

on our countenances except "Christ he found in us the hope of glory." Modern remedies of human culture are but quack nostrums, and the refined gospel of "sweetness and light" will never make men holy or shed on the face of the dying pilgrim bright rays from the portals of glory. It is the old Gospel which is the only Gospel; and so long as men come into the world full of sin and prone to wrong, no other power can meet their need and save them from woe.

This transforming power of the Gospel in changing character, and writing this change on the features of the human face often comes under observation. See that criminal in prison! On his hardened face we see in every line the dark record of vice and crime. When a young man his face was fair, and his future was full of hope. A career of vice and crime had not only brought him to ruin, but had stamped its dark record on the very lines of his face, and made it almost the face of a demon. Again, see in that aged grandmother, whose life has been full of burden and care: On her aged countenance time has left her well known marks, but they are marks of beauty. When young that face was not one called beautiful, but grace wrought in that heart, and the hope of the Gospel cheered her on her way through cloud and sunshine. But now she is near life's sunset, and the holiness of her character has inscribed itself on her calm peaceful face. Its very lines are lines of beauty, and even its wrinkles are lineaments of glory. The face of such an one in the hour of death is seen to be like the face of an angel. Oh! the power of the Gospel to purify, and make us meet for glory.

*The Gospel is the source of true courage and manliness* Consider for a moment the courage and bravery of Stephen. See him contending with false Jewish sects, and vindicating the Gospel with a fidelity and power which were irresistible! See him in the Council at the mercy of his persecutors, with false witnesses brought against him, and with the awful crime of blasphemy laid to his charge, and yet he flinches not nor falters! See him making his defence before the Council and notice the self-possession and courage of this noble man! See the Council transformed into an angry mob, and behold Stephen unmoved amidst all the cruelty heaped upon him! See the witnesses casting the stones against him till bruised and stunned he falls to the ground, and not a hint of failing courage or faltering loyalty to his Master escapes his lips! He dies as Christian martyrs so often since have died, not in shame and disgrace, but in triumph and glory.