

not for you, but to you, let me offer it now for the last time. It is that you would turn to God, that you would yield to His waiting, yearning, love, that you would accept of Christ's grace, that you would surrender yourself to the strivings of the Holy Spirit, and then this benediction in all its fullness of blessing will be yours.

And now I must draw to a close. This morning we were "Looking Backward". This evening we turn from the known past to the unknown future. That past with its memories of failure and success, of hope and fear is behind us, and

"We know not what life before us
In the days that are to come
Nor into what varied texture
Our well of life may run."

But there are two things that we know.

(1.) That that future must in the meantime, so far as our relationship is concerned, be pursued under somewhat different circumstances from what it has been in the past. For thirteen years as minister and people we have shared life's changes together. In some poor measure, the minister has been able to realize that the joys and sorrows of this people were his own, and, on the other hand he has been made glad by receiving in so large a measure their confidence and love. In the future this must in some measure be changed. While I trust that the ties, heated oftentimes in the furnace of affliction and welded by strokes that were hard to bear, are such as time, nor chance, nor change, nor even death, can sever; yet another must fill my place, along separate lines must our work be wrought, our trials borne, and our triumphs won.

(2.) This further we know that if God be with us, all will be well. If the Lord be our Shepherd we shall not want. He will lead us through green pastures and by still waters. Though we pass through the valley of the shadow of death, yet will we fear no evil. Goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In view of these two facts I know nothing better that we can wish each other as we turn from our united past to face our separate futures, than to wish that wish, to pray that prayer, which is expressed in full in the words of the text: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you; which is summed up in shorter form in the wish that is sometimes heard, "God be with you"; and which, by long and constant use, has been worn into a still shorter form in that sad, sweet, word, Good-bye.

THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

The profit of Bible study depends very largely upon the spirit with which we pursue it. If we indulge the delusion that we are wiser than the Omniscient, and go to the Bible simply for the purpose of obtaining support for our preconceived opinions, we shall find that of which we are in pursuit, and we shall be likely to find nothing more.

If we should be benefited by our study of the Holy Scriptures, if we would obtain that knowledge of the truth through which we are made wise unto salvation, we must bring to this exercise a humble and docile spirit. We must come feeling our need of the wisdom that is from on high, and we must come believing that the Bible is the very word of God.

If we approach the Bible as critics, assuming that it is a compound of truth and error, and deciding what we will believe and what we will reject, we shall derive from the exercise the benefit that comes of critical study. We shall become more critical. We shall be wiser in our own estimation, though we shall not become better judges of the truth. The benefit derived will be essentially, if not exclusively, intellectual. The intellect may be quickened as it would be by the critical study of Plato or Bacon, but the heart will not be made better. We shall not grow in grace nor in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. God reveals himself in the Scriptures to such as seek him with a contrite, believing, and teachable frame of mind.

This revelation is the work of the Holy Spirit. In the person of the Spirit, God takes of the things of Christ and shows them to the humble student of His word. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and He will show them His covenant." If we come to the Bible in the exercise of filial fear, desiring to know the truth, and with a purpose to yield our hearts and lives to His guidance, we shall not be left to fall into serious error. God will reveal to us all essential truth, and the truth will make us free. We shall obtain favor with the Lord and rejoice in our experience of His mercy. But if we incline to our own understandings we shall be left to the consequence of our folly.—*Presbyterian*.

The chief end of discipline is high personal character. Character is triumph over temptation. The surest conservative of character is service.—*R. D. Hitchcock, D. D.*

The great fact is that life is a service; the only question is, "Whom will we serve?"—*Faber*.