

distinctive grace, the energy of holiness, which separates from all evil ; but by setting apart for God. Salt was good : here the effect produced in the soul, the condition of the soul, is so called, as well as the grace that produces this condition. Thus they who offered themselves to God were set apart for Him ; they were the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savour, wherewith can it be salted ? It is used for seasoning other things ; but if the salt needs it for itself, there is nothing left that can salt *it*. So would it be with Christians ; if they who were of Christ did not render this testimony, where should anything be found, apart from Christians, to render it to them and produce it in them ? Now this sense of obligation to God which separates from evil, this judgment of all evil in the heart, must be in oneself. It is not a question of judging others, but of placing oneself before God, thus becoming the salt, having it in oneself. With regard to others, one must seek peace ; and real separation from all evil is that which enables us to walk in peace together.

In a word, Christians were to keep themselves separate from evil, and near to God in themselves ; and to walk with God in peace among one another.

No instruction could be more plain, more important, more valuable. It judges, it directs, the whole Christian life in a few words.