

convinced that whatever excellency of natural disposition he might possess, the comparative absence of blemishes was owing to his having 'put on Christ.' It was the copying of this pattern that made him so peculiarly guileless. Few were ever more ready to say,—'By the grace of God I am what I am.' Think of him as bearing Christ's image and be attracted to the Master that you too may 'learn of him.'

"Were I called to select a Scriptural motto as characteristic of his ministry, I know of nothing which would come so near the truth as this of the apostle Paul,—'We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.' And were I to describe in Scriptural phrase his *pastoral* character, it would be in the words of the same apostle,—'Not in fleshly wisdom, but in simplicity and Godly sincerity, we have had our conversation in the world, and more especially to youward.'

"And now, my friends, I have to remind you who have so long enjoyed the ministry of your late pastor, that '*God requireth that which is past.*' It is much given, and hence much to be responsible for, to have the gospel faithfully and purely preached; but it is still more, to have the gospel illustrated and enforced by its holy and inviting influence, in the conversation of the minister. Few privileges, indeed, can equal in importance that of enjoying, through many long years, a minister who not only faithfully declares the truth as it is in Jesus, but proves 'an ensample to the flock,' an 'epistle of Christ.' And who could not read,—who did not, as it were, instinctively read,—in your late pastor, such an epistle. Even the enemies of the truth could scarcely, I should think, have been his enemies.

"Let the recollection of the untiring earnestness with which he sought your good, stimulate you to follow his footsteps, by seeking 'every one his neighbours' good unto edification,' and by seeking unitedly the good of the congregation. 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.' Oh! think what reproach it would be to the cause of Christ—what discredit to yourselves, who have so long enjoyed the gospel, and had it so lovingly exemplified—should you ever allow envy and strife, misunderstandings and alienations, to prevail among you. Seek, on the contrary, to shew that you have not only been taught as it is in Jesus, but learnt also of the Great Teacher himself to exercise continually that 'love which is the fulfilling of the law.' Seek at once to exhibit and experience 'how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.' Believers in Jesus, I would urge you *to go forward*. Copy, in so far as he copied Christ, him who has so long instructed, counselled, and encouraged you. As we have seen that he exemplified the former part of our text, *living to Christ*, so I have no doubt that, if his voice could this day be heard in our midst, it would be in confirmation of the latter clause, viz., '*to die is gain.*' Follow him in the narrow way, animated by the 'good hope through grace,' that you too shall reach the goal, and wear the crown.