

ample (Rev. Ver.). Compare John 13 : 15. *How that so labouring.* The Greek word denotes "wearying toil." *The weak*; the poor and needy as well as the weak in faith. *The words.* These words are not recorded in the gospels. (See John 21 : 25.) *It is more blessed.* The secret of happiness is in helping others, Matt. 20 : 28. Paul himself had practiced this precept by giving his services freely.

III. A Sorrowful Parting.

Vs. 36-38. *Kneeled down, etc.*; perhaps on the shore near the harbor as in ch. 21 : 5. *They wept sore*; showing how dearly they loved the man who had so tenderly cared for them. *Kissed him.* The Greek word means to kiss repeatedly and tenderly. *Should see his face no more*; Paul did not intend to revisit Ephesus. It was to be a last farewell.

APPLICATION

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Take heed unto yourselves, v. 28. We cannot be wise and skilful leaders in the conflict with evil, unless we have trained ourselves to foil the tactics and resist the assaults of the tempter on the battle ground of our own hearts. The measure of our influence over others depends upon the keeping up the strength of our own spiritual life by personal devotion and private prayer. It is those who go from the secret place of God's love, who lift their fellows into holier places.

And to all the flock, v. 28. The law of Christ's kingdom is the law of service. We never feel the claim of this law so strongly as when we have entered into the fellowship of the Saviour. We learn from Him, that the church is one flock and that each member has a claim upon our sympathy and helpfulness. He teaches us that our outlook should be wide, embracing all the world. "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold : them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice ; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd," John 10 : 16.

The church of God, v. 28. We should love the church and count it one of the greatest honors of our life that we belong to it. We have been called into its fold in order that we may improve and strengthen it. Children by baptism are already members of the church, and should be taught to understand the privilege of such membership, so that, when they come to years of discretion, they may outwardly confess their faith in Christ and actively share in the blessings of the church.

Which he hath purchased with his own blood, v. 28. The great cost at which God has redeemed the church is the guarantee that He will not allow any power to destroy it and that

He will at last deliver it from everything that is evil. Even "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," Matt. 16 : 18.

Speaking perverse things, v. 30. Sometimes a great railway disaster, involving the loss of much property and many lives, has been due to the blundering of some man in showing wrong signals. The responsibilities of Christians are great, and if they are giving wrong impressions about Christ the blame that rests upon them is heavy.

I commend you to God, v. 32. There are men to whom we would trust anything, our money, our life, our reputation. If men are in so many cases worthy of the utmost trust and confidence, how much more ready we should be to rely upon the promises of God, whose faithfulness has never failed !

Which is able to build you up, v. 32. By the influence of His Spirit, by the teachings of His word and by all the experiences, joyful or sorrowful of their lives, God, the great Architect, is building up the characters of His people into a beautiful and stately structure. He knows just what is required to bring every grace of character and every capacity of service to its full perfection. We have but to yield our lives to Him, and they will grow daily in strength and beauty.

To give you an inheritance, v. 32. How different is the heavenly inheritance from those of earth ! In the case of earthly inheritances, the share of each heir decreases as their number increases. But each of those who share in the heavenly inheritance finds his riches of joy increasing as others claim their portion.

I have coveted, v. 33. The spirit of love leads us to rejoice in the happiness and prosperity of others, as heartily as if they were