

Paul is with the Master who, in his darkest hours, has ever been with him. As he left the Mamertine prison and passed along the Ostian way, he believed that his life-work was ended; he little knew that that life-work contained within itself the Spirit of the living God which would quicken the souls of men throughout succeeding ages. He saw a harvest of his own day, city after city taken for Christ, and watchmen planted who would in their turn take other cities also; he saw a battle won for the liberty of the Church, and charters left in his epistles to protect that liberty. He did not see the aftermath of the greater harvest than that of his day, the harvest which will never be reckoned until the Lord of the harvest Himself comes to take account of the labourers of His harvest.

**“St. Paul without the walls.”**

Ever since Paul died men have vied with one another in reverencing his words and acts, and in tracing his footsteps over land and sea. They gather year by year within the catacombs wherein his body was first laid, and beneath the Basilica upon the Ostian way where it now rests; but the secret of Paul's life is not revealed in the traces of his earthly footsteps: it is found in his following of the spiritual footsteps of his Master, in the truth inscribed over the altar of the Basilica, “To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”