

Are these things true? Let us without delay suggest some practical lessons with which they should impress us. What call for grateful wonder at the riches of the glory of such a provision of grace! To what but sovereign abounding grace can we refer? Then what security in the tenure! "Your life is hid with Christ in God." Who can reach it to affect it for evil? As one has said; "Christ's life, God's life, the believer's life, are wrapped together; amid all the changes of earth, the glory of the inheritance of him who dwells in Christ is as little affected as the fixed stars, far exalted above earth's shadows, are capable of being affected by the eclipse of our mundane sphere." Next lesson; Does such a dignity belong to the ransomed? Who can exaggerate the obligation implied in this to a holy and watchful conversation on the Christian's part? Who can fail to see how incongruous with such a relation to Christ, such a *near presence to the heavenly*, is all that is earthly, sensual, devilish; yea, how incongruous what is vain, trifling or frivolous in life or conduct, in word or deed! Again, what a lesson of brotherly love is here, of mutual respect, and reverence one for another among those who are members of Christ, temples of God. "Wilt thou destroy (by thy meats or by thy selfish indulgence and uncharitableness) thy brother for whom Christ died?" demands the Apostle. We may in a like spirit ask "wilt thou wound or wantonly wrong thy brother in whom Christ lives?"

Dr. Willis, under a second head, adverted to the earnest spirit of the Apostle as expressed in the final clauses of the chapter; "Whom we preach warning every man etc." Paul's lofty aim! not resting in a general presentation of his message, he labors to bring it home to the individual ear and heart. And not with a general acquiescence is he content; not always as one dealing only with the foundation he builds up: he consults for the progress of his converts. Nor should we omit to mark his confident anticipation of success, joined with humble consciousness of his own insufficiency. Still this very confidence is fraught with suggestiveness. He who feels the power of a heavenly impulse and who appreciates the excellence and adaptation of the Gospel may expect great things, should aim at great things. The man who travails as in birth, that Christ may be formed in his hearers the hope of glory, who agonizes—for such is the expressive word here used—will not have to labour in vain. The impulse to this striving for souls, gives hope; the earnest, longing, praying pastor, has the pledge of success in this very working of the Spirit of God within him. And what encouragement is here to the earnest, prayerful effort of Christians at large, not Ministers only! Were we all to do our part—were Christians, as they have opportunity, to watch for the salvation of children, neighbours, friends—what might we not expect?

I was struck, said Dr. Willis, with a calculation recently made on the supposition of each converted man and woman bringing another to Christ. The question was, how long would it take to have the whole world warned, and by God's blessing converted? Thirty years! Could we believe this? Yes, only thirty years—not centuries—would be required to reach every man of the world's thousand millions, with an offer of the Word of Life. If one brings one this year, two four next year, four eight the year following, at the end of ten years we shall have over a thousand, at the end of twenty years, more than a million, and in thirty years' time, more than a thousand millions. The suggestion may stimulate us. Let us labour while it is day, fathers and brethren. Let my younger friends, especially, catch the flame of a holy emulation from the words of Paul here—"teaching every man,—warning every man,"—and from his words elsewhere; "ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among you that believe; as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God who hath called you unto His kingdom and Glory."