

ing and dealings of a minister, who is faithful to his Master in the discharges of his duties, and faithful to the souls of his people, will offend men's corrupt natures, wound their pride of heart and prick their guilty consciences; and you have much need to guard yourselves lest it be God's truth which grieves you, or lest it be the reproof of your sins or the restraining of your lusts and covetous desires,—or the inculcating of irksome and unpleasant duties, which offends you,—lest the faithfulness of your minister, that on account of which he will receive the commendation of Lord in the great day, shall rise against you and condemn you.

Many, my friends, would be pleased to have smooth things spoken to them, and worldly ministers have a great temptation to do so, in seeking their own praise among men, rather than the approbation of their Master, and the saving of souls, and thus lead many—saying to themselves, “peace, peace,” blindly to their ruin. What a privilege it is then to have a minister who will know nothing among his people but Christ and Him crucified—glorying only in the cross of Christ,—who will neither suppress nor add to the Word by one iota to please men,—one whose desire and prayer for his people is, that they may be saved, and that he may be an instrument in their conversion and salvation, to the glory of his Master,—who will not come to them with a message he has not received from Christ, and who fears not man in declaring the whole counsel of God! To the care of such you may fearlessly commit your souls' interests, assured that they will watch for them as those who must give an account,—and while, in all matters of doubt or of difficulty, you will appeal to the Word and to the testimony, you may, nevertheless, confide in such as faithful advisers, reliable guides, and worthy examples.

It is an awful thought that, to those who stumble and are offended at the Word, it will be a savor of death unto death,—to those alone who humbly receive and obey it, will it be a savor of life unto life. Think, my friends, how