

man. And yet, without it, what is our condition here, and what our prospects in eternity? If, then, "God's Word is Truth," unmingled truth, important truth, and truth undiscoverable by man, all must acknowledge that every exertion should be used to make it universally known. Man should not be left in ignorance of that which is fitted to affect so deeply his interests, not only in time but in eternity. It was the last command of our Blessed Lord to His Apostles, to "go into all the world, and to preach the gospel"—this Word of Truth—"to every creature." And ever since the Apostolic age, Churches have been erected and Ministers have been set apart to diffuse this truth. And called as I now am in an especial manner to address those who are engaged in this great work, you will permit me to say to you that there are two ways in which we are called to set forth the truth of God,—by our lips, and by our lives; and of the two, the eloquence of a holy life is by far the most expressive. It should be our earnest endeavour to study to preach well; but we should study still more anxiously to live well. Truth from the lips of a man of holy life, will come home with tenfold power; but, uttered by one whose moral conduct is at variance with that which he inculcates, it can scarcely be expected to be otherwise than totally ineffectual. It ought to be our study, then, that our lives should be a living commentary upon our preaching, so that our hearers should be constrained to say respecting each one of us—"That man is in earnest; he practises what he preaches."

I am forcibly reminded, now that we are once more assembled in this part of the country, that, since we last met in this province, our Synod has lost one of its brightest ornaments. And you will pardon this allusion when I state what, indeed, many of you well know—that the late Dr. Henderson was one of my oldest and dearest friends. He was one whose profound attainments as a scholar were only surpassed by his meekness and humility as a Christian; one who, by his unwearied and faithful labours as a pastor, had endeared himself, in no ordinary degree, to his flock; whose memory, I feel assured, they can never cease to cherish with the warmest affection. He loved the truth of God; it was his delight to proclaim it; and he was the living image of what he taught to others. While we lovingly remember him, let us follow his example; that every one of us may have this testimony at last—that we are "pure from the blood of all men, not having shunned to declare the whole counsel of God."

Bear with me for a moment longer while I remind you who are the hearers of the gospel of truth, that you also have a duty to do. You are to "receive the truth into good and honest hearts." Nor are you to be forgetful hearers, but "doers of the word." Moreover, let me call upon you to bring every sermon you hear to the touchstone of God's word. Imitate the Bereans of old, who "searched the Scriptures daily," that they might ascertain whether the things that were preached to them were in accordance therewith. "Therefore," says the sacred historian, "many of them believed." It is a solemn thought, Brethren, and ought to be ever present to the minds of both ministers and people, when they meet together in the house of God, to engage in the services of the sanctuary,—that the things of time and the things of eternity are so closely blended together, that they have an effect upon one another; and we know it will be so in regard to the services conducted in our several places of worship. They must tell, favorably or otherwise, upon the eternal destiny of those who engage in them, whether as preachers or hearers. You can never leave the house of God precisely in the same condition in which you entered it. The gospel must either be to you "the savour of life unto life," or "the savour of death unto death,"—either the instrument of "translating you from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light," or of sinking you lower and lower in the gulf of perdition. How awful, then, the responsibility! How earnest should you be to improve your privileges, so that at last "you may give in your account with joy!"