above spoken of) **to no purpose** (i.e. un-  
accompanied by sanctification of life).

**2.]** *Ground of the exhortation:* viz. the  
importance of the present time as the day  
of acceptance, shewn by a Scripture cita-  
tion.—**For He** (God, with whom we are  
fellow-workers, and whose grace we re-  
commend) saith, “**In an accepted time**(Heb. ‘*in the season of grace*’) **I heard  
thee, and in the day of salvation I helped  
thee:” behold** (inserted for solemnity—to  
mark the importance of what follows), **NOW   
is the favourably-accepted time** (the word  
is a strong term,—the *very* time of *most*  
*favourable* acceptance, said from the ful-  
ness of his feeling of the greatness of God’s  
grace); **behold**, **NOW is the day of salva-  
tion.** “For he who striveth in such a  
time, when so much of God’s gift is shed  
“abroad, in which grace is so great, shall  
easily gain the prize.” Chrysostom. The  
prophecy is one directly of the Lord Jesus,  
as the restorer and gatherer of his people;  
and the time of acceptance is the interval  
of the offer of the covenant to men, con-  
ceded to Him by the Father.

**3—10.]***And this doing, he approves himself as the  
minister of God by various characteristics,  
and under manifold circumstances in life.*

**3.]** This word, **giving**, and all the  
following participles, vv. 9, 10, qualify the  
verb **we intreat**, in ver. 1, shewing the  
pains and caution used hy him to enforce  
this exhortation by his example as well as  
his precept. So Grotius: “He shews how  
much in earnest is the advice of one who,  
in order that he may gain his end, shrinks  
from no manner of sufferings.” But evi-  
dently, before the list is exhausted, he  
passes beyond the mere confirmation of  
his preaching, and is speaking generally  
of the characteristics of the Christian  
ministry.

**offence**; literally, **stum-  
bling**; see Rom. xiv. 13.

**that the  
ministry be not blamed]** or reproached.  
The **ministry**, the office itself, would be  
reproached, if cause of offence were found  
in the character of its bearers.

**4. as God’s ministers, recommending  
ourselves] recommending ourselves, as  
ministers of God should do**: not, *recommending ourselves as ministers of God:*the ambiguity of thé A.V. might have  
been avoided by a different arrangement  
of words: ‘*in all things, as the ministers  
of God, approving ourselves.*’ ‘The fol-  
lowing nouns, following in each case the  
preposition **in**, are all in specification of  
**in every thing**: but not all of the same  
sort: some signify *instruments by which,*some, *situations in which,* some *both these.*  
Bengel remarks: “A notable gradation.  
‘There follow thrice three particulars of  
suffering (i.e. from **tribulation** to **fast-  
ings**), by which patience is exercised:  
*troubles, inflictions, labours.*”

**5.]**On **stripes**, see Acts xvi. 23, and ch. xi.  
23, 24.

**imprisonments]** At Philippi  
only *as yet*, as far as we know from the  
narrative of the Acts;—but there must  
have been many other occasions, see eh.  
xi. 23. He *may* have been imprisoned at  
Antioch in Pisidia, Acts xiii. 50, and at  
Lystra, xiv. 19, and at Corinth, xviii, 12,  
11: and we cannot tell what may have  
befallen him during his journeys, Acts xv.  
41; xvi. 6; xviii, 23.

**in tumults]**  
See Acts xiii. 50; xiv. 5, 19; xvi. 22;  
xvii. 5; xviii. 12, and above all, xix. 23–41.

**labours]** The word usually,