

evitable consequence, everlasting perdition, and that his efforts had been greatly blessed to bring about these results, he could with all truth speak of his life as a "good fight."

How many are there looking back on life, who can see in it nothing but a long continued struggle to promote their own selfish interests, and the whole result of whose life work has been the accumulation of some of this world's property. They have done nothing for God or man. There has been no service rendered to humanity which they can look back upon with satisfaction. They have reached the end. The shades of night are falling upon the field, and they and their schemes are together swallowed up in the darkness. How much happier they who have contended throughout life for the triumph of righteousness, and whose efforts have contributed to the final victory over the evil forces of the world. The Apostle adds: "I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." And this is a great thing to be able to say at the close of life. Having for a lifetime laboured for humanity in the ministry of the gospel, and having by a consistent and devoted life testified on behalf of the gospel, the servant of God can say with very justifiable satisfaction "I have kept the faith." That is much to be able to say in the present day. But it meant more in the Apostle's day. To keep the faith entrusted to him then, was by no means an easy thing to do, or one unattended with suffering. The strongest answer which we can present to the assaults made upon our faith is a brave true Christian life. And the life which the apostle exhibited to his age was a testimony of the highest kind to the faith which he preached. And no assault made upon it, or upon him because of it, had any effect upon him. He went forward in his daily course of toil, of self-denial, of suffering, with cheerfulness, with courage, with hope, with a confidence in the final victory of his cause which no persecution could shake. He handed it down to those