

thyself for me. I had sacrificed myself to my lusts and sold myself for vanity. My body, Lord, is thine—a living sacrifice offered by my soul to thee. O sanctify it wholly !] “ And be not conformed to this world ; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” [From the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eye, and the pride of this life, which are of this world—O my Father and my God, deliver me ! And let my mind, O Saviour ! reflect thy moral image as thou didst reflect on me the brightness of thy Father’s glorious image.]

[*Here is a hiatus of six verses.*]

v. 9. “ Let love be without dissimulation ; abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good.” [O Lord ! thy love to mankind was without dissimulation ! so let my love to the saints and my good will to mankind ever be !] “ Be kindly affectioned one to another, in honor preferring one another.” [May my affection for the saints be as tender and as kind as was that of thy servant Paul, who endured all things for their sakes ; and always may I rejoice to see them honored, and to honor them without one envious thought. Lord, thou knowest my natural pride and forwardness ; may I regard myself as nothing, that thou mayest be all.] “ Not slothful in business.” [May I rise betimes and redeem time, that I may by industry in my family, provide for my household, and have something to give to him that needs ; and while I do so may I be fervent in serving the Lord !] “ Rejoicing in hope” [of being delivered from the bondage of corruption and the evils of this life ; may I “ be patient in tribulation,” and “ continue instant in prayer.”] “ Distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality.” [O Lord, may thy poor saints share my bounty, and may I be often honored with showing hospitality to thy people. May they who know me regard my house as thine, and ever feel themselves at home under my roof. Lord bless the labor of my hands and prosper the industry of my family, that I may have it in my power to be more like thee, who went about on earth doing good !]

“ Bless them which persecute you ; bless, and curse not.” [Heavenly Father, forgive all my enemies, if enemies I have, and reconcile them to thyself for Jesus’ sake !] “ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” [O Lord ! may I be more full of thy divine sympathy !] “ Be of the same mind one to another. Mind not high things ; condescend to men of low estate.” [Deliver me, O my God ! from the spirit of this world ! May I choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the company of those called great and noble here. May I never be ashamed of the poorest of thy poor, but esteem them as rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom !]

“ Be not wise in your own conceits.” [Lord save me from conceit ! May I have a due regard to the attainments of others, and respect the gifts of wisdom and knowledge which thou hast vouchsafed them. To “ no man let me recompense evil.”] “ Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” May I not only be honest in fact, in eating, drinking, and wearing my own labors, (and when I give may it be my