

PAUL'S ASSURANCE.

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day."—2 Tim. i. 12.

These words furnish the reason why the magnanimous Paul was not ashamed to suffer for Jesus, but gloried in tribulation. Paul was a *believer in Jesus*, and *he knew that he was a believer*. He was not always a believer. At one time he was a persecutor of Christ in his members. But when he was arrested on his way to Damascus with intentions hostile to the cause of Jesus, in his mind, and was led to see that he was opposing the Messiah, who had died, but was alive, he believed, and consecrated himself to the service of Jesus, and reverently inquired of him, whose voice arrested him, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He knew that he believed in the once slain, but now risen and exalted Saviour. Reader, are you a believer? and are you conscious that you are a believer? You are a sinner. Jesus loves you, though you are a sinner, and died for you. O regard it as true, that Jesus died for you, and atoned for all your sins, and look on his atoning death for you, as evidence of his intense, unquenchable love to your soul. Then will you know that you are a believer, as well from the effects of the truth on your heart, as from your consciousness that you believe. To continue in unbelief is to continue condemned.

Paul *knew whom he believed*. He had an acquaintance with Jesus. He knew the character of Christ—that he is loving and faithful, and to be trusted. Christ to many is a stranger. They have heard of him, and respecting some things that he has done, but they know him not—they have never sought to be acquainted with him. Reader, do you know Jesus as a man knows his friend? Jesus is a true friend—a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. O believe in his love to your soul and in his work for your salvation, and thus become acquainted with him; and you will know from your own experience of his goodness that all that is said of him is true. The aged Polycarp knew Christ; for when the Roman proconsul urged him to deny his Redeemer, he said, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he has never wronged me, how can I desert my king, who has saved me?"

Paul *had committed something to Jesus*. He had given his soul to Jesus. It was in his hands. The soul is precious. He who died to save the soul assures us that the gain of the whole world would be no compensation for its loss. And your soul, dear reader, is not safe unless Jesus keeps it; and he does not keep it unless you have committed it to him. O be awake to the value of your deathless spirit, and, without delay,