

once delivered, but the guiding fellowship of the society divinely constituted, to be not only the ground and pillar of the truth, the habitation of God through the Spirit, but the Body of Christ, and so the instrument for extending the incarnate life, and of carrying forward all the activities which the energies of that life awakens among men. Let the world once believe that the church is only a human device, developed out of human wisdom to meet human needs, and not a building of God, which His Spirit created and continues, and its voice of authority will soon be silenced, its oracles questioned and rejected, its fellowship lightly esteemed and easily forsaken.

Therefore, stand fast against this third insidious foe and quit yourselves like men who can read and think for themselves, and who will not be made the dupes of any blind leader of the Blind.

I had intended, when I began this sermon, to speak to you chiefly, not on the defensive side of the Christian warfare as enjoined in the "standfast" of the text; but of the positive, active, aggressive side as presented to us in the picture of the Athletes definite aim, and determined, unflagging effort. I can only touch upon that side of our duty now. It is a most important side. We can only continue in the Faith, and stand firm and unmoved in its defence, first by realizing its truth and solemn significance to ourselves and to all men; and then secondly, by setting ourselves, with fixed resolve and combined, concentrated effort, to live the truth and to propagate the truth vieing with one another, to be first in holiness and in nearness to our Lord, and foremost in bearing the glad tidings of salvation to perishing men. That is the picture which the contests of the stadium recall. Is it the picture, my brothers and sisters, of our lives? Are we not content with the lowest attainments in holiness? Willing to make almost any compromise with the world that we may live at ease and escape the peril of the battle? The effort and the toil of striving together for the faith of the gospel? Is not this the very secret of our coldness and deadness, and want of success in the things of God. This half-heartedness, this compromise with the world. Who are the people for instance, here in Toronto, who throng the theatres; who bet and win and lose on the race course, who get up and lavish their money in barbaric display or on the senseless parade and extravagance of the ball-room and the party; who perform in the silliness of what is called Rotten Row? They are not all Church-people, no doubt, but two-thirds of them are. No wonder that others put us to shame by the generosity of their giving to the cause of God; that we are falling behind those who have not had half our advantages in the noble strife for the Faith of the Gospel, as they understand it.

Now I want to press this matter upon you laymen, and especially upon you who are here as the representative men of the Church in your parish or mission. There is a good deal of complaining about the clergy in many places: they are not good preachers, or they are not good visitors, or they are not as conciliating as they might be. But what about yourselves? Does your parish or missions present a picture in anyway resembling that drawn by the Apostle's hand? Are you as a