

SERMON V.

SERVICE AND REWARD.

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."—*Matt., Chap. 25th, 21st vers.*

IT is the supreme desire of every true Christian to please Christ. No good man will be heedless of the judgment of the world or the Church. To be approved of by our brethren, and better still by our own conscience, is no small pleasure; but there are moments when every good man feels it is a small thing to be judged of man's judgment,—a judgment which, however approving, may be reversed by the Great Judge; a judgment which, however condemning, may not be sustained by the Great Judge. Any human judgment may be easily modified or revoked by Him who judgeth righteous judgment; therefore every true believer cares for Christ's approval and acceptance as he cares for nothing else. Paul's language is the motto text of every true life: "We labor, therefore, that whether present or absent we may be accepted of *Him*." On this the eye is fixed in the prosecution of every toil and the selection of every course; and animated by such a regard for Christ's approval we shall have but one desire to *be and do right*, that we may be righteous in the estimate of the

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