

There is nothing in man, or by man, or belonging to man, or bearing the superscription and the image of man, either in Paradise or in Sinia, or on Olympus,—in the forum, in the academy, or the Stoa—in the palace, the school, or the hut,—that has in it any redeeming power, any regenerating or life-giving energy whatever. If man will be saved he must take the place, humiliating as it is, of a lost undone soul, saved by grace alone, and by nothing besides. All history is the melancholy record of man's effort, without Christianity, to regenerate himself; and viewed as that record, its every chapter is a descent, its every page a witness to the weakness of man; and sounding along the corridors of ages, the ear of the Christian can hear the moaning and despairing cry, ever rising up from the heart of poor helpless humanity: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."

My friends, the Bible has warned us of the hopelessness of the attempt. "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps;" *à fortiori*, "It is not in man that walketh to save his soul."

The true type of man's effort to save himself, it seems to me, is found in the remarkable biography of Paracelsus. It is stated of him, that he spent or wasted his life in efforts to discover the elixir of immortality, of which, it was supposed, if man were to partake he would live for ever. He made the discovery of alcohol; he thought that in it he had found the long-sought elixir. He resolved to put it to the test; he drank of it copiously, but, instead of living for ever, he perished of the poison he had drunk on his own floor. Such is the type of man's effort to save himself, that is, to live for ever! The most promising discoveries have served merely to embitter his disappointment. He has learned with sorrowful heart that they are not only broken, but poisonous cisterns.

Such and so poor is the religion of man, whose language is, "Look to me." It shall not, brethren, be

ours.
langu
worth

Le
langu
formu
may
In or
he all
etern
happ

Su
Chri
Chur
But
comp
comp
made
the v
a bo
wear

I
save
Coll
conu
salv

A
itself
be
reg
sure
reg
bap
no
for
We
Spi