

## THE SURE REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

While briefly alluding to the *life* and *hope* of the great apostle, I shall aim to sketch those features which, while in some degree manifest in every Christian life, will yet have special and fitting illustration in the character of that most humble and also most eminent Christian, the late senior member of the session of this church.

The rewards which are promised to the faithful are ever based on character, and are designed to stimulate and encourage us, while in this present state, to build and complete that character by the pattern given in our illustrious Head.

I. Examine for a little *the life* Paul led in the flesh. He tells us it was "by faith of the Son of God." It was founded wholly upon *grace*: upon what Christ had done *for* him, and upon what He had done *in* him. The finished work of our Lord is outside of us; and when that is applied within us by the Spirit of God, and received by faith, then the sinner becomes a member "of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones." It is, so to speak, taking his sacrificial offering as it issued in resurrection, and setting a part of that risen life into the dead stock of a sinner's nature, and then causing it to grow forever. This is what Paul means when he says, "The life I now live I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved *me*, and gave Himself for me." The substitution of the Redeemer in his place was to him an evident and personal fact, upon which he always stood, resting with firm assurance, confident in expectant hope, therefore always equipped for the battle of life.

Again, it was a life of *victory in conflict*. At no time in the inspired account of his career do you find Paul saying, "I am beyond all conflict, I am above temptation, I commit no sin." Quite the opposite of this is constantly recorded as his experience. He exempts no moment, when he says, "I have fought a good fight." That fight began when he