

But when it is the method of one who joins to it the assertion of his own perfect strength, then it challenges attention. You read this verse and it sounds almost like the familiar tone of the sneerer at all moral effort; nay that contemptible character often does take its very words and use them for his small and mean purposes of discouraging good efforts. But when you put the personality behind the words, their whole tone changes. What a position it is for a man to take before the world. Speaking to all men He says, "you cannot help other men in their sin because you are such sinners yourselves, I can because I am no sinner but the very Son of the Father." And yet when has that claim ever been falsified. What sin has been shown in that character, what sinner has He ever failed to help who has come to Him for the removal of His sin. How He has steadily removed the beams from afflicted eyes, restored men's moral sight and sent them forth on the joyful path of helpfulness to their fellowmen. The desire to help others is the best impulse of this human nature which we bear. If it burns so strongly in us that it can even be taken for granted as a motive in life, if it never entirely disappears even from the most degraded characters, surely it must be the all controlling passion of Him who sinless stands at the head of the human race. If we desire to remove the hindrances from the sight of others, how he must be eager to go into the recesses of our hearts, replace the love of self by the love of God, drive out the earthly longings and desires and fill us with the aspiration for heavenly things. The love of which we know something must constitute the very existence of that life which gave itself for the salvation of the world.

To day the corporate heart of man is very sensitive and conscious of its sin. We cry aloud over all that remains to be accomplished in the world's moral life. Who is to do it? We try our hand and fail almost as often as we succeed. Is it not because we do not try aright, do not look into our own hearts, and do not depend upon God, do not go deep enough in striking at the root of all sin in the hearts of individual men, and above all in our own lives? As Christians for us there is but one path to moral life and moral work, to reform of ourselves and to reform of others, the knowledge and service of God. The world can find it nowhere but in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Here let us receive it and thence let us carry it to a world, of which we are a part, which lieth in wickedness. Every motive calls us to it. Our