

you; always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy." "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment: that ye may approve things that are excellent: that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ: being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." He had planted the Gospel at Philippi. Many had received with gladness the truth which he preached, abandoning their idols and giving themselves up to the service of the Lord Jesus. They were his spiritual children, over whose conversion he rejoiced, and for whose continuance in well doing he earnestly prayed and laboured. Nor only this; the Philippians had evinced the strongest attachment to his person, both by word and deed, even straitening themselves (for they were poor in this world's goods,) that they might again and again minister to his temporal necessities. No wonder then, that he grieved when called to separate from them, or that when far away he continued to regard them with affectionate solicitude, watching over their spiritual interests, and exhorting them in such words as the text: "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of