

the Christian is not exempt from its influence. It makes its approaches in so insidious a manner, and comes in such a specious guise, under such alluring names, and with such delusive pretensions and promises, that even the *children of light* are liable to be deceived by it. Should it gain an ascendancy in your hearts, it will mar your comfort, cloud your evidences, lower your spirituality, impede your usefulness, and make work for bitter repentance. Watch against it, therefore, my beloved brethren, I beseech you, with incessant vigilance, and pray against it with a holy importunity, that the power of Christ may rest upon you, and bring your very thoughts into a sweet subjection to his will.

Secondly. *Be careful that you mistake not the way of salvation.* Some of you may have been more correct and moral in your deportment than others, and on that account may deem yourselves in a fair way for heaven. But trust not to your own virtues, which are very imperfect at the best, and very deficient at the utmost. If they spring from any other motive than the love of God, they are not virtues in His sight, whatever they may appear in your's. *If weighed in the balance, they will all be found wanting.* The very best of them will not stand in the judgment, much less atone for the sins you have committed. Your own hearts will condemn you. *By the deeds of the law shall no flesh living be justified;* and if not justified before God, you cannot be saved. The blood of Christ alone will avail you here. It was shed for the guilty, and every one that believeth in him shall receive the benefit of his death,