

some said another: but we are to "*try the spirits whether they are of God.*" And St. Paul says,

"**PROVE ALL THINGS.**" Do not be content with any religion that comes to hand, but examine it, and see if it be right—according to Scripture. Some folk boast about not changing their religion, and that—however they may live—reckon they will not have to seek their religion at last. Alas, for them! They are called Christians on no better ground than Turks are called Mahomedans,—merely because their fathers and their grandfathers were called so. When I first became religious, I thought I would join the *best* people and be right, if possible. I knew what the Church was; so that I did not need to try it. I went to a Catholic chapel, as the Catholics say they are the *oldest* Christians in the world, and make great pretensions to be the true Church. But I did not understand their Latin prayers and monkish ceremonies, and found I could get no good to my soul there. I then went to a Quaker Meeting; but there was never a word spoken; and I wanted to know how I might love and serve God. After that, I went to the Baptists, and the Calvinists; but the Methodists suited me best. Still I am not slavishly bound to any party; and if I could find a *gainer*, a better, or a cheaper way of getting to heaven, I would willingly go that way. —"*Hold fast that which is good.*" Having found religion, don't be so ready to part with it. Hold it fast. The world, the flesh, and the devil, will strive to get it from you; but be determined sooner to part with your life, than make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience.

"**ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL.**" This is a capital direction. How many people get wrong through self-conceit, and proud confidence! "O," say they, "there is no harm in such a thing, and such a thing; it is not clearly forbidden in Scripture." They are not sure whether it is right or wrong; so they will even make the venture, although the Scripture says, "*He that doubteth is damned*"—that is, condemned in