

Christ: that, whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel;" As if he had said, "I can have no greater joy than to hear of your devotion to that Gospel which in Christian simplicity I have endeavored to preach among you; of your strict adherence to the truth as it is in Jesus; of your holy and consistent walk; of your love to each other and to your divine head—" I know that this my request will not be denied, that you will strive to walk so as not to bring reproach upon your spiritual instructor,—nay, in such a way that your whole conversation may redound to the glory of God." The same exhortation, beloved brethren, you will permit me, in bringing my ministry among you to a close, to press with earnestness, and with the sincerest affection: Let your doctrine and your life be consistent with the Gospel of Christ: that, whether I come to see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.

I. Let me entreat you to stand fast in *Doctrine*. The importance of this point will clearly