

light shine where the blackness of wickedness had obscured every thing in gloom.

Was it not a very great honour conferred upon him to be chosen a soldier of the cross?—to be commissioned by heaven to fill one of the most holy and responsible offices with which man has ever been entrusted?—to reprove the world of sin and iniquity, and proclaim salvation through the only Son of God? What was he or his father's house that he should be brought hitherto,—that he should be advanced so far,—that his mouth should be opened to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ?—At one time a self-righteous Pharisee, a despiser of that Gospel which he has now so warmly embraced, a cruel and bigoted persecutor of the followers of Jesus—who thought that by driving them to prison he was doing God a service:—but by the grace of God he had passed from spiritual darkness and death to light and life, and become what we now find him to be—a firm believer of the truth,—an energetic Apostle,—a teacher of justification by faith in Jesus.

The gallant little band to which he belonged had, a little before this, been deprived of the bodily presence of their Lord and Master,—but His Spirit was still with them, and made them act as they did in His service. They had been repeatedly told by Him, while He was with them in person, that theirs was to be no easy task to perform,—that while they scattered the seed of divine truth, in preaching the gospel, their path would be strewn with difficulties and dangers,—that the doctrines which they were to avow and maintain, and their peculiar walk in life, would bring contempt and persecution upon them,—but they were warned not to lose heart, for greater was He that was to be with them than all that could come against them,—and they were encouraged to persevere in His service, from the assurance that victory was to be theirs at last. The prospect of heavenly happiness lay before them, of which they were to be partakers,—a kingdom incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, was to be their sure portion, if they should remain faithful to Him who had purchased it for them with His blood. But even in this world, over all the opposition which should be brought against it, their cause was to prosper and triumph,—the divine torch which they carried with them was one day to enlighten and enliven the whole world,—error and ignorance were to give place to rectitude and knowledge,—immorality and vice, to holiness and righteousness,—and Antichrist to Christ. The strong man of sin was destined to be crushed and ruined,—his house to be broken down and demolished, through the instrumentality of that Gospel which they were to preach and uphold, at all risks and hazards. The account of their labours so faithfully described on the sacred page testifies abundantly to the earnestness and zeal with which they fulfilled their mis-

sion,—and the history of the Christian Church also bears evidence of the nature of the heaven which they infused into it.

Though not one of those who had their teaching directly from the lips of Jesus, our Apostle was contemporary with them,—and after his conversion, devoted his whole energy and strength—his whole time and talents, in furthering that cause which he then so firmly believed to be the truth,—to spend and be spent in the service of Jesus was his highest ambition and boast. What a noble example we have in him to all who call themselves by the name of Christ,—but more especially to those whose immediate duty it is to proclaim the Gospel to their fellow-men,—to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin through the Saviour! Into their hands is put that divine light which is to shed its cheering beams to the most remote corners of the earth,—to them is entrusted by God the feeding and guiding of His flock in this world,—to them the unfolding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

To speak peace to the troubled soul,—to strengthen the feeble hands and raise up the drooping head,—to reprove sin and encourage holiness, is no easy work,—and much steadfastness and resolution—much self-denial, and assistance both from God and man, are absolutely required by all those to whom is entrusted the breaking of the bread of life,—the heralds of the Gospel of peace,—the pastors of the Church of God in this world.

May we all be found worthy in our peculiar calling,—being zealous for the glory of God, and for the welfare of His Church on earth,—esteeming ourselves highly for the work's sake, and blessing Him who hath called us hitherto,—and may He aid us and prosper us in every good word and work.

In discoursing further on the words of the text, I shall consider, 1st., the expression "Our Gospel"—"the glorious Gospel of Christ,"—and in doing so will point out some of the advantages it brings with it to the believer. 2ndly. I shall show the nature and danger of unbelief,—and I shall conclude with a short improvement.

First.—Let us consider the expression, "Our Gospel"—"the glorious Gospel of Christ." These words contain the meaning, and embody the substance of the highest wisdom and knowledge,—they enclose within their fold all that is needed to ensure happiness here and hereafter,—they are the key which unlocks the door to that which is truly great and glorious,—they contain the germs of the kingdom of heaven. Without them the world would be full of spiritual darkness,—from them all the spiritual light which is in it has emanated,—without them the whole human family would have been in indescribable misery,—without hope, and in despair. Of all the information conveyed to fallen man, the news proclaimed by the Gospel of Christ is the best,—of all the benefits con-