864 1 JOHN. Il.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 mandment I write unto you, which] ment I write unto you,   
 which thing is true in him   
 thing is true in him and in you: and in you: because the   
 because the darkness is passing darkness is past, and the   
 away, and Pthe true light now true light now shineth,   
 shineth. 94He that saith he is in ° He that saith he is in   
   
 1 Cor. xii.   
 2¥et.i.9. ch. 14,15.   
 meaning of from the beginning is fixed to vances, into the law of love. This com-   
 be, from the beginning of the Christian mandment is no new one, but an old one,   
 lives, from the time when they heard the seeing that they had it from the begin-   
 word. ‘Then as to mew, and old, the ex- ning, from the beginning of their faith,   
 planation will be simple enough. ‘The and it was in fact the sum of the word   
 command to love one another cannot be vhich they heard). 8.) Again   
 said to be new, for it forms a part. of the (this takes up and contravenes what has   
 word which ye heard, nay, is the very sum been as yet said: as if it had been “in   
 and centre of that word: but again, it another view of the subject... .”)   
 may be said to be new, inasmuch as it a new commandment write I unto you   
 ever assumes new freshness as the Chris- (“new,” in that it was first promul-   
 tian life unfolds, as the old darkness is gated with Christianity and unknown be-   
 more and more cleared away and the true fore: not, in that he now renews, and.   
 light shineth: in that light we see light ; impresses it anewon them. The meaning.   
 in the light of Him who maketh all things above given agrees well both with the con-   
 new. That the commandment as such text and with St. John’s habit of thought,   
 refers to the Inw of love, thus indeed eon- as well as with matter of fact, and our   
 nected with Christ’s example here, but still Lord’s own words, Jobn xiii. 84, xv. 1:   
 to the law of love and no other, is plain “ When I stand at the point of time ind   
 from the whole usage of the Apostle; com- cated by the term ‘from the beginning,   
 pare especially 2 John 4—6, where the and look forwards on the Christian life of   
 very same train of thought occurs as here, the readers, the commandment appears a   
 the walking in truth being equivalent to one long known; the readers have known   
 walking in light here, being followed up it from the beginning as an essential com-   
 by “even as we received commandment mandment, they have had it as long as   
 from the Father,” and that commandment they have been Christians: on the other   
 being characterized, as here,—“ not as hand, if I look backward on the life of the   
 though I wrote unto thee a new command- readers before that beginning, whether they   
 ment, but that which we had from the were before that Jews or Gentiles, this   
 beginning,” and finally being stated to be same commandment of necessity appears   
 «that we love one another.” Indeed the as.a new one, essentially Christian, first   
 whole process of that passage from this beginning for the readers with that begin   
 point is most instructive as to our present, ning; for even for the Jewish Christians   
 one: “ And this is that we walk ac~ the command of brotherly love is a new   
 cording to His commandments: this is one, seeing that it is in imitation   
 the commandment even as ye heard from of Christ, John xiii, 34”), which (thing,   
 the beginning that ye may walk init :? viz. the fact that the commandment is a   
 where the same complex of the whole new one: see below) is true in Him and in   
 Christian walk is included in the one idea you: because the darkness is passing   
 of love, and Jove identified with walking away (not, as A. V., “past :” the verb is   
 according to His commandments. Again present), and the true light is shining   
 in ch. iii, 11, same formula is used in i.e. the commandment is a new one, and   
 speaking of the law of love—\* This is the this is true both in [the case of] Him   
 commandment which ye heard from the [Christ] and in [the case of] you: because   
 beginning, that we love one another:” [in you] the darkness is passing away, and   
 compare also ch. iv. 21, ¥. iti. 22-24: [in Zim] the true light is shining: there-   
 again ch. iii. iv. 16, John xiii. ch. fore on both accounts the command isa   
 y. 1, 2, John xv. 10. To recapitulate : new one : new as regards you, because you   
 on the interpretation here adopted, the are newly come from darkness into light:   
 commandment is the command to walk as new as regards Him, because He uttered   
 Christ walked, passing, as the context ad- it when Ile came into the world to lighten