

(1.) *Conscience says so.* There is a very great deal of selfishness in the world. Yet, even the most selfish man condemns selfishness in others, when he suffers thereby. The Bible speaks only in harmony with conscience when it says, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth," that is, merely his own, but also another's welfare (1 Cor. x. 24). "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. ii. 4). Now, if it be the duty of professing Christians to seek the good of their fellow-beings in things pertaining to this life, still more is it to seek the eternal welfare of those who are yet in their sins. (2.) *Christ commands them to do so.* He bids them work for Him. But, if seeking to increase the number of His army be not working for Him, what is? (3.) *They are blessed who do so.* They are so in this life. He who watereth others, is himself watered. They shall be so specially in the life to come. Glory unspeakable shall be theirs. They who turn many to righteousness, shall shine as the stars for ever and ever. Joy unspeakable shall be theirs. Sweet shall be their fellowship with their spiritual children. The Apostle Paul expresses in one passage, both of the ideas just stated. Writing to the Thessalonians he says, "For what is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy," (1 Thess. ii. 19, 20). Many were converted through the instrumentality of Peter, for example about three thousand on the day of Pentecost. But his less famous brother Andrew who brought him to Jesus, shall, therefore be a sharer in his glory and joy.

Some professing Christians are angry when they are asked to labour for the salvation of others. They are, therefore, in reality, angry at being asked to do what is for their own good. Such may be termed "mere bread-and-wine Christians." As the late Dr. Burns, of Toronto, used to say, they think that all they have to do is just to eat a little bread and drink a little wine on certain occasions in the church, and conduct themselves with outward propriety. As passengers who have paid their fare, leave in ordinary circumstances the management of the ship to the captain and sailors, and enjoy themselves as they think proper, never, for a moment, intending to help, so it is with those referred to. They leave it to the minister and the spiritual office-bearers, to labour for the conversion of sinners. Such are Christians only in name. If the sun could speak, it would say if asked why it sheds abroad light and heat, "They are in me, and I cannot but do so." If a tree could speak, it would say if asked why it brings forth leaves and fruit, "I do so because