

the word of God,"\* that more than two edged which is quick and powerful, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and a discernor of the thoughts of the heart. Thus waging war with sin, let us never forget that even we ourselves have a "war in our members;" whilst fighting against an open enemy, we are always liable to overlook the unseen secret one, and neglecting to "keep under our bodies, and bring them into subjection, we may, after preaching to others, be, any of us, himself a cast-away."†

We are led by this view to two more duties of the Christian Minister, about the discharge of which we do well to examine ourselves, viz., the necessity of our being illuminated with true knowledge and understanding of God's word; and our setting it forth and showing it not only by our preaching but by our living. And these two duties are all that time will allow us to consider at present.

"The Priest's lips (writes the Prophet) should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of Hosts.‡" "Give attendance (writes an Apostle) to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."§ "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Let us remember that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."|| And why? It is added, "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Let us then, being stewards of the mysteries of God, be ever "diligent in the reading of Holy Scriptures, and such studies as help to the knowledge of the same,"¶ that we may be ready also to bring forth out of our double\*\* treasure-house "things new and old."†† "Preach the word: be instant

\* Heb. iv. 12. † 1 Cor. ix. 27. ‡ Mal. ii. 7. § 1 Tim. iv. 13.  
 || 2 Tim. iii. 16, 17. ¶ Ordination Service. \*\* Old and New Testament.  
 †† Matt. 13-52.