

WHY WE PERSUADE MEN.

II. CORINTHIANS V., 11 v.

“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

It is written of those who have repented of sin and put their trust in Christ, that there is for them now no condemnation. They are safe. This implies, of course, that those who do not repent and trust in Him, are liable to condemnation. There are a great number of you who trust in Christ. It was not so with you once. I rejoice with you in the joy and blessedness that are now and forever yours. But there are others of you of whom this is not true. You know well enough that you have not trusted in Christ. I am concerned on your account; so much so that it is laid on my heart to direct to you all, or nearly all, my words, based on what Paul wrote, in hope that it may lead you to “ponder the path of your feet,” so that, on your progress towards eternity, all your “ways may be established.” As sensible persons who desire to know the truth, and are not afraid to look at it, I beg of you attend to what I say, and then come to just what conclusion your calm judgment may dictate.

The Apostle Paul felt sure that it was possible for those who heard the Gospel from his lips to perish,—to go down to perdition, and there experience the most unutterable woes; and because he felt sure of this, he became very earnest in trying to induce them to do something to ward off so great a calamity. As ambassador for Christ, he besought them to become reconciled to God. Need I remind you, that it is quite as possible for you—each of you—to perish? It is. Whatever may be your present thoughts, your present comforts and prospects of earthly good, it is within the range of possibility that, when you die, you should go to a place where anguish of spirit and of body will be your portion. Probably this statement of what may be chafes your soul, and awakens your incredulity. Nevertheless, however disagreeable the thought and repulsive the anticipation—