

fall away why not another? If any fall away and are lost, it must either be their own fault or the fault of God. If it is the last, it must either be want of power or want of will to save them, or want of attention to their case. It cannot be want of power, for he is God Almighty. It cannot be want of will, for he loves them with an everlasting love. Nor can it be want of attention to their case, for his eyes are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.—If it is said it is their own fault, then the assertion is directly contrary to the declaration of God's word, John, x. 28, 29.

8. There is an astonishing contrast between the value of the people of God and his enemies. The former are the wheat and the latter are the chaff. The Saints are the peculiar property of God purchased by the precious blood of Christ. They are accounted his peculiar treasure and his jewels. They are here compared to wheat which you know is far more valuable than chaff. The contrast will appear very striking if you consider that the Saints are the friends of God, and the others are his enemies. The former are brought nigh by the blood of Christ, but the latter are far from him. The first are united unto Jesus Christ, and have part in all the blessings of his purchase; but the last have neither part nor lot in this matter. The former are renewed in the spirit of their mind, and walk in new obedience; but the latter are under the reigning power of sin, they are under the curse of the law, and walk after the flesh. The Saints are lovers of God, and earnestly desire conformity to his image; but sinners are haters of God, hateful and hating one another, and are open violaters of every precept of the divine law. The former are men who live by faith on the Son of God, and have obeyed the great Commandments in believing in him; but the latter have not believed in him, neither have they known him. If this is the case, we ought to give all diligence to believe in him lest at his coming we be found empty and worthless as chaff.

9. There will be a complete separation between the righteous and the wicked at last. "He will gather the wheat into his garner."—The chaff grows with the wheat and is gathered with it to the floor, and it lies among the wheat while it is in the floor; but when the time of winnowing comes, the chaff is blown away, and the wheat is preserved. So is the visible church, there are many hypocrites and much chaff. Many hollow hearted professors cleave to the church of God. But there is a line of complete separation. Sometimes the Lord throws away many useless and unprofitable professors by his judgments upon them even in the present life. But the floor will not be completely purged until the period arrive in which he will give commandment to his angels to gather his people from the four winds of heaven and to separate the good from the bad. Then he that is holy, will be holy still; and he that is filthy, will be filthy still.

Here is ground of comfort for the people of God. Do your enemies now oppress you and fight against you daily? The time is approaching when you will see them no more for ever. But let the sinner tremble—let fearfulness surprise the hypocrite in heart, for his confidence will then totally fail. How shall your heart be strong, when you are dragged away, and filled with anguish and pain, and cast into everlasting burnings? For, as sure as the granary is prepared for the wheat, the fire is prepared for and will consume the chaff.