

righteousness my righteousness. He overcomes daily by faith, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus may be manifested, and the resurrection of the body is the full result. (Comp. 2 Cor. iv., v.) Glory be to God! Beloved brethren, seeing then you have this glorious victory, and these glorious prospects, Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

CHAPTER XVI.

Chap. xvi. concludes the Epistle. (Ver. 1-4) There was a collection to be made for the poor saints at Jerusalem. Paul counsels systematic laying aside every first day of the week, according as God had prospered them; so that he might not have to call for a collection when he came. A blessed rule for the saints at all times, but it is the work of each individual, in responsibility to the Lord, and has nothing to do with weekly collections at church-doors, or in boxes at the Lord's Table. Then, when there is a special need any where, the money is always ready. Special men, approved by letters of commendation by the Assembly, were to take their gifts to Jerusalem. Paul himself might go with them. (Ver. 5-9) He hopes to see them sooner or later, but at present, till Pentecost, he will tarry at Ephesus, for there a great door was opened, though there were many adversaries. Thus an open door, and many adversaries, oft go together in the work of the Lord, a principle perhaps little thought of in these lax days. (Ver. 10-18) Different labourers then are brought forward by name, viz., Timothy, Apollos, the household of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, all having their different spheres of labour in the Church of God. No sort of official rule is mentioned. Each was free to act according to his own gift, in