

which it touches; and a good book tends to cleanse away that stain just as sensibly. Therefore to the Psalmist's question, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" the highest possible answer is that which he gives: "By taking heed thereto according to thy word." And therefore we should keep our lives in daily contact with that word, bathing our souls in it and by perpetual ablutions in it through thought and study and meditation seek to come to that state where the Master can say to you as to his first disciples, "Now are ye clean through the word which I have spoken to you."

And now may the Spirit of all good help us to keep ourselves in untaught "simplicity concerning evil" and grow in all wisdom concerning that which is good. To know God "is the highest good," for this is eternal life.

THREE KINDS OF PREACHING.

DR. GORDON often told of a Sabbath he spent abroad, on which day he went in the morning to hear a distinguished preacher who was celebrated for his biblical knowledge. He came home delighted with the clear and brilliant expositions of the truth that he had heard, but chilled with the icy coldness of the message. It was true, clear, scriptural truth, but as cold as an iceberg.

He went in the afternoon to hear another preacher distinguished for his fervor, and he came back delighted with the earnestness and unction of the preacher, but it was a fire of shavings, and there was not truth enough in it to make it lasting.

He went again at night, and heard a third preacher, and he came away not only instructed, but thrilled; because this sermon had been not only an exposition of scriptural truth, but it had also been alive with the power of God, and full of the fire of the Holy Ghost. It was not a fire of shavings, but of substantial fuel, and it left not only a memory of truth, but a glow of warmth that filled his heart with joy and love. This

is the power of the Holy Ghost speaking the truth in love; the Bible ablaze with holy fire; the Word of God dissolved in unction and love, until it can be observed in every fibre of our being and become the nutriment of our life.

MISSIONARY SERVICE.

BY GEORGE MULLER.

(1.) We must be ourselves believers, or we may do great injury to others who are unbelievers, instead of doing them good. (2.) We must know for ourselves that we are regenerate. Lack of this will soon lead to half-hearted service. We shall be looking back to this present evil world. (3.) We must seek habitually after happiness in the Lord. We are to rejoice in our God. By this our work will be greatly affected; for it is not so much the amount of our work, as the spirit in which it is done.

In order to be thus happy believers (4) we must be lovers of Holy Scripture. After my conversion in 1825 I used to read the Bible, but it was not till about four years later that I was a lover of God's Holy Word. I believe this is one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service, because I have been a lover of Holy Scripture; and I love it more now than ever I did. It has been my habit to read the Scriptures through four times in a year; and it is important to read it in a prayerful spirit, to meditate upon what we read, and to apply it to our own hearts. Do I understand this? Do I obey this? What has this word for me?

Then (5) we must practise what we find in the Scripture, and the result will be a happy man, a happy woman. I have been for sixty-nine years a happy man; and I desire for my beloved brethren and sisters that they may be happy, happy, happy, ten times more happy than ever I have been in my life; for it is impossible to tell what God may give to us in this way if we are thus lovers of Holy Scripture. (6.) We must take joyfully and gratefully the place that God gives us. (7.) All our