

God," it infinitely compensates for all drawbacks and discouragements, arising from human defections. Let us then be true to Jesus and his glorious gospel against all limitarianism, and "cleaving unto God with full purpose of heart, we shall be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand."

Thirdly.—"Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." With the others, this also is one of Peter's inspired exhortations to the "strangers scattered." Like those we have quoted and applied, it was, in their circumstances, and considering the tendencies of human nature, a very appropriate exhortation indeed.

As Christians a great trust had been committed to them. They were constituted by virtue of their faith in, and love to the "Apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus," his representatives on the earth. As the evangelical children of God, they were under obligation to shine as lights in the world, "holding forth the word of life." As the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, delightful privileges interlinked with solemn duties and grave responsibilities were theirs. Theirs was the duty of witnessing for Jesus not only by spreading the knowledge of his name and love and work, but by presenting to their fellows in their own personality a palpable and somewhat perfect personification or fac-simile of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This was their duty in a world of unmitigated selfishness where "all seek their own and not the things of Jesus Christ." Glorious privilege! It was theirs to help onward and forward a new and better and more blissful state of things. Theirs it was to lift up a standard because of the truth, that the kingdom of darkness might be rooted and eradicated from the earth, and the spreading damning flood of iniquity stemmed and stopped and utterly dried away. Dread responsibility? Well might the apostle exhortingly say unto them, "Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." And what a force the exhortation gathers as coming from the lips of Peter. He knew more than many the instability of human nature. By sad experience he knew somewhat of the pangs that would sooner or later pierce and crush the hearts of those who indulged a spirit of boastful self-sufficiency. Hence, as one who had been made perfect through sufferings, he exhorts them to exercise a godly jealousy over themselves, lest through unfaithfulness or ungodliness on their part, the cause and gospel of God might be evil spoken of. And is not this same exhortation as full of pathos and of power to Christians *now* as it was when