

mind by the gospel. In a word, he hates, and forsakes, every practice which he knows to be sinful, or in any degree contrary to the mind of Jehovah. See Rom. 6. chap. throughout—and 1 John. 3rd chapter.

But, secondly, he is taught to do good. Many think all is well with them, because they do not live in open sin---their goodness is negative goodness. The tree that bears no fruit, however, must be cut down, the same as the tree that bears bad fruit. The believer brings forth the fruits of righteousness, which are, by Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of God. He lives soberly, in eating, drinking, dress, equipage &c. according to his income. If God gives him riches, he uses it to his glory. If he is poor he cares not for it, knowing that godliness with contentment is great gain. He is righteous, or just in his dealings with his fellows in the world, not taking advantage of the weakness or ignorance of the person he deals with. He acts righteously, to the best of his knowledge, as a parent, child, husband, master, servant, ruler, and subject. The will of God, in every case, so far as he knows it, is the sole rule of his conduct. He is godly, i. e. devoted to God, and all he needs, to make him obey God, is, to know his will. His eyes wait upon God to run wherever he commands; and it is as his meat and his drink to obey God.

*Finally.*—In all these things he perseveres. Much has been said about perseverance, and some affirm that believers may finally fall; i. e. so as to be eternally lost. Whence do they learn this? They say they have seen such. Yes, they have seen professors fall, but did they search their hearts for the truth of their profession? No! And their fall proves the fallacy of their profession.—Their light was darkness. Faith without works is dead; and those who cease to shew their faith by their works have no faith. “Shew me thy faith by thy works, (if thou canst) and I will shew you my faith by my works.” James 2. chap. Such as have not works, are hypocrites. The Lord says, “he that believeth shall be saved;” and “he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” It would seem from this that it is only he who endureth to the end that believeth. Again Christ says he gives to his sheep, who know him, “eternal life; and that they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of his hand.” Nay, he says, that they are in his Fathers’ hand and that none can pluck them from thence. John 10. 27, 28, 29. And to this agree the words of Peter. 1 Peter. 1. 5. That they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

All the warnings of scripture against backsliding, making shipwreck of faith, &c. are so many calls to professors to examine themselves---to take heed lest the light which is in them be darkness---and so many cautions to believers lest they belie their profession, and bring dishonour upon their Lord and Master, by denying him in their conduct. When believers walk contrary to their profession, the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles on that account; and when professors turn (as only false professors do so) like the dog to his vomit, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire, they shew the world, what was true (though unknown) before, viz. that their faith was only