

its use, or the evils consequent upon its neglect. St. Paul urges upon the Romans the needfulness of "continuing instant in prayer." To mark the steadfastness and zeal with which the early converts clave to "the apostles' doctrine and fellowship," and "in the breaking of bread," and "in the prayers," to present in strong coloring the holiness of heart and fixedness of purpose, with which the Apostles, on the appointment of deacons, resolved to "give themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." "Continue in prayer," St. Paul says to the Colossians³ "and," he adds, "watch in the same." Be watchful, be sleeplessly vigilant in the discharge of this duty. "Watch and pray," urges our dear Lord, and how expressive are the words of the Apostle: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." "Praying always," literally at every time, "with all prayer and supplication in the spirit," that is with prayer most fervent and urgent. Under the influence of the Holy Ghost, "and watching thereunto," looking for occasions of prayer, deprive themselves of sleep lest they should let them slip, and not only so, but "with all perseverance," with the most strenuous and unwearyed endeavor "and supplications." Earnest petitions "for all saints," all the redeemed of God, the sacramental host of God's elect. Ponder the particulars here enumerated and grouped together:

1st. Deep earnestness in "all prayer."

2nd. At every time, on all occasions.

3rd. The guidance and promptings of the Holy Ghost.

4th. Sleepless watchfulness.

5th. Persevering effort.

6th. Asking not for ourselves only, but for all who are Christ's.

All prayer, all times, all perseverance, all saints. These are things worthy of our most solemn consideration; they are written for our learning. Call to mind, dear brethren, how this prevailing prayer has been exemplified in the lives of God's saints in every age. Call to mind Moses on Sinai, Elijah on Carmel and Christ in the Garden and on Calvary. Their examples are more than arguments. Teach these lessons to your flocks, brethren of the clergy, and you will find your own souls strengthened and your labors blessed.

And these, says Bishop Beveridge, are plainly the true marks, or notes, of a Christian church, whereby it may be distinguished from all other assemblies or bodies of men, which, consequently, all persons must be steadfast in, and who desire to continue real and sound members of that church which Christ Jesus hath established in the world.

How beautifully and wisely is it ordered in the Burial Service in the Prayer Book that while it honors the dead, it consoles the living! The mourner is awakened from his dream-like apathy of grief, or stilled in his deep agony, by such solemn sentences: Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with Thine ears consider my calling; hold not Thy peace at my tears; for I am a sojourner, as all my fathers were, O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength, before I go hence and be no more seen.