

principle which actuates us in our conduct should never be, "I must do what I think right;" but "I ought to obey God." (Acts v. 29.)

The Apostle then says, "pray for us; for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly," (ver. 18.) *It is always the snare of those who are occupied with things of God continually not to have a "good conscience."* No person is so liable to a fall, as one who is continually administering the truth of God, *if he be not careful to maintain a "good conscience."* The continually talking about truth, and the being occupied with other people, has a tendency to harden the conscience. The Apostle does not say "pray for us, for we are labouring hard," and the like, but that which gives him confidence in asking their prayers is, that he has a "good conscience." Where there is not diligence in seeking to maintain a "good conscience" Satan comes in and destroys confidence between the soul and God, or we get into false confidence. Where there is the sense of the presence of God, there is the spirit of lowly obedience. The moment that a person is very active in service, or has much knowledge and is put forward in any way in the Church, there is the danger of not having a "good conscience."

It is blessed to see the way in which in verses 20 and 21 the Apostle returns after all his exercise and trial of spirit, to the thought of God's being the "God of peace." He was taken from them, and was in bondage and trial himself; he enters more-