

consistent Christian conduct, however despised and ridiculed by worldly and wicked men, will, especially in times of difficulty and trial, secure, in the end, the respect and esteem even of those who know little or nothing of the power of Christianity in their own hearts.

And, lastly, let me direct your attention to the fact, that no assurance of divine help and protection made Paul careless in the use of proper means for his preservation. We have seen this on several occasions in the course of this history, but in none more strikingly than in this shipwreck. To say nothing of Paul's prudent remonstrance, and advice to them not to sail at all, you may observe the same wise precaution in the use of means, even after he had received the assurance of the Lord's protection. When the crew of the vessel were about to desert the ship in their boat, Paul did not look quietly on, as if it were of no importance whether they went away or not; but he said to the centurion, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." And in the same way, when they had been fasting so long as to reduce their strength, Paul said, "I pray you to take some meat, for this is for your health;" and this, though, in dependence on God's promise, he could, immediately, and with the utmost confidence, add, "there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you!"

From this we learn that we have no right to neglect the means for accomplishing any lawful purpose. However certain an event may be in the divine counsels, and however distinctly revealed and promised, yet man's