

shall die in his sin, and his righteousness, which he hath done, shall not be remembered ; but his blood will I require at thy hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned ; also thou hast delivered thy soul." You have also the high honour conferred upon you of being appointed an Ambassador for Christ, to pray men, for Christ's sake, to be reconciled to God : and you have both the ministry and the word of reconciliation committed to you. In these circumstances, it is necessary for you to " take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, to continue in" it, and in the faithful and consistent discharge of all the duties that will devolve upon you, as a Christian Minister, " for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

" *Take heed to thyself ;*"—to the state of your own soul,—to the relation in which you, yourself, stand to God, as a man,—as a professing Christian,—and as a minister of Christ. See that you, yourself, are in a state of reconciliation to God, through a " personal interest in the finished work of the great God, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ." See that you are living near to God, walking with Him in the constant exercise of that " repentance toward God" that needeth not to be repented of ; and that " faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ," that ever " worketh by love." See that your faith is not " dead, being alone," but living, fruit-bearing faith, accompanied by the love of God dwelling in you, constraining you not to live to yourself, but to " Him who died for us, and who rose again," making you willing and desirous to spend, and be spent, for Him, in His service. That is a startling and significant saying of the Apostle Paul ; (1 Cor. 9-27).—" I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection, lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." It is awful enough to contemplate the possibility of being a castaway, in any circumstances, but it is much more so, in the circumstances referred to by the Apostle. Your own personal salvation,—your personal interest in Christ, and your assimilation to Him, must, therefore, ever be nearest your heart, and be objects of your most earnest and constant solicitation : not only for your own sake, but for the sake of others, especially of " the flock" over which " the Holy Ghost hath made you an overseer ;" and above all for the glory of God. For, be assured, that nothing is comparable to this for making you, in every respect, both a useful and " able minister of the New Testament,"—" a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

*Take heed to your temper and disposition*, as a gospel minister, and a ruler in God's house. Most decidedly shut your ears against all tattlings, for if you do not, you will, in all probability, soon be flooded with it, and find it a prolific source of the most vexatious annoyance ; ruinous, at once, to your own peace and comfort in your work, and to the welfare and prosperity of your congregation. Be humble, gentle, meek, after the example of the meek and lowly Jesus, whose servant and ambassador you are. Never proudly think, far less vauntingly or peevishly say, that you can find no society among the people of your charge. You profess to be bound for the Zion above : so do they ; and it must be your earnest desire to have them along with you, as crowns of joy and of rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus. And Heaven-bound fellow-pilgrims, in whose company you expect to spend eternity, are at once the most edifying, and princely society, to be found on this side of Heaven, whatever be their rank and accomplishments among men. Beware of despising, and contemptuously treating any of Christ's " little ones ;" but cultivate their society with a view to your being " comforted together with them, by the mutual faith both of you and them." Seek ever to combine, in the highest degree, the