

was done to his despised followers on earth, he considered as being done to himself though in heaven.

Saul was filled with trembling and astonishment ; seeing he had been fighting against God ; and for three days he neither eat nor drank, so great was the anguish of his mind. But it pleased God who comforts the distressed, to comfort him ; he was encouraged to wash away his sins, while he called upon the name of the Lord ; and having received consolation ; he preached Jesus, and the doctrines of the Christian religion, and continued his course of unwearied and unparalleled labours and sufferings for upwards of thirty years. When he wrote this second epistle to Timothy, his son in the faith, according to those who write on Church history, he was for the second time imprisoned at Rome, and as some think, under the sentence of death ; but, he, nothing terrified by his adversaries, exultingly and triumphantly exclaimed, I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand ; I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith : Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give me that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also, that love his appearing. In speaking from which words we shall, trusting on the promised aids of the holy spirit :

I.--First, Notice the reward of the Christian.

The first remark we make on it is, that the Christian's reward is in reversion ; " There is *laid up* for me a crown ;" it is laid up in Heaven, in the safe keeping of Almighty God ; where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through and steal. Hence, the grateful exclamation of the Apostle, " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of his abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptable, and undefiled and that fadeth not