

come near he beheld the city and wept over it." In proportion as the servants of Christ are imbued with this spirit, will be the success of their labors and the measure of their communion with Him, and the largeness of their spiritual joys. Of this we need to be continually reminded. When disappointed in our hopes, and when smarting under ingratitude, and when constrained to rebuke hyprocrisy and evil doing, an angry spirit is ready to mingle itself with the feelings, and the result ever is the same. Instead of good, evil is done, and the preacher and hearers are both injured. When speaking, under the influence of real honest affection, severe language may be necessary and may be endured without offence, but if words which tend to wound the feelings, come not mellowed with the breathings of sincere and holy affection, if what is disagreeable in itself, be uttered in a tone harsh and unfeeling, the tendency will be to irritate and harden the heart, more than before. "We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord." Under this influence, the servant of Christ will speak in love. He is himself forgotten. The injuries he may receive, the reproaches he may have endured, and the malice he may perhaps know, is cherished towards him by some, or many of those to whom he speaks, are lost sight of. It is indeed a matter but of small moment what esteem is entertained for the servant, if the Master is honoured and souls gathered to His fold.

Whenever the minister of Christ thinks of his own grievances and allows these thoughts to influence his feelings and his language, when addressing his people, he is then away from the spirit and the object of his commission. He is preaching something else, and not the Gospel, Himself and not Christ. When the mind is allowed to dwell on the personal annoyances, which we may have had, bitter feelings will unconsciously rush in, and what is uttered under the influence of these feelings, can only produce what is similar to itself. "Preach the Gospel to every creature." This is the commission we hold. To every creature. There is no exception in the case of those who may have injured and cherished towards us the most embittered malice. The treasures of the Gospel must be spread

out before our bitterest enemies, and the invitations of our Master earnestly urged on their acceptance. Personal and private grievances are excluded from the pulpit. All these may well be left in the hands of our Master. His word is pledged that He will not allow His servants to suffer. He will remove every obstacle. He will defend their character, and put to silence and shame every lying tongue. What can be more painful to witness, than a man clothed in the garb of Heaven's ambassador, sent forth to stand between the living and the dead, with the eye of God looking on, and a dying world perishing in his very presence, occupying any portion of the precious pulpit hour, in referring to any little annoyance he may have received. That unhappy man is laboring for himself, and not for Christ, and his reward will be according to his works. Sad, indeed, is the condition of that community, which is subject to pulpit ministrations, that partly consist of tirades against individuals, or other sects and denominations, who may have given the preacher some real or imaginary trouble, and fearful will be the result, if people are satisfied with these wild and poisonous grapes. Their souls are starved and they know it not. Their eyes are busy with the sins and doings of others, and thus their own danger is unfelt and neglected. To avoid this, and be enabled to keep our minds composed, amidst every collision of strife and feeling, the prayer of the disciples must become earnestly ours, "Lord, increase our faith." Clearer views of our glorious work, clearer views of the priceless value of the undying soul and our risen Master's Sovereignty and sure promises, will animate and strengthen and sustain our zeal and love, and render small and unworthy of notice, the petty squabbings and annoyances of the world. Here, we find the secret of the amazing success and the real popularity of some of the servants of Christ, not in other respects more highly endowed than many of their brethren. Their hearts and their preaching were baptized in the love of Christ, and that love can reach deeper into the heart, and grasp a firmer hold, than any other influence can do. This accounts for the wonders of Whitefield's success. None were less inclined to flatter. None