

their treasure in heaven, and are content to wait for their reward, and to take their Saviour's word for a sufficient security, that their labours will not be lost either here or hereafter. But how many thousands are there every year who go out from their own homes and countries, and are content to expose themselves to as many perils for the sake of this world's riches. I do not blame the enterprise which leads so many to leave their homes and seek for a provision for themselves, rather than lead idle lives, and become a burden to their relatives, and always admire and approve the active spirit which is ready to wrestle with difficulties and dangers in the pursuit of any object worth contending for. But I mention this difference in the views and feelings of even many sincere Christians, to shew how painfully deficient is our sense of duty to God and to our fellow-creatures. We feel no surprise that so many should risk their lives and spend their health and strength in the pursuit of this world's goods, because the object they are toiling for seems to us worth the sacrifice they are making for it; but we are amazed at the self-denying zeal of the missionary, who looks beyond this earth and seeks no treasure here, and this must be because we distrust our Saviour's promises, or because we have laid up our treasures here, and allowed our hearts to be bound up with them. It is idolatry and unbelief alone that clings to things temporal, to the exclusion of things eternal, and though we would be shocked and terrified if we were accused in plain words of such crimes as these, yet they must be hidden in our hearts, or we would never place so much value on what we cannot, at best, enjoy beyond a few short years, and care so little, and labour so little, for "an inheritance that fadeth not away, eternal in the heavens." The same lukewarmness in regard to the promised treasures in heaven, and the same covetous desires for riches, seem to have been among the snares of Satan, which were laid to destroy the saints and godly men of the olden times when the Scriptures were written, even as they are now, dangerous stumbling blocks in the way of God's people in the present day. In St. Paul's