

but not before God (Rev. iii. 2). She is suiting herself more and more to natural, unrenewed man ; and under the name of Christ, she turns away her eye from Christ, and boasts that she is " rich and increased with goods, and has need of nothing " (Rev. iii. 17). " The form of godliness without the power " (2 Tim. iii. 5), surely is the condition of things around us. The Lordship of Christ is ignored. The presence of the Holy Ghost is either denied in words, or, what is even worse, professed to be acknowledged in words, and completely denied in practice. This is truly solemn. One of the very vital, central truths of Christianity, and of the church of God—that which marks off, in a clear line, this dispensation from all that went before or which follows, denied ; and the whole merged into a heap of confusion, out of which souls can hardly find a clue, and are " ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth " (2 Tim. iii. 7). However, " the foundation of God stands sure," and whatever man's unfaithfulness has been, God's principles do not alter. And the responsibility of His people never alters. While it is their blessing to know that " The Lord knoweth them that are His," still their responsibility is, " Let every one that nameth the name of Christ (" the Lord " is the correct reading) depart from iniquity ; " iniquity connected with the great house and its corruptions (2 Tim. ii. 19, etc.). The Christian is to purge himself from the vessels to dishonour, that he may be a vessel unto honour,