

in the spirit, possessed by the spirit, does the second, completes the work of redemption, and points the way to glory.

That is the point Paul has now reached in this wonderful exhibition of the Gospel, as he had received, believed and lived it. To that height he would fain lift all his readers. Higher than the eighth chapter of Romans, higher than no condemnation and no separation from the love of God in Christ Jesus it is not possible to get in this mortal life. The apostle seems to be gloriously beside himself, yet his logic does not desert him; he is clear, and severe, and precise in his thinking as ever. Once he was caught up into the third heavens and saw things unspeakable. He is on the point of going up again. He is on earth, but his vision sweeps the horizon of heaven. He sees the unfolding kingdom rise range upon range in widening circles. He sees God's salvation in the fulness of its grandeur, salvation not for a Jewish fragment of humanity, but for all the world, and for all times. He sees the purpose of God victorious over all enemies, and in the rapture of that view he breaks out into a defiance of sin, and fear, and all the conjured powers of the universe, and chants the grandest song that was ever sung for the Church of Christ on this earth, the immortal Hymn of Redeeming Love.

III.—CONSECRATION OF THE LIFE.

From this superb height a new perspective appears. He rests, reviews, and takes it in; then rises to reach his ultimate purpose. All the advantage his arguments have given him he must now turn to practical eternal account. Justification by faith has opened the way to sanctification through the Spirit; both should bear fruit in consecrated lives. The heavens bend to earth, will earth respond and rise to heaven? From the argumentative Paul changes to the admonitory. By the mercies of God he entreats his reader to present himself a living sacrifice. Through all his reasonings he has never lost sight of this, the goal for which he set out, that he might win other benighted souls into God's way of peace. That gave cogency to his arguments, and persuasiveness to his speech, and kept them solidly in line till now he should be able to press them successfully home.

As an advocate addressing judge and jury, he has argued out his case frankly, logically, conclusively. Now he ceases to argue. He