me, I have not only given you a hint of my present afflictive situation, and how it fares with me, in this letter, which I convey to you by the hands of *Tychicus*, one of your *Asiatic* friends, (*Acts* xx. 4.) who is a dear brother the Lord, beloved of him, and of myself and you, in and is an upright, diligent, and laborious servant of Jesus Christ in the work of the ministry; but he also will give you a faithful account at large, by word of mouth, of all things that relate to my sufferings and comforts under them, to the treatment I meet with from enemies and friends, and to my own behaviour, and the success of what I am now permitted to do for Christ, under all the disadvantages and restraints that attend me:

22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

22 Though it would have been a great pleasure and advantage to me, to have enjoyed more of the good company of this beloved and faithful brother; yet, such is my love to you, that I have so far denied myself, as to send him for this very end and purpose, that ye may be fully acquainted how things go with me in my confinement; and particularly, how the Lord stands by me, and enables me to bear my trials with patience, resignation, and holy fortitude; and that, by telling you how God is with me, and owns me, as well as by his free conversation, and preaching the gospel to you, he may revive your spirits, which are apt to be disheartened and cast down at my afflictions; and may encourage you, from my example, to trust in the Lord, and go on in his good ways, amidst all the opposition ye may meet with for Christ and the gospel's sake.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith from

23 My heart's desire and prayer is, that peace with God, peace in your own minds, and peace one with another, and all manner of prosperity in soul and bo-

from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

dy, may continue and abound among the holy brethren and members of the church, which are with you, whether they be ministers or private Christians; and that, under a sense of God's love to them, their hearts may be filled with the most ardent growing affection to him and one another, together with, and as the result of, the most lively exercise of that faith which works by love. May all this happiness, and both these excellent cardinal graces of the Spirit, which lead on to all the rest, flourish and increase in their souls, by special and continued influence from God the Father, who, in the economy of salvation, is the original fountain of all the blessings of the new covenant; and from our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is the great and only Mediator between God and man, and, in that quality, is the purchaser and dispenser of all the good things we have, and hope for, relating to this world, and that which is to come!

24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

24 May the free love and favour of Christ, and of God in him, and all its blessed fruits and effects, especially in all reasonable discoveries, communications, and assistances, to the producing of strong and lively exercises of every grace, be richly extended both to those at *Ephesus*, and to all in every place, who desire, esteem, and delight in our only and complete Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, (*ἡ ἀφραγία*) heartily and unfeignedly, according to the truth of the gospel, without corrupting the doctrine of salvation alone by him, which is the main subject of this epistle; and without mixture of an inordinate love to this present world, or of any corrupt affection whatsoever, and *that* with continuance, till it shall be perfected in a glorious immortality! with sincere desire and assured hope of their being thus abundantly blessed by the God of all grace, I say, *Amen*.

REC O L L E C T I O N S.

How clearly does Christian religion state and enforce *relative* duties! According to its dictates, *children* should honour and obey their parents in all lawful things, as ever they would approve themselves to the Lord, and have his blessing upon them: *Parents* should study to allure, and not discourage their children, nor irritate their angry passions by severe usage; and should train them up in the good ways of God: *Servants* should make conscience of obeying the just orders of their masters, whether under their eye or not, with sincerity, cheerfulness, and fidelity, from a principle of faith in Christ, and in obedience to the will of God, for fear of offending him, and them, and in hope of a gracious reward at the day of judgment: And masters should treat their servants with equity and good temper, as knowing that they also have a greater Master in heaven, and that there is no respect of persons with him.—How many are the trials of all Christians, whatsoever their station be in this world! They, in the strength of the Lord, and in the power of his might, may withstand all the stratagems and assaults of Satan, and his instruments,

ments, in every evil day; and may stand their ground, till they get through all their troubles and dangers, and stand complete conquerors and triumphers in heaven. Of what excellent advantage in this holy warfare, are sincerity and uprightness, and an exercise of righteousness and true holiness! And of what high importance are faith in Christ, and his righteousness, and a good hope of eternal salvation, together with a due use of the holy scriptures, and daily prayer! These will be unto us instead of a military belt, breast-plate, and greaves, and of a shield, helmet, and sword, for defending us against, and repelling the fiery darts of the devil, and the most furious attacks of all the enemies of our souls. How should these thoughts animate us with holy vigour and bravery against all the forces of hell and earth, in humble confidence that, by the use of these means, we shall be enabled to withstand and overcome them!—How extensive ought our prayers to be for every good thing, not only for ourselves, but for all saints, and for all the ministers of the gospel, that are faithful and beloved; and especially for such as suffer persecution for Christ's sake, that their opportunities, courage, and faithfulness, may not fail; but that they may go on to declare the incomprehensible truths of the gospel with all freedom, boldness, and plainness, as they ought, without restraint or reserve! And how concerned should we be, that peace, with faith and love, may abound to all the saints, from God the Father of our Jesus Christ; and that the free favour of God, through him, may be extended, in all its rich variety of manifestations, fruits, and effects, to every one who sincerely loves our Lord Jesus Christ! We should be ready to testify our earnest desire and hope of this, by saying, “*Amen*, so be it,” and “so it shall be.”

THE END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

