

CIRCULAR LETTER.

TESTIFYING FOR CHRIST.

THE ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE N. S. EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

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Dear Brethren,—

In this our Annual Letter we wish to call your attention to the great duty and privilege that belong to Christian churches, to give *testimony for Christ*.

The sources from which this testimony is to be drawn, are principally twofold, the *Scriptures* and *Christian experience*. The Scriptures supply the great and all-commanding treasury of testimony to Christ. "Search the Scriptures," said the Great Teacher; "for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." "To Him," says the Apostle Peter, "give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." And the Apocalypse declares, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Prophecy is full of Christ.

But the history contained in the New Testament affords testimony of the most reliable, complete and precious character concerning Christ,—His incarnation and mission, His life and death, His resurrection and ascension, His divinity and glory. John the Baptist was sent of God "to bear witness to the light," and he testified that Jesus "is the Son of God, the promised Messiah," "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The Apostles were eye-witnesses of His miracles and majesty; of His humiliation and death; they saw and heard Him, and believed in Him; and conversed with Him repeatedly both *before* and *after* His resurrection. Their opportunities to become acquainted with Him were perfect and almost infinite. They were, therefore, witnesses fully competent to declare to the people all that they had seen and heard in connection with His person and work, His life and doctrine, His death and resurrection.

And they were divinely commissioned to be "witnesses" for Him "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth,"—that salvation is possible through Him alone,—that "His blood cleanseth from all sin,"—that access to God can be had only through Christ's atonement and mediation.