

of piety or christian life directly from the word of God, the holiest must in view of it exclaim, "Who then can be saved?" for the commandment is exceeding broad, reaching to the intents and thoughts of the heart; and that the only consolation for one troubled in consequence of his own imperfections is to be derived from the thought "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin," and "what is impossible with men is possible with God."

Notwithstanding however the manifest and acknowledged imperfections of the holiest, both of the present and all past time, notwithstanding the boundlessness of the forbearance and mercy of God, notwithstanding the difficulty amounting perhaps to an impossibility of adopting any plan that would be either universally received or in all cases applicable, may it not brethren be truthfully affirmed that the cause of God now demands of the churches, that by a more rigid and scriptural discipline the standard of practical and every day piety should be greatly elevated and thus brought, at least a little nearer to that marked upon the inspired page, and exhibited with greater or less faithfulness each week from the sacred desk? We scarcely need remark that reference is not made here to open immorality; cases of this description are usually, when known, promptly dealt with, but rather to such neglect of Christian duty as may indicate or rather prove an absence of real piety.

Is it enough that a member of a christian church be moral, honest, and in all his intercourse with the world above reproach or suspicion? Are not the duties of religion emphatically active? Our adorable Redeemer "went about doing good." His command is "be ye followers of me as dear children," the apostle says, "Therefore my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the *work* of the Lord." "If ye *do* these things ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ." If everlasting life is promised to those and only to those, who by activity and zeal