

His whole life after he became a Christian was consecrated to Christ. His toilsome and unwearied labours, as well as his lips, uttered the short, but significant, and sublime sentiment, "to me to live is Christ."

Paul remembered the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive;" and he felt it to be his duty to stir up the pure minds of those with whom he was about to take a lasting farewell, by reminding them of their duty to the poor and the needy. We believe it is impossible to study the character of Paul without admiring it, and being constrained to feel that we are but dwarfs in spiritual stature when we stand beside him. He had a noble soul: it was not only free from covetousness, it was full of benevolence, generosity, and Christian philanthropy.

He could say with truth, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. And when he had thus spoken he kneeled down and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship."

It is not however with Paul that we have at present to do, but with the words of the Lord Jesus, to which the apostle gave utterance when about to part with his Christian brethren. *He reminds them of the words of the Lord Jesus.* They are weighty words, —words which they would not easily, or soon forget, words which he trusted they would keep forever fresh in their recollection. "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

It is a duty, a privilege, and a pleasure to give to the poor and the needy. Even though we may ourselves be poor, and comparatively speaking but partially supplied with the bounties of God's providence, that is no reason why we should always be the receivers. A man, and especially a Christian, must be poor indeed if it is beyond his power to perform the duty, and enjoy the privilege, of giving. We believe that every one of us can enjoy the pleasure of doing good; and experience in our own hearts the truth of our Lord's words, when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

It is worthy of notice that the widow spoken of in the Gospel,