

builder will pull it down and build it straight. So God, who is the master builder of Christian character, has his plumb line by which he tests the lives of men. He tested the life of His people Israel, and He found Israel was a crooked wall. His people were guilty of loving idols instead of God. Now God is applying His plummet to-day. He applied the plumb line to Israel by means of the prophet Amos, and to-day by means of the preacher he applies the plumb line. Now friends, let us faithfully cast the line and try ourselves by the plumb line. God wants men and women called by His name to be upright, to be able to stand the test of the plumb line.

*God demands that His people should love Him.* Christ comes to you to-day as he did to Peter, and He says: "Lovest thou me more than these." Here is the plumb line of love: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength, and thy neighbour as thyself." It should not be hard to love Jesus. O, how he loved us, giving his life a ransom for our sins. Well then, says Jesus, "lovest thou me?" Before we answer let us see how the plummet hangs. Jesus says "wherever two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in their midst." Now if we love Jesus will we not be found where He has promised to meet with His people? Friends, are we all faithful in our attendance at the prayer meeting? Again, Christ says by Paul: "Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Here again is a test of love: "Lovest thou me?" says Christ. *Well, if you do you must give up every evil habit.* But here is a brother carrying the canker of drunkenness in his heart. Like Noah of old he becomes drunken and brings shame on the name of Christ, although Christ says no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Here is another brother, Christ says, "lovest thou me?" He answers, yes. But, brother, did not Christ say, let your yea be yea and your nay nay. Why do you use wicked or profane language? Why do you sometimes forget that you are always to talk of whatsoever is pure and lovely and of good report?

But again Christ says: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature;" and again, "Be not weary in well