

nable that he ever *will*. At best he will be a very *defective* Christian. His religion will be eminently selfish, and selfishness is opposed to the religion of Jesus. Some of the graces of the Spirit he may have, but like plants in the dark they will droop and fade for want of light and air. Believe me, your intention of being a secret disciple, though well meant, is but a snare of the devil to delude your soul.

What, then, is the conclusion of the whole matter? It is [that, in the matter of *duty*, nothing short of a sincere, open profession of religion, and union with the Church of Christ, will satisfy either God or your own conscience. But such a profession involves much. Let it be understood, therefore, that

III. THIS CHANGE MUST BE ONE OF BOTH HEART AND LIFE.

And this involves, on *your* part,

1. *A change of purpose.* Your purposes in regard to religion have been indefinite or vacillating; henceforth let them be definite and decided. You are now drifting along with a vague idea that at some time—you hardly know when, and in some way—you hardly know how, you will become a Christian. You have purposed to give your heart to God at a "more convenient season," but the purpose has never ripened into execution. Be not deceived. Salvation and heaven are not won by halting between two opinions. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."