

make them effectual. Just as when we pray for the conversion of a friend, we are in duty bound to be using all the known means in our power, to bring him to a sense of his need of a present and immediate conversion: or, as when we pray for growth in grace, we are bound to be using all proper means and attending upon the gospel ordinances to that end; so, when we pray for an increase of faith, we are bound, at the same time to be neglecting no opportunity, of reading the scriptures, or of meditating upon scripture truths and promises and the providences of God.

These considerations teach us that no one step in religion can be taken, nor one favor obtained without sincerity and effort on our part. Would we enter the kingdom we must be sincere in our desire and strive to enter; or would we obtain any one favor in answer to prayer, we must be alike sincere, and in coming to God believe, that he is, and that he is the rewarder of all who diligently seek him.

An indifferent and careless life, and a neglect of gospel means, will inevitably result in our destruction; as it is despising the council of God against our own soul, and judging ourselves unworthy of everlasting life.

The use and necessity of a conviction of the truths now considered in order to a hearty and zealous prosecution of the work of this Convention, must be apparent to all. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word." "How can they hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent." Every nation needs the Bible in its own language, and they need the voice of the living preacher. Every preacher needs suitable qualifications to bring from the treasury of God's word things new and old for the edification of the people; he needs skill and the acquisitions of diligent study, that he may show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

These are our objects: To have the word of God translated, and widely disseminated; to have the destitute portions of our own home field, and the great foreign field with its 600,000,000 of immortal souls supplied with the ministry of the word; to give our support and aid so far as it may extend to encourage a suitable preparation on the part of those who preach the word, that they may understand it, and be able to expound its truth to the ignorant, and defend them against the objections of opposition and unbelief. And, lastly, to show our acquiescence and delight in that equitable law of the great head of the church, that they who preach the gospel shall live of the gospel, and that the righteous shall not be forsaken nor his seed be left to beg bread.