

truth. A spirit of ingenuous tractableness which is pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated is the right attitude of mind toward the Word of God. "When the heart is meekened to obey a truth, the mind is soon opened to conceive of it." The Master saith that if any man is willing to do the will of God, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God. "The meek will He guide in judgment; and the meek will He teach His way." (Ps. xxv. 8, 9). God draws near the contrite, humble, trembling soul. The Savior says: "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Compare Ps. cxlix: 4; Isa. lxi: 1; Matt. v: 5; Gal. v: 23; Eph. iv: 2; 1 Tim. vi: 11; 2 Tim. ii: 25; 1 Pet. iii: 15.)

### III. WHAT THE WORD IS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH. "Save your souls."

The strongest reason why the Word should be meekly received, without cavilling or doubt, as the highest proof of its excellence, is that it is able to save the soul. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth. The Word, the implanting of the Word, the meek reception of the Word, are all means to this great end—the salvation of the soul. "There was in the implanted word, taken in its widest sense, the promise and the potency of salvation. Yet it did not work as by compulsion or by a charm, but required the co-operation of man's will." (Plumtre.)

Faith receives this saving truth, and lodges it in us, as an abiding treasure and power. Faith not only perceives and realizes, but accepts the truth, which, used by the Spirit, regenerates, renews, sanctifies and saves the soul. The truth saves from the darkness of ignorance, the serfdom of sensuality, the thralldom of sin, the burden of guilt, the tyranny of selfishness and the dread of death. It plants in us the seeds of holiness, and promotes their growth. It sanctifies our whole nature, and changes our entire character. In the hands of the Spirit it can subdue the hardest and cleanse the filthiest.

It converts the vilest and fiercest rebels into the most loyal and devoted subjects, changes violent persecutors into valiant apostles, and brings back the wayward wanderer to his father's home. The Word of truth, the engrafted Word—the Gospel of Christ—the Gospel of the blessed God, is now, as it ever has been, able, fully, universally able to save your soul—to save all that believe. The salvation is a real, spiritual deliverance, and the truth, which is the means of this deliverance, must be personally received by our spirits ere we can enjoy the blessings which it brings. A constant daily reception of the truth is indispensable to our spiritual life and growth. "They that live above, or without ordinances, do not live at all spiritually, graciously. Painted fire needs no fuel. The Word, though it be an immortal seed, yet needs constant care and watering." (Manton). Hence the significance and reasonableness of the injunction, "Receive the word with meekness."

1. *Search the Scriptures. Take heed how ye hear.*

2. *Cultivate a gentle, charitable, teachable disposition.*

3. *Secure a present, full, complete salvation, by acquiescence in, submission to, and obedience of, the truth.*

SELECTED OUTLINE. DIVINE LEGISLATION FOR MAN IN A WORLD OF EVIL. James i: 19-21.

I. *Legislation for the ear.* "Swift to hear." Teachableness is the state of mind required. And it includes—

1. Freedom from prejudice.
2. Eagerness to learn.

II. *Legislation for the tongue.* "Slow to speak."

This does not mean—1. Unsocial taciturnity; 2. A drawling utterance. But cautiousness, because of the danger of speaking—1. The wrong thing; 2. At the wrong time.

III. *Legislation for the temper.* "Slow to wrath."

1. Men in the world of evil are in danger of being provoked to wrath.

2. That wrath in no case tends to excellence of character.