

LIVING TO SELF-OR TO CHRIST ?

(2 COR. V. 14-16.)

The thought uppermost in my mind, in reading these verses, is just as simple as it is *of all importance*, and that is, beloved brethren, *what are we living for?* A weighty question, I need not say, and it is of moment to our souls that we should not shrink from answering it, and that we should answer it in the fear of God. Verse 15 was peculiarly before me, "He died for all, that they which live," that is, the believers, etc. All were dead, believers and unbelievers alike, all were ruined men before God ; and the death of Christ is the proof of the condition of every soul naturally ; that is, all are lost—all lifeless toward God ; that even the Son of God, who is everlasting life, should need to suffer—should find no portion but death in this world, is the proof that there was no life in it. Everything lay so irretrievably in death, that for Him to die is the only door of deliverance out of it. And "He died for all." It is not said that all should live, though undoubtedly there was life in Him adequate for every soul, life everlasting in Christ : but then, in fact, no soul did, none would, receive Him, not one. Grace therefore has wrought, and given some to receive Him. And therefore it is added, "He died for all, that they which live," that is, they who do believe in Him and have life therefore—"that they which live