

more faithfully or more severely described the abominations of the heart. His language was cutting and very terrible, but it was the language of strong, sincere and undoubted love, and hence, instead of stirring up feelings of sullenness and malice, it brought the multitude on their bended knees to cry for mercy. While he told them in the plainest words, that they merited Hell, and while, with one hand, he depicted its awful horrors, with the other he pointed to the Lamb of God, and the glories of the City of which He is King. Just in proportion as the servants of Christ are delivered from and rise above that anxiety, which is indeed a part of our nature, about their own interests, and fame and popularity, and what people say and think of their persons and their preaching, and become absorbed in the one great thought, I am sent to save souls from Eternal damnation, and to bring them to Christ and to Heaven, will God be glorified by their labors, will Christ rejoice over them, and will the number converted from sin be multiplied. The presence and the power of Christ will be revealed, in the labour, which is thus prompted by His own spirit of love.

But, lastly, we must notice the consequences of unfaithfulness in the solemn trust committed to every minister of Christ. "Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel." He felt that misery and wretchedness to himself, would be the result of deviating from the spirit and letter of his commission, and to this result there cannot be an exception. In whatever employment a man may be engaged, we do not expect to see him a successful or a happy man, unless he attends diligently and faithfully to the work which he has undertaken. If he either neglects and spends his time in indolence, or is diverted from the pursuit, by other matters foreign to his engagement, it is a matter of certainty, that he must fail, and that poverty and wretchedness and discontentment will be his lot. This is so in all worldly employments, and there is no fact more certainly known. Could it be thought possible that the profession of the sacred ministry would be the only exception? Separated as the servants of Christ are from the rest of men, and excluded from the labors and enterprises which occupy the

minds of others, and avowedly devoted to one great work, to which they must, outwardly at least, confine their attention, it is evident that unless their minds are in harmony with that work, and are satisfied with its terms, and are truly desirous to secure its object, that of all men, they must be the most unhappy and miserable. This is secured by neglect and indolence on the one hand, and on the other by every change or adding to the message which Christ gave them in charge. What was so miserable, as the state of that man, an ambassador of Christ, who would shirk his duties if he could, and goes through the routine of labors without heart, or interest, or pleasure? And what more restless and unhappy and dissatisfied than the condition of him, whose vanity has elated him with the idea, that he can improve on the simple story of the cross, and in order to make that Gospel more attractive, attempts to mingle with it additions and devices of his own wisdom? Having turned his eye from the pillar of cloud, he is astray in the desert, and like the unclean spirit, his days may be spent, wandering in dry places, and from one fancy and belief to another, seeking rest, but finding none. For the soul there is no rest but in Christ, and for belief and doctrine there is no rest or steadfastness, but in the plain and sure utterances of His word. But not only in the very nature of things, is the want of fidelity in the sacred trust, followed by misery and discontentment, from another and a higher and a more terrible source, the woe will descend. The displeasure of God is incurred, and the threatened wrath is sure. The Gospel message is one, which the infinite wisdom and love of God prepared for His fallen and perishing creatures. It was devised in the councils of Eternity. The Three persons of the glorious Godhead were engaged in it. The blood of God's own Son was required. To substitute anything else, or to mingle with it any fancies of man's own, is to treat its glorious author with the most daring contempt. By the simple preaching of the Gospel, God has declared that sinners will be saved. It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Woe to the man that will sit in judgment on that declaration, and give place to the thought, that