

them to God's service by pointing out to them the unparralleled love of God, who, in mercy to a sinful and rebellious world, spared not His *own* Son, but *gave* Him up to become "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;" to suffer, and bleed, and die upon the accursed cross, a ransom for their sins. You have thus endeavoured to *win* them for heaven, by displaying the wonders of the cross, and the unspeakable love of Him who hung there.

You, perhaps, have visited them in their seasons of affliction, and stood by them when their nearest and dearest friends bade them adieu for ever. You have endeavoured to improve those solemn seasons for their soul's everlasting good. You have called their attention to the concerns of their own souls; you have pressed upon them the uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and the absolute necessity of living *ever* with their loins girt, and their lamps burning, ready, even at a moment's *warning*, for their summons hence.

You have visited them, when laid on the beds of sickness. You have, in all faithfulness and truth, discharged the duties of your holy office towards them. You have spoken honestly, yet kindly, to them of their past lives. You have compared those lives with the requirements of God's Word. You have told them that no sinful action,—no idle, or foolish or wicked word,—no lustful, or malicious or evil thought, which they have allowed to dwell in their minds, and thus to be made their own, is hid from the eyes of Him, who marketh all these things down in the book of His remembrance, and will produce the account of them before men and angels on the great day of judgment, *unless blotted out by the blood of Christ*. You have faithfully pointed out to them that blood; and you have earnestly and affectionately besought them to go and wash out their sins therein: and still you have deeply felt that you have spoken to them to little purpose.

You have *convinced* their *minds*; but you have not