

Lord leads us to make a right estimate, in those striking questions: "What shall it profit," &c. &c.

Our work, brethren, is *chiefly* with the never-dying soul. We are sent to testify to men "the Gospel of the grace of God:" to rescue guilty and depraved beings from the depths of perdition, and to conduct them to the throne of God, and the society of the blessed in heaven. Our mission is to transform them (God being our almighty helper) from the slaves of Satan, (led captive by him at his will) to the glorious liberty of the sons of God. This, brethren, is a most difficult and important work; and its importance is bounded by no space and no time. One immortal being, snatched from endless misery and made an heir of glory, will, in God's hands, be made an instrument of calling others to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus; and of building up many saints in His most holy faith. These, in their turn, will be made instrumental in blessing those with whom they are associated: and those, again, will prove blessings to others, until the circle of their influence widening into distant countries, and extending into future ages, the day of judgment will show thousands, if not millions, of the human race rising up and calling some faithful ambassador for God blessed—seeing they can all trace back to him the inestimable blessing they enjoy, of standing on the right hand of the Great Judge of all.

Thus, my brethren, may you confidently hope that the effects of your humble labours will be felt and acknowledged before on assembled universe, when all earthly greatness shall be past and forgotten!

We are shepherds of God's flock committed to our care. "The good Shepherd" was so common a figure that the prophet Jeremiah expresses God's care for his people by it. He speaks of him as "feeding them, as a shepherd"; as "carrying the lambs in his bosom, and gently leading the ewes that were with young." Our blessed Lord also styles himself "the