

1 John - Commentaries by Hugh Henry Snell

Crumbs for the Lord's Little Ones: Volume 5 (1857), Fellowship. (1:3)

No. 1.

“Our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3.)

IT is most blessed to consider that we are not only, by grace, delivered from the wrath to come, but called unto the fellowship of the Son of God. To have forgiveness of sins is amazing grace, but to be empowered, by the quickening, regeneration, and indwelling of the Holy Ghost, to walk with God now, is an unutterably gracious privilege.

In our unregenerate state, our thoughts, and ways are unlike God's thoughts and ways. (Isa. 55:8.) “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” “The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” When, however, by the grace of God, we are born again, sealed, anointed, and enlightened by the Holy Ghost, and our consciences purged by the blood of Christ, according to the eternal purpose and choice of God the Father, we are made “partakers of the Divine nature,” and have an understanding given us, whereby we are able to think and act, in measure, according to the wisdom and grace of the only wise God.

Blessed be God, “the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.” God is light. God is love. God was manifested in the flesh. The only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father hath declared Him. The One glorious, self-existent, incomprehensible Jehovah—the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy—is now known as three in Persons, yet but One in Godhead. “There are Three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are One. (1 John 5:7.) God hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. By the ministry of the Holy Ghost, we see the Father in Christ, and know that Christ is the image of the invisible God; and, in the Lord's sufferings and death, when it pleased Jehovah to bruise Him, when the sword of the Lord of Hosts smote the Man that was His fellow, when His soul was made an offering for sin, we learn the wonderful secrets of the heart of Him who is “a just God and a Saviour.” The blood of Immanuel's cross speaks peace; the Holy Ghost sheds abroad the wondrous love of God in our hearts, by testifying to our souls, that the Son glorified the Father, in dying for our sins.

Dwelling thus in the knowledge of the living and true God—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—our souls are happy, for we find everything to inspire us with confidence. We dwell in love, because we dwell in God; for God is love.

Crumbs for the Lord's Little Ones: Volume 2 (1854), Obedience. (2:8)

He that saith he abideth in Him might himself also so to walk, even as He walked—1 John 2:8.

CHRIST came not to do His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him. “Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God; yea, Thy law is within my heart!” Christ ever walked in the perfect and blessed will of God. In the Scriptures, written for our instruction, we have all things revealed, all things that Christ heard and learned of the Father are declared. The holy will of God is presented therein to the faith of the children. To walk as Christ walked is to walk according to the Word. This is the imitating or following of Christ, who hath left us an example: this also is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. The obedience of Christ is not the seeking, even with much simplicity and godly sincerity, to attain to this, or to do that, but it is having the Word of God for a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Anything else and everything else, save the written Word, as opened to the heart and understanding of the saint by the Holy Ghost, is sure to lead astray from the path which alone brings glory to God.

Crumbs for the Lord's Little Ones: Volume 5 (1857), Faith and Experience. (5:13)

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God' that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God: —1 John 5:13.

“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, smith the Lord of Hosts, and in this place I will give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts.”