



Transitioning From Death To Life

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." (I John 3:14a).

BulletinVCM1JN12

1 September 2016

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:11-15).

God likes to make the most important things very clear so that there will be no doubt in the destiny we are choosing. This scripture brings out some of these distinctions and clear choices that we face in life.

- 1) "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (vs 11). God does not change His message man. The old time religion is still the same message that God has for modern people. God did not suddenly discover the importance of love as a panacea to the ills of the society. He has been love from eternity past and will continue to be love till eternity future. His message remains the same throughout the ages - "love one another".
- 2) "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (vs 12). Envy and jealousy are at the root of man's problems, and God is reminding us here not to follow the wrong example of Cain, who out of envy and jealousy killed his brother. We all have similar opportunities and choices in life. Some make poor choices and toss away golden opportunities that life brings their way, and later on turn around to envy and be jealous about those that made good choices and best use of their opportunities in life. They may blame circumstances, others or even

"... He that loveth not his brother abideth in death" (I John 3:14b).

God, but the truth remains that they were responsible for their choices and how they responded to their opportunities. When envy and jealousy are allowed to fester in the heart, they grow up into hatred and eventually result in death. These are opposed to the character of God and should be aliens to the lives of God's children.

- 3) "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you" (vs 13). As light and darkness do not co-exist, in the same way a life full of the light of God, will be hated by one full of darkness because light exposes the evil works of darkness. Therefore, there are some things that should not be a surprise when we know who we are and recognise where we are. The world is ruled by Satan whose main agenda is to oppose God, therefore it should not be a surprise to find him opposing children of God.
- 4) "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death" (vs 14). A great transition takes place from death to live when we chose to love one another as commanded by God. Failure to make this choice leaves one under the grips of death.
- 5) "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (vs 15). Seeds always have the potential of developing into a plant. The seed for murder is hatred, therefore, we must identify and nib it in the bud so that it does not rob us of eternal life with God. When hatred festers in the mind, it alters the nature of the person to that of a murderer that is only waiting for the right opportunity to fulfil his/her ambition. Get rid of your hatred before it gets rid of your eternal life.