

ruin of our nature—fill up the aching void in the heart, satisfy the panting and longing after immortality! Cross of Christ! Let it be the strength and chain of life now, and the star of safety guiding to the haven of rest. Let these lofty and ennobling themes be your earnest study, your constant employment, the basis of all your labors. Then, at the close of such a ministry, attending angels will crown you with the amaranth of eternity, while they welcome you to glory.

“ Servant of God well done;  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
Receive the palm and conqueror’s crown,  
Repose amid endless joy.”

#### ADDRESS BY REV. MR. ROBERTSON TO THE CONGREGATION.

I shall not detain you long, my friends, in addressing you on the duties devolving upon you as a congregation with whom the pastoral tie is this day formed. Judging from his antecedents, and from the sentiments entertained of him by those who know him best, as well as from your own experience of his qualifications, you have cause to rejoice that you have succeeded, after many perplexities and discouragements, in securing our brother, now with us, to take your spiritual oversight.

May the Lord grant that he prove “a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,” not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but, by manifestation of the truth, commending himself to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. 2 Cor. 4, 2. See to it that he is with you, without fear. 1 Cor. 16, 10.

Cherish towards him feelings of kindness and regard, esteeming him very highly in love for his work’s sake, and be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thes. 5, 13. Let none of you harbour an invidious, uncharitable, and censorious spirit, and have your good will alienated on account of circumstances over which the object of these unkindly sentiments has no control. Remember and act upon the advice of the apostle Peter, to lay aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speakings. 1 Pet. 2, 1. Amid the trials and difficulties and responsibilities of an office so arduous and solemn as to make the apostle Paul give expression to language indicating an almost overwhelming sense of the transcendent import of its nature, and of the obstacles to a right discharge of its duties, “who is sufficient for these things?” it lies with you, the members and adherents of this congregation, to cheer your pastor’s heart, and to animate him in his labours. He is “an ambassador for Christ”—“a steward of the mysteries of God,” and you who are taught should communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things, Gal. 6, 6; and co-operate with him in every scriptural measure for the temporal and eternal welfare of the congregation, and for the universal diffusion of the blessings of the gospel of the grace of God. And, brethren, be very earnest for your minister at a throne of grace. It has been said, “A praying people make a preaching minister.” Never forget that prayer is a power—a spiritual law appointed by God, for the bestowal of spiritual blessings—as much a law in grace as any physical law is in nature. Exercise faith in the words of the Saviour:—“Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Mat. 7, 7, 8. Your prayers and intercessions for your minister will return in blessings on yourselves and your families, as the fertilizing showers of heaven descend from water evaporated by the sun’s rays from the earth.

The great end of teaching is to save sinners: to bring their souls in harmony with the will of God. “The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.” “It pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.” It is not for the amusement and gratification, it is not so much for the information and intellectual improvement, as for the edification and spiritual well-being of