

good works, and glorify"—*not you, but—"your Father which is in heaven."* How many intimations and admonitions, full of divine wisdom, in so few words! Do we let our light shine *before men*, or only before the brethren? Do we let it shine without any effort to be seen ourselves—for the candle is to show the candlestick, and not *vice versa*—or only that they may see our *good works* and strive to imitate them? Are we contented if men but see and use the light, even if they do not so much regard the taper from which the light proceeds? Do we place the cause itself, the divine truth, with our Christian example, in the foreground, and our own person in the back-ground? Do we so fulfill our calling, as the light of this world, that we entirely forget ourselves, and seek nothing but God's honor and the progress of His kingdom, in order that people may praise, *not us*, but our Father in heaven, who has kindled the light within us, even as the Apostle says in 2 Peter, ii: 12? The phosphorescent glow of the rotten wood of self-righteousness shines to our own honor; but the humble light of a faith that worketh by love shines only to the honor of God.

3. And in order that we may feel the more mightily impelled to fulfill this calling, we shall, in conclusion, impress upon ourselves how much depends upon its fulfillment. This, too, is pointed out by our text. The future happiness of our soul depends upon our fidelity in our calling. The Lord admonishes us: "If the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." How can a dead salt regain its savor? It is fit but to be cast away. Any of Christ's doctrines, despoiled of their import, or a form of Christianity that has degenerated into mere verbiage, can not be improved; it is good for nothing. Other religions without salt may possibly be of some good; but Christianity without salt is worthless. And so, also, is the individual disciple of Christ, that has lost

his salt-power. He that loses his salt in his intercourse with the world, instead of using it, will soon be abused by the world and rendered more and more unserviceable, and in the course of time, in his indolence and cowardice, he will feel the foot of the world when he is of no further use to it. Indeed, neglect and unfaithfulness in the exercise of the Christian calling will lead at last to spiritual incurableness and worthlessness, and finally to expulsion out of the kingdom of God. Only to him that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance. If thou hast powerful salt and art not active therewith, then there will be taken from thee even that which thou hast, and finally, also, that which thou art—in the second death! The unfaithful servant must lose his pound. Either thou in thy great calling must overcome and help preserve the world, or the world will overcome thee and draw thee down, without savor or life, unto destruction.

Not only as individuals, but as a people, our welfare must depend upon the increase of the salt and light power of Christian faith and love. The place in which we are to-day—this Tentburger Forest—has from the beginning of our festivities reminded us of a great deliverance. This present day, the day of the Lord, reminds us of a still greater deliverance for the whole world. Does our nation make use of the salvation which Christ wrought out for us? External chains have been broken asunder. The heavy spiritual fetters of Rome were shattered by the trumpet of Luther. But the internal bands of unbelief and indifference—here the deification of Mammon and there of science, both refusing to honor God—how they rest as a burden upon the soul of our people! Who will arise as its deliverer out of this peril? What else than the eternal truth of the Word; what else than the disciples of Christ, who, filled with salt and light from above, can regain the heart of our people for the faith in God's revelation in Christ, for our salvation in Him? Oh, ye German people! would that I could proclaim it