

*for the great solicitude the Apostles ever evinced for the salvation of men?*

That they were at all times very anxious and burdened with great concern for the salvation of their hearers and those among whom they labored, none can doubt who has paid any attention to their life and conduct. This was the burden of their whole conversation, their labor, their preaching and prayers.

Paul expressed his great anxiety for his brethren, the Jews: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost that I have great heaviness, and continual sorrow in my heart; for I could wish that myself were accursed for my brethren, my kinsmen, according to the flesh."

Not only had the Apostle Paul this concern for others, but he had such concern for himself as made him continually mindful of the pious rules of Christian warfare, for he tells the Corinthians: "I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means when I have preached the Gospel to others, I myself should be a castaway." He was also desirous that all to whom the Gospel was committed should show the same anxiety as himself, and conduct themselves in the same circumspect way to win sinners to Christ. To Timothy, he says: "Take heed to thyself and to thy doctrine, that in so doing thou may both save thyself and them that hear thee." Why all this care, this constant concern, this great anxiety, to save men if all were to be saved?

It is not common,—it is not natural—for men to feel so keenly for the coming of an event they know must come. We cannot for a moment suppose that all men were to be saved and the Apostle not know it. But, on the supposition that he knew that all would be saved, this great concern for their salvation was very unnatural and very unreasonable. Why did he go about "persuading every man," and "warning every man," to avoid a danger he knew did not exist?

The Apostle's conduct is very reasonable and very just, if he believed—as we think he did believe—that he that believeth not is condemned already, and that to every impenitent and unbelieving sinner, "indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil—of the Jew first, and also of