

in season, out of season : reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine.”*

Lastly, let us bear in mind that it is not merely by our lips but by our lives that we are to recommend to our flocks “the glorious Gospel of our blessed God, committed to our trust.”† What, though it be true, that we “speak (any of us), with the tongues of men and of angels,” that we “understand all mysteries and all knowledge,” how shall we succeed in “persuading men” if they do not see by our actions that we value the salvation which we preach, that we are ourselves deeply conscious of the demerit of sin, that we feel the “blessing” of being “turned every one of us from our iniquities,”‡ that we have a living and true faith, that we value, ourselves, the means of grace which we recommend to them? Let us make it then a constant subject of reflection, that one who is not himself “of good behaviour,” who wants “a good report of them that are without,” who “ruleth not well his own house,”§ will always find ready tongues to exclaim, “how shall he take care of the Church of God?”

Indeed, brethren, ours is an awful charge and office, as well as a glorious one : and well may we cry out “who is sufficient for these things?” Yes, *who is sufficient*, or, *who is not sufficient*? The answer to both questions is one, *No man. No man is sufficient in his own strength* for such a work, *any man is sufficient who is led to it, is guided in it by the “unction of the HOLY ONE.”*|| Most undeniably are we not sufficient of ourselves : but, if we are faithful, *sufficiency will be given us of God* : He can, He will “make us able ministers of the New Testament.”¶

Oh, then, brethren in the Ministry of Christ’s Church, let us not fail to seek the strength which is from above, that we may be made sufficient, that we may be called “to do all things through CHRIST strengthening us.”**

* 2 Tim. iv. 2. † 1 Tim. i. 2. ‡ Acts iii. 26. § 1 Tim. iii. 5.
 ¶ 1 John ii. 20. ¶ 2 Cor. iii. 6. ** Phil. iv. 13.