

*the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own Blood?"* If so, has it not occurred to you that the elders, or rulers of a church, are under fearful responsibilities to feed, as well as to rule properly, the Church of God? But if they are compelled to feed and rule, are the members to be held by no obligation but that of their own good pleasure to attend and co-operate in their measures? The idea is preposterous. Again, in almost pointed allusion to such meetings as our Class-meetings, St. Paul exhorts:—" *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" I repeat that the apostle may be supposed to point to assemblies of the Primitive Church, exactly similar to our Class-meetings—for surely they are times in which, in the best sense, we "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works," then, therefore, the inference is unavoidable, that to absent ourselves from such means, enforced as they are by the rules of the church for objects of salvation, and abundantly proved to be eminently conducive to that end, is to sin, and by a wilful perseverance therein to render ourselves obnoxious to expulsion; nor would the rulers of a church be guiltless in winking at such an offence. Indeed, the words immediately following the Scripture cited, show that the Apostle viewed the conduct of such absentees in a strong light, for he adds "*if we sin wilfully,*" as though he meant that such conduct was a cowardly