

and good works towards all around you. Have you hope? See that it is connected with zeal for the service of the great Redeemer, and with those Scriptural evidences of its power in your life and conversation, which shall prove its steadfastness and truth. Have you charity? See that it does not stint itself to a few miserable acts of alms-giving, or a few forced subscriptions, bestowed not so much from the love of God, as from the fear of man. But let it be the internal motive of Christian affection, supreme towards Christ and warm towards his people, flowing into every channel of beneficence with constant readiness, and anxious to promote every good work to the glory of your Lord. True, you cannot merit heaven by this. Most true, that your salvation must be at last 'by grace through faith;' and that the only righteousness on which you can rely before God, must be the perfect righteousness of your Lord and Saviour. But then though this be true,—though after all you can do, you will still find reason to mourn over the hardness of your heart and the coldness of your affections, and be forced to acknowledge yourselves unprofitable servants,—still is it equally true that your blessed Redeemer will prosper all your humble efforts by his holy Spirit—will help your infirmities—will kindly record every one of your works of faith in the book of his remembrance, and count it done to himself, in the presence of angels and of men.

May the Lord grant you grace both to will and to do of his good pleasure. May no soul amongst you ever hear addressed to him the awful sentence of rejection: 'Depart ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat; thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; naked, and ye clothed me not; a stranger, sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not; for verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me.'