

## THE FULL IMPORT OF CONVERSION.

I THESSALONIANS I. 9, 10.

It should ever be borne in mind that the Lord Himself must be the centre in testimony, however blessed it is to put forth the gospel of God's grace. Here, in Thessalonica, these souls were brought out to serve the living and true God. The whole man turned to God—a totally new state from beginning to end; not merely getting relief to conscience, but God Himself in Christ become the object before the soul. This is the full import of conversion, as we get it in I Thessalonians i. 9, 10—a man being turned round to God; there is repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you believe, you get an entirely new life and you judge the past—you repent because you believe; it all comes together, like the prodigal when he turned to his father's house, there is a totally new life, state, and object. "They who are after the Spirit, mind the things of the Spirit," etc. (Rom. viii. 5); and "Our conversation is in heaven," etc. (Phil. iii. 20), is the doctrinal statement of this. You must get such a knowledge of self as to get rid of it. If you faithfully said, "I am dead," Satan could not tempt you. You may not always be able to do this, but it is yours to say, as one "born of water and of the Spirit." The water cleanses, but being born of the Spirit gives a new position and a new life.