

and body blameless (5: 23). It is no wonder that their greeting therefore was with an holy kiss (5: 26).

Finally, we may ask, what was their hope which kept them steadfast in such a place and at such a time, a flock of sheep in the midst of wolves? They looked for Christ's return. He was their hope, their joy, their comfort (4: 16; 4: 18; 4: 13). After the temptations of Satan (2: 18; 3: 5) had been endured and overcome they looked forward to death as a sleep (4: 13). Not only a sleep, but a sleep which was in Jesus, on his loving bosom. After death comes the resurrection, at Christ's glorious appearing with the rapture of the saints to meet Him in the air. And they comforted one another with these words: "We shall be forever with the Lord" (4: 17).

Such is the picture of early Christianity. What further need have we of testimony or apologetic? If all the documents of the New Testament were lost except this earliest epistle, we would still have the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

**"Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death."**