

law? They gather themselves against the soul of the righteous, . . . but the Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge."

The ICCC lifts the banner of truth and marches into the fray "like a mighty army, moves the church of God." Since their formation in 1948 the two councils with their different natures, purposes and leadership circle the globe and sift the hearts of men.

John 17 provides "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5), and Christ left His saints with a spiritual understanding coming from His prayer, "Now come I to thee; and these things I speak to the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (v. 13).

The themes of the two assemblies, both meeting in 1983, make clear to God's people the difference. The world has only the ICCC to speak to them in truth. Its theme is, "Victory by Faith in Jesus Christ." It can only be thus. On the opposite side, the WCC theme is "Jesus Christ, the Life of the World." Only unbelief framed that, for Jesus Christ is not the "life of the world." Satan's children have no life from Christ. They are dead in their sin. Satan would like the world to believe that Christ is its life, for then is there no need for regeneration or a second birth. Christ is the life only of born-again believers. Christ is the "light of the world" but "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). And it is Christ and Christ alone who, as He prayed, has "power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him" (17:2).

Again Satan uses Christ's name to deceive the world into thinking that unregenerate men, bound in Satan's kingdom, need not worry, for they live for Christ. It is the gospel that translates a hell-bound sinner out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God's dear Son. With this theme, darkness will reign at the WCC in Vancouver, its meeting place in Canada; and light and life will both be present at the ICCC's Congress in Cape May, N. J. The themes of the two councils, chosen by each, reveal to the world

the difference which every discerning Christian may understand. The WCC with its "Jesus Christ, the Life of the World" received its message from the father of lies; and the ICCC with its theme, "Victory by faith in Jesus Christ," based it on the climactic verse, 1 Corinthians 15:57, where death is vanquished and the saints are rejoicing: "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." John 17 does provide for the pattern for the difference that the world beholds between Christ and Satan. The two councils represent the difference both now and for eternity.

IX. LOVE

Christ's prayer closes with a sparkling crescendo of love. Love going all the way back before the foundation of the world. He was here on earth because of God's love manifested toward Him and also upon the believer. "Thou . . . hast loved them, as thou hast loved me," He reveals, "for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Christ would have us understand, as He concludes, that indeed God is love. These references are: (1) "Thou . . . hast loved them"; (2) "As thou hast loved me"; (3) "Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world"; (4, 5) "I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Here is the fullness of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is the Apostle John's adulation: "We love him, because he first loved us." Again and again it is, Paul says, "The love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Cor. 5:14).

Love has its testing. There is one supreme, final and unchangeable recognition and manifestation of the God-given love. It is obedience. "If ye love me, keep my commandments," and, "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings."

John 17 concludes the final revelation of Christ to His disciples as He recorded it in chapters 14, 15, 16.