

repent, announced the approach of "the kingdom of Heaven," and directed attention to the coming Saviour, he was heard with gladness, and followed by attentive and admiring crowds. The subject of his ministry was new, popular, and pleasing; his manner was striking; and his entire character and life commended the theme of his discourses to the hearts of his countrymen. But it is one thing to admire and follow a pious and powerful ministry of the gospel, and a very different thing to believe that gospel, and feel it to be the power of God unto Salvation. Have you not often rejoiced in the ministrations of a holy and gifted preacher, without rejoicing in the truth, or the Saviour he proclaimed? And what multitudes are there, who will attend and love an able ministry, and will, notwithstanding, perish in unbelief, rejecting the counsel of God against themselves, and losing his grace in their admiration of the instrument by which it was presented before them! But, brethren, the ministers of CHRIST—the most devout and faithful—desire no respect or attention to themselves, but to the grace of God which they have received, and to the gospel which they preach, and to which they urge you to give the most earnest heed, knowing that it is able to save your souls, that you can not escape if you neglect so great salvation, and that when you reject the gospel preached, you reject not man, but God.

The Jews rejoiced in the light of John; and it had been well had they received "the true light,"—the Saviour to whom he bore witness.

But their attendance on his ministry was *temporary*. "Ye were willing, *for a season*, to rejoice in his light." They admired and followed his preaching, until it