

teaching them and building them up in the knowledge of the gospel. The Epistles fully illustrate this thought. His care for their ministry led him, under the Spirit, to train Timothy and Titus for the work. In these writings he covers the whole ground of Christian service.

But *again, his life reveals* the divine hope by which he was constantly sustained and comforted. We hear him say, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown." "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection from the dead." "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." At another time he exhorts us to be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ." In the vision held before his admiring gaze by the Saviour's own hand, we can almost see the prisoner, still held by his chain, in the joy of liberty reaching with outstretched hands for the crown; so strong was the *hope* by which his life had been sped forward, from the time he first heard the voice of his risen Lord to this moment of departure to be with Him.

II.—Consider now the *hope* Paul cherished.

It was *personal*, not *vague and general*. Not a hope that sometime he would be raised up from the grave, and that meantime heaven would be all he desired. He had distinctly before his mind and his heart the *crown* of righteousness held out by the righteous judge, before whose judgment seat he, with all saints who have loved His appearing, shall appear to receive their rewards. With true humility he also says, "for me." He believed his Lord. This definite object incited his course, and so operated upon his human nature, that he was the most devoted and consecrated man of history. With what vividness this object held his gaze! Looking for no emoluments of earth, no fame of learning, or wealth, or position, but looking into the face of his risen Lord, the King of glory, he ever ran the race, pressing