

truthful, and we feel assured that they are, ought not the friends of humanity to be on the alert, *striving together for the faith of the Gospel?*

If we turn our eyes to the word of God it speaks to us in plain and positive language, it lays upon us its holy commandments, leaving no hope of salvation, for ourselves or others, but in obedience to the Divine Will, by the full and faithful presentation of the Gospel to our fellow men.

Faithfulness to God, in this respect, involves the necessity of a clear understanding of the plan of salvation laid down in the Bible. It is useless for us to attempt to teach others until we have been taught ourselves, therefore a careful and prayerful study of God's word is the indispensable duty of all who would be lights in the world, to aid their fellow men in finding the way to happiness. From this divine armory Paul selected weapons of his warfare, which he found to be mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. It was Martin Luther's skill in the use of the sword of the Spirit that gave him such power against Popery, and success in serving the cause of truth. Let us therefore, brethren, seek to have the words of Bible-truth deeply graven on the tablets of our memory, that when or wherever called upon to act in its defence, we may be found ready to go forth with bow in hand and our arrows hanging at the girdle of truth.

It is also important, in laboring for the advancement of truth, that we should have our minds deeply impressed with a sense of its value. It is the only thing upon which the soul of man can lean for support in its longing for immortality.

"E'en here, we taste the bliss
Of an eternal home."

Nor is this all. When we contemplate the change wrought in the moral condition of mankind wherever the gospel has been heartily received and obeyed, we are astonished that it should have one enemy in the civilized world. The wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad by it, and the desert to bud and blossom as the rose. Its attendants praise it; it makes the poor man rich, its faith pouring in a flood of light upon the midnight darkness of the human understanding, chasing away the night of ignorance and superstition, and elevating man to the worship of the living God. What shall we say, brethren, of the men who, if they had the power, would banish this Gospel from the earth: That they are the friends of their fellow men? We dare not, for they stand opposed to the foundation of all true happiness. Nor do we think those less censurable who give to the world a mutilated Gospel cumbered with the inventions of men. The early Church was composed of baptized believers. Against all others the doors of the Church were carefully guarded.

When the Eunuch asked for baptism, Philip demanded faith of him as a pre-requisite. Nor can it be shown that the New Testament admits of any departure from this example. From whence

FAITH.

CENTRAL BAPTIST
CHURCHES OF WHICH IT

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