

city of Sodom would have been spared, could ten righteous men have been found within it. The Lord said, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." And thus, my dear friends, it is a high and holy privilege to be related to the servants of God,—to be the children of pious parents, or to be connected with pious partners in life. Many a husband, no doubt, has been spared, and saved, and blessed, in pity to his pious wife, or his godly children. It is a privilege to be connected with the friends of God in business, to dwell near them, to be associated with them in the various circumstances of life, whether prosperous or adverse. God, who crowns them with loving-kindness and tender mercies, often fills the abodes of their neighbours and friends with the blessings of peace and salvation.

And then, again, we may here remark, that it is possible for a pious man, like Paul, so to conduct himself in the various trying scenes of life, the agitations, difficulties, and temptations of this world, as to conciliate the favour of worldly men, without compromising one principle of Christian duty. "The soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners; but the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose." Paul's conduct on board the ship, the wisdom of his advice, the courage and prudence he displayed in the midst of the most appalling danger, and, probably, the belief that he was under the divine protection and blessing,—all these considerations disposed the centurion to save his life; and thus, for the sake of this righteous man, the lives of all the prisoners were spared. And all experience shows that