

is the white heat which melts the stony heart, and hence the message to Nicodemus was, that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." Without diminishing in any measure his other attributes, the love of God is to be specially extolled. Christ spoke much of the love of the Father. He knew that the heart of man must be drawn by the chords of love. All the Epistles circle around the love of Christ as their centre. And so great is love that man is unredeemed until he possesses it and reflects it, for "he that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love."

Love is the only greatness,
Love is the life of heaven,
Love's diadem of merit
Is to Immanuel given ;
Far from me gross illusion
Of earthly rank and state,
With men as with the Godhead
Nothing but love is great.

It was asked at a great Sunday School convention lately, "Shall we tell unruly children that God does not love them if they are bad?" And the answer came, "tell them that God does love them, but that he is grieved because of their sins, for what is there left to draw them to Christ, if you take away the fascination of his love." The more we magnify the love of God in Christ, the more will our hearts be disposed to trust him, and the more confidently will we rest in the assurance of our salvation, and the more powerfully will we be restrained from wounding such a heart of love.

(d.) By magnifying our life work, however humble or exalted it may be, Paul said, "I magnify my office." Without seeking in any way to lower Paul's lofty office, let us seek rather to lift our own life work up into the light of God. Let everyone feel that he has a special mission on earth, and a life work to accomplish, and that he leads a charmed life until it is fulfilled. That each of us has a work that no other could do as well, not even an angel from heaven. Let us seek to do our very best for Christ and the church. Religion is founded in sentiment, but it is much more than a sentiment, it is a life of every-day activity in some part of the well-divided field of labour. When Barnabas went up to Antioch, it is said "he saw the grace of God." What he really saw was the fruits of the inward grace. He found a praying congregation, a benevolent people able and willing to give of the fruits of their various labours, a company of disciples witnessing for Christ, a foreign mission church sending their very best men out into the work. Let piety pervade all the duties that press upon us, and it will make the yoke easy and the burden light. Let us put something of the blessedness of heaven into the labours of earth, and thus magnifying our life work we will be exalting him who has sent us into the vineyard to labour, until the call comes to go home and rest and receive our reward.