

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

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still continues to come to our prayer-meetings. Pretty straight Bible truths he hears—let's hope he gets saved indeed.

The devil is busy but the Lord is with us and we praise Him. Souls are hungry to know Jesus better. Seekers are enquiring the way.

Yours in Him,
MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

THE PROVINCE OF THE COMFORTER.

By J. B. Easton.

The Comforter as representing the office and work of the Holy Ghost, the third person in the Godhead, is One who offers consolation and grace to the needy, consoles and supports the sorrowing in their afflictions, binds up the wounds that sin has made and pours the oil of gladness into the soul.

The general purpose of the Comforter in His coming is to take up and carry on the work which Christ began in the world; therefore in comparison to Christ He is called "another Comforter." Christ said, "I will pray the Father and He will send you another Comforter." The promise concerning His coming was that he should abide with those to whom He should come, and not come and go again as Christ had done.

The Comforter was not only to continue the work which Christ began, but He was to be the executive of the Godhead in the world throughout the dispensation of the Spirit. He controls and directs in the affairs of the kingdom of grace in the earth.

That He had a special work to accomplish in the hearts of believers, is indicated by His coming directly to them and not to the world in general. He is referred to as "the Spirit of truth; whom the world can not receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth Him; but," said Christ, "ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 15:17).

As "the Spirit of truth," the Comforter has come not to enlighten the mind only, but to illuminate the soul. It is His presence in the heart that makes the king's daughter all glorious within. In order to this He burns out and utterly consumes the dross of sin in the soul, "Giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us. And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9). For this purpose as John spake, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." When the dross of sin is consumed, and the blood that cleanseth "from all unrighteousness" is applied, there is no longer even the remains of sin in the heart. Let us bear in mind that the Holy Ghost in His personality is given to believers only, and not to the world who "seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him." Also that His first purpose in coming to the believer is to eradicate sin from the heart. In considering this we wonder not that He is called "the Comforter." For it is comfort indeed to know that we have One with us and dwelling in us who can perform so great a work. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God

dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).

Another consideration is the inspiration of hope, and the consolation of divine love in the soul through His indwelling. "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). Who can tell the comfort derived from these abiding elements in the soul, whose province it is the Holy Ghost to impart? When the vessel is cleansed the content is assured. There is a fulness of divine love which attends the purging of the heart. It is through the Holy Spirit's possessing the heart with divine love that it is preserved, and its health and prosperity is assured. That this is a comfort to the believer, none who have experienced His incoming will deny.

The Holy Ghost is the Comforter, in that in Christ's stead He becomes our teacher and instructor. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). The disciples had sat at Christ's feet and learned of Him. To have Him taken from them and no one to take His place would be most distressing. In the coming of the Holy Ghost they are comforted with the thought that they are not to be left to grope their way through mists and fogs of doubt, but are to be taught, and kept in remembrance of the things which had become so precious to them as followers of Christ. This also accords with what John writes in his epistle of the anointing of the Spirit. "But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him" (1 John 2:27). Note, it is not the teaching of the gospel of which we have need, but that teaching which is of man.

The Comforter was to testify of Christ. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me" etc. (John 15:26, 27). The Holy Spirit as Comforter is the revealer of Christ, He confirms the faith of the believer by constantly affirming that the things of Christ, what He had taught and done were true. The continued affirmation of the Spirit, not only strengthens, but comforts the heart of the believer.

The Holy Ghost as Comforter is not only a revealer of truth but He is a guide to those who will be led. "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth, for He shall not speak of Himself; (a good example) but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and He will show you things to come" (John 16:13). To be guided in the way of truth here, and have revealed to us "things to come," is both assuring and glorify Christ in the hearts and lives of comforting. His object is to exalt and glorify Christ in the hearts and lives of believers. "He shall glorify me; for He

shall receive of mine and show it unto you" (John 16:14.) If then we would glorify Christ we must have the indwelling and abiding presence of the Comforter.

The Comforter also has an office to fulfill in the world, in reproving the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. That this latter office and work of the Holy Ghost, great as it is, is largely accomplished through His coming as Comforter to the hearts of believers, is apparent, for it is through believers He is manifest in the world; therefore the great responsibility resting upon the church to receive and possess in His abiding fulness, Him whom God hath sent as Comforter. "If I depart," said Christ, "I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment," (John 16:7, 8). Through the reproving of the Holy Ghost is the hope of the world awakening. The fact of the awakening and conversion of sinners through the Holy Spirit coming in baptism upon the church, affords not only consolation to the believer but causes great rejoicing in the body of Christ. The early disciples "were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost," because of His abiding presence, but who will say that their cause for rejoicing was not greatly increased in the consciousness that through the coming of the Comforter they were made instrumental in the salvation of many sinners? "O spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found,

Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;

Let ev'ry Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:

The Comforter has come!

"O boundless love divine! how shall this tongue of mine

To wond'ring mortals tell the matchless love divine—

That I, a child of hell, should in His image shine!

The Comforter has come!

"Sing, till the echoes fly above the vaulted sky,

And all the saints above to all below reply,

In strains of endless love the song that ne'er will die;

The Comforter has come!

In Free Methodist.

A SCOOP.

An editor of the Far West dropped into church for the first time in many years. The minister was in the very heart of the sermon. The editor listened for a while and then rushed to his office.

"What are you fellows doing? How about the news from the seat of war?"

"What news?"

"Why, all this about the Egyptian army being drowned in the Red Sea. The minister at the church knows all about it, and you have not a word of it in our latest. Bustle around, you fellows, and get out an extra special edition."—Selected.

If only takes a few minutes to find in others the faults we can't discover in ourselves in a lifetime.