

judge you, and decide for or against you, as Christians, as your lives agree or disagree with your profession. What manner of persons ought ye to be, seeing that you have voluntarily assumed Christ's name and plunged yourselves worthily to represent Him before your fellowmen. By profession you are committed to the difficult but sublime task, of measurably at least, presenting to the world living likenesses of the Great Teacher. Your discipleship involves this: you have put on Christ; to follow Christ. The outward following is to evidence the inward grace. The Christ inhabited man is the Christ-bearing man. The living Epistles read and seen of all men are the outcome of the indwelling Christ. The mind of Christ in you will generate the Christly life without you. Your conformity to the divine will, is the condition and the evidence of true discipleship. The proof of your sonship, the certainty, the reality of your relationship to God, are determined not by any mere passing emotions, not by your feelings, but by your life, by your obedience to the revealed will of God. It is not your frame and feelings that bear witness to your being the disciples and friends of Jesus, but your obedience:—"Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you." Where there is not the will to obey the Gospel, there is no evidence of the faith that receives the Gospel unto salvation. Faith and obedience are contemporaneous and inseparable. So that if persons say they believe the Gospel and do not obey it, it is certain that they have not the faith of God's elect. True works are always found where true faith exists; so that it is only as you can point to the works that spring from faith as its proper evidence that you have any valid reason for concluding that you are Christians. The condition and results of true discipleship can only be realised as you are true disciples. We, therefore, warn you against resting in any mere sentimental, negative religion, for such is not the religion of the New Testament. Doing the will of God is the only sufficient and satisfactory test of Saintship. To be personally assured of your union with Christ you must keep God's word by treasuring it up in your hearts and working it out in your lives. "Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, but he that doeth the will of my Father;" not every one that says, he believes the Saviour's sayings, but he that doeth them, is a wise man. Far be it from us to make light of Christian experience. We believe in the most rapt and ecstatic experiences that any child of God may have felt, but we believe that obedience to the truth is the grand line of march in your earthly course, where these experiences are found. We believe it is right to desire and to seek such experiences, but it would be an unwarrantable and dangerous use of such experiences to rest on them as the ground of your acceptance with God or the foundation of your hope of heaven. Far too many, we fear, when as they hope they experienced religion, and on this they ground their expectation of Heaven. Thus making the door into Heaven their own emotions, and not Christ. It is by such subtle devices that Satan is leading so many astray and causing them to rest on a false and unsafe foundation. We, therefore, in closing this Epistle caution you against making your own varying emotions and experiences the test of being in a saved state. "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him."