

Jesus," an earnest "following on to know the Lord," forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forth to those before, not counting ourselves to be already perfect—no, very far from that—conscious more and more every day of our imperfections and shortcomings and sinfulness; but, having once "put our hand to the plough," pressing on with all the energy of our heart and soul towards the prize of our high calling; not stopping, or doubting, or casting one lingering look behind. Going on thus in the strength of God, our path will be as the "shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Like David, we can say, "With my whole heart have I sought Thee." Who does not know the advantage of having our whole heart in anything we undertake? What makes a man succeed in the world like earnestness and singleness of purpose? And depend upon it, in nothing is whole-heartedness more needed than in the service of God.

But here I must say a word, lest I should make the heart of any sad whom God has not made sad; lest I should discourage any timid, fearful Christian, who is humbly trying to follow his Master, yet fears it is presumption to hope that he may call himself "altogether a Christian." To such a one I would say: Are you conscious that you are trying to follow your Lord? Is it your earnest desire to walk more worthy of Him? Is it your constant prayer that He will hold up your feeble goings in His paths? That He will lead you in His truth, and teach you? Then, surely, you need not be afraid to hope that you are "altogether a Christian."

And now, my friends, let me beg you most earnestly and affectionately to give these few words, feeble and most unworthy though they are, your prayerful consideration. Find out whether you are altogether or only almost a Christian. Halt no longer halfway between Christ and the world. If the Lord be God serve Him with all the powers of your soul; and be sure, very sure, that to be altogether a Christian is the only way of safety and of the truest hap-