

as saving themselves and those who hear them.—I. Cor., iii. 9; I. Tim. iv. 16. We yet find that when he speaks of the agency of man, and of God in this matter, in the way of comparison or contrast; he represents the former as nothing and the latter as everything—"I have planted," says he, "Apollos watered; but God gave the increase, so then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."—I. Cor. iii., 6, 7. The illuminating, the sanctifying and comforting power which goes through the word is all of God: it is the effect of His Spirit alone.

I would say then, my hearers, let us honour the means of grace, as we call them, as God honours them. We may even magnify the importance of them; because they are of Divine appointment, and because the Spirit of God works through them, and that in a way so transcendently glorious as in the salvation of lost sinners. But, let us see to it, that we do not honour them at the expense of God's own proper glory,—that we do not depend on ourselves for success, and seek in our use of them our own honour or praise. To do so is virtually to rob God of His prerogative, and to claim to ourselves a power and honour which belong only to Him. And wo to those, whether ministers or members of churches, who fall into this sin. The good Spirit of God will hold no communion with them; and their pride will speedily prepare them for a fall, and well shall it be for them, if having fallen, they be humbled, and brought to repentance. We find God making this protestation:—"I am Jehovah, that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." And those who think that their eloquence or ingenuity in expounding the word is to be effectual to convert men; or, that the external order and discipline of their churches, are to save those who connect themselves with them, are certainly attempting to share with Him the glory of the greatest of all His achievements—the spiritual renovation of fallen man; and are exposing themselves to his fiercest anger.