

ever appeals to him for acceptance in his religious life. He must try the spirits, whether they are of God. The respectability and high standing of the advocate of any theory, ought not to settle the point. As metal is tested in the fire, and the dross purged away in the process, so the soul must for itself prove every allegation by appropriate scrutiny. Moral and religious truth can only be examined by evidence of a suitable character. The appeal, therefore, lies "to the law and to the testimony." Like the Bereans of old, we must search the Scriptures daily. By fair interpretation, we require to prove our views from the Bible.

How many fond anticipations are dispelled by the rising Sun of Truth. The light of God's Word will affect the conscience. The doer of truth constantly applies for instruction, for counsel, for reproof, for correction, to the book given by inspiration of God. It is no unread, unknown volume to the soul. The seals are broken which aforesaid kept it closed. The scales have fallen from the sight. The Spirit of God shines into the heart. Imagine the scene that opens to a man who has been all his days in a prison, and has never seen the sky, how glorious the Sun by day, and the glittering stars by night; how thrilling the beauties of our earth, trees and flowers, mountains and valleys, rivers and seas. Like this, but in a spiritual sense, are the fair fields of the Word of God, when the soul lives anew in Christ. The heart loving Christ is brought to the sweet appreciation of divine things, and the eye beholds the beauties of the length and the breadth, the height and the depth, of that love which passeth knowledge. Thus the demonstration of a personal experience is obtained. The proof given, which to the individual is unanswerable. To taste of spiritual blessings is to see that the Lord is good. The wants of the soul are met—the conscience calmed—and the peace of God fills the heart—while a life of devotion yields a joy superior to any other. This is proving the truth. When a hungry man is satisfied with bread, how much evidence would it take to prove to him that he was deceived? Could it be done? Nay, verily,—he knows that his wants have been met, so the best of all evidence to oneself is afforded by the experience of true religion; then it is felt that every word of God is sure. When a promise is tried and proved—who shall harm? what shall move?

Thus, having tested the value of truth it cannot be given up. It becomes a sacred duty to hold it fast. No doubt, many assaults will be made on our faith, but we must earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. In doctrine, while that which is false is rejected, hold fast to that which is good. The trader nails to the counter the base money that wants the ring of the true metal; but gladly receives the coinage of the mint. In their native worth and beauty let us gladly receive the heaven-given truths of the gospel. They are worthy of being bound to our hearts. This love which truth begets in souls obedient to it, will rouse to the utmost care, to constant watchfulness, to earnest zeal, to holy resolution, in guarding the heavenly treasure. Error may creep in, but it ought to be met with uncompromising exposure. Should the cardinal doctrine of justification by faith be assailed or explained away, can he who rests his hope of an eternal heaven on the finished redemption that is in Christ Jesus, consent to let it go? Valour for the defence of the truth is demanded when open or hidden attacks are made on its foundations. A feeble hold of truth may relax under the strong