

CHRISTIAN DILIGENCE

Association of the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia.

BY REV. J. L. DOWLE.

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope as we do.

The two last years have been noted for a general ingathering into the churches of this Association.

Churches and individuals so frequently lapse into spiritual coldness and inactivity that we are apt to consider it unavoidable and to allow ourselves, and others, to drift into the ordinary channel without resistance.

The inspired writer in the preceding verses insisted that there ought to be growth in the Christian life.

Diligence implies more than activity. It is instructed, devoted, painstaking effort.

From the context we learn that the diligence here spoken of embraces the cultivation of the heart, as well as outward activity.

The apostle in this passage seems to emphasize the idea that every one should show this diligence.

In such gatherings as this many of our older brethren recall the memory of those who did not live in this manner.

Let us remember, that we do not become examples for others.

We, too, may soon be called to lie upon a dying bed, and well for us, if pointing to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

As creeping ivy clings to wood or stone, and hides the ruin that it feeds upon.

As the rain that it feeds upon, and its sophistry cleaves close to and protects its rotten trunk, concealing its defects.

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