

it is most necessary that, by keeping every commandment, he should be made whole and complete 'to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ' (Ephes. 4, 13); since, according to divine law, a mutilated offering, even though it was clean, was unacceptable to God. Therefore, if one of us thinks he falls short in any matter, let him put it forward for the rest to examine. For a hidden thing is more readily brought to light when looked for carefully by many; since God, I need hardly say, grants us, as our Lord Jesus Christ has promised, to find what we seek, through the instruction and prompting of the Holy Ghost. So then, just as 'necessity is laid upon me, and woe is me if I preach not the Gospel' (1 Cor. 9, 16), so you for your part run an equal risk if you are inactive in the search, or slack and remiss in keeping what is delivered and in fulfilling it in deed. That is why our Lord has said, 'The word which I have spoken, it shall judge him in the last day' (John 12, 48); and, 'The servant who knew not his master's will, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes; but he that knew his will, and neither did it, nor made ready to obey, shall be beaten with many stripes' (Luke 12, 47, 48). Let us therefore pray: for me, that my stewardship of the word may be blameless; and for you, that this teaching may bear fruit. And since we know that the words of inspired Scripture will stand to confront us at Christ's judgment-seat—for he says, 'I will reprove thee and set thy sins before thy face' (Ps. 49 (50), 21)—so let us give vigilant heed to what is said, and heartily set ourselves to carry out God's teachings; because we do not know on what day or at what hour our Lord will come.



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