

willing mind is accepted by God. He whose example is set before us in the words of my text often met with opposition and hatred for his good will, and every species of opposition, yet could rejoice in the Lord, and even when the thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan, was permitted to buffet him, and he besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from him, so abundantly was the Grace and comfort of God bestowed in answer to his prayer, that "though the thorn in the flesh was not removed," he exclaimed, "most gladly will I glory in my tribulation, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." There is a reward of God's goodness even in this world. It is the Minister's privilege to be the friend of his people, and it is no small comfort to be enabled often to dry the mourner's tears, to allure those committed to his charge to happiness and to God, to tell of the wondrous love of Christ which passeth knowledge, to see members of his flock adorning the Gospel of the Lord and Saviour, to encourage the timid, to strengthen the feeble-minded, to say to the weak, be strong, and at times to have the blessing of those who are ready to perish rest upon him. But the faithful Minister's full reward is reserved for another world; then when the idle, careless, worldly-minded Minister, standing in His presence whose eyes are as a flame of fire, meets those who have perished through his negligence, or been led astray by his example; when the unvisited, unwarned, plead before their Judge, "No man cared for my soul;" when the faithless Minister thus stands before his Judge to render the account of his stewardship, who shall depict his shame or tell of his unutterable agony, as he listens to the mandate of the Omnipotent, "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth?" But on the right hand of the Judge stands the faithful Minister—taught the value of his own soul, he sought the salvation of the souls of his people, conscious of his manifold imperfections, yet knowing that God had promised to save even to the uttermost all who came unto Him through Christ;