of speech as regards the faith,’ i.e. in  
teaching, or in resisting error, or ‘a wide  
field for spiritual action.” To these there  
might be no objection, but for the adjunct,  
*in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.* Thus  
defined, this *boldness,* or *confidence,* must  
necessarily have a subjective reference,—  
i.e, to the confidence towards God possessed by those who have made good advance in faith in Christ) **in [the] faith**  
(subjective, from what follows) **which is in**  
(reposing in) **Christ Jesus.**

**14—16.**] CLOSE OF THE ABOVE DIRECTIONS by *a solemn statement of their  
object and its glorious import.***—These  
things** (the foregoing precepts, most naturally) **I write unto thee, hoping** (i.e. ‘though I hope’) **to come to thee sooner**(**than may seem**) (some supply,—before  
this Epistle come to thee: or, before thou  
shalt have need to put these precepts into  
practice: but the above filling up seems  
simpler, and suits better the usage else-  
where): **but if I should delay (coming)**  
(from *“hoping”* to *“delay”* may be regarded as parenthetical, the “*that*” belonging immediately to the preceding, *“I  
write unto thee”),* **that thou mayest know  
how thou oughtest to conduct thyself in  
the house of God (see Heb. iii. 2, 5, 6, and  
notes: 1 Cor. iii, 16: 2 Cor. vi. 16:  
Eph. ii. 22: 1 Pet. ii. 5; iv. 17:—**that  
congregation among whom God dwells, by  
His Spirit) ;**—for such** (the house of God)  
**is the congregation** (the word used commonly for *church* : but here, as Theodore of Mopsuestia observes, “he means, not the place where prayer is made, as many think, but the assembly of the faithful’)  
**of the living God** (thus designated for  
solemnity, and to shew His personal and  
active presence among them), **the pillar**  
(see below) **and basement** (it is a climax:  
the *pillar* is the intermediate, the *basement,* the final support of the building) of the truth (these latter words are variously  
referred. (1) Some of the modern Commentators break up the sentence, putting a period at “*the living God,*” and proceeding, the pillar and ground of the  
truth, and without controversy great is  
the mystery, &c. To this I can only say,  
that if any one imagines St. Paul, or any  
other person capable of writing this Epistle,  
able to have indited such a sentence, I fear  
there is but little chance in arguing with  
him on the point in question. To say  
nothing of its abruptness and harshness,  
beyond all example even in these Epistles,  
how palpably does it betray the botching  
of modern conjectural arrangement in the  
wretched anti-climax—*the pillar and basement* [rising in solemnity] *of the truth*,  
*and* [what grander idea, after the basement of the whole building, does the reader  
suppose about to follow?] *without controversy great!* These two last words,  
which have [see below] their appropriate  
majesty and grandeur in their literal use  
at the emphatic opening of such a sentence as the next, are thus robbed of it all, and sink into the very lowest bathos;  
the metaphor being dropped, and the lofty  
imagery ending with a vague generality.  
If a sentence like this occurred in the  
Epistle, I should feel it a weightier argument against its genuineness than any which its opponents have yet adduced. (2)  
By Gregory of Nyssa among the ancients,  
and by some moderns, among whom are  
Chillingworth and Conybeare, it is taken  
as referring to TIMOTHY:—*“that thou  
mayest know how to conduct thyself in  
the house of God, which is, &c....as a  
pillar and basement of the truth.”* Some  
of the Fathers seem also to have favoured  
the idea: but of these we must manifestly  
not claim for it those who have merely  
used the word pillar or column of an  
Apostle or teacher, or individual Christian,  
—as that is justified, independently of our  
passage, by Gal. ii. 9; Rev. iii. 12.Gregory  
of Nazianzum applies the very words to  
Eusebius of Samosata, and to Basil: and  
Basil in the Catena says, the Apostles also  
are pillars of Jerusalem, as it is said, “the