

Mount from beginning to end. He must preach practical godliness in its myriad forms. He must take for his text, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk even as He walked." (1 John ii. 6.) He must show his people, by precept and example, how to follow the footsteps of the Master, not in such remarkable things as walking on the water, or climbing the clouds, but in wholesome eating, pure drinking, truth speaking, fair dealing, well doing, cross bearing, self denying, and all those unworldly things that tend to make the disciple as his Heavenly Lord.

How much the preacher may find in the life of St. Paul to instruct and stimulate him in this work! How tender he was, and yet how earnest! He prayed and wept over those whom he had won for Christ. He remembered them in his travels over sea and land; he sent messages of love to them; he sought out the best helpers available, and commissioned them to comfort and establish the saints; he grieved when from any quarter tidings of defection came to him; and so impressed was he with the importance of spiritual maturity in those converts, whether Jew or Gentile, that one might almost conclude that it was his pre-eminent mission to build up believers. He never wearied in this holy service. Much there was to test his patience, but his quenchless zeal is disclosed in almost every line of his epistles. Such expressions as "growth," "leaving the principles," "strengthened with all might," "built up in Christ," and many others, are indications of what he regarded as the privilege of all converts.