of and by our Apostle) **me; that by my  
means the proclamation** (of the Gospel)  
**might be delivered in full measure** (see  
on ver. 5), **and all the Gentiles might hear**(one is tempted, with Theodoret, to interpret this of his preservation for further  
missionary journeys [Theodoret thinks this  
defence happened *during* his journey to  
Spain]: but the spirit of the whole context seems to forbid this, and to compel  
us to confine this *delivering in full* measure to the effect of the single occasion  
referred to,—his acquittal before the  
crowd of people, in whose presence the  
trials took place: so Bengel—“one occasion is often of the greatest moment: the  
*Gentiles* —of whom Rome was the capital”):  
**and I was delivered from the mouth of  
the lion** (the Fathers mostly understood  
this of *Nero*. And Esth. [apocryphal]  
xiv. 13, A. V., is quoted, “where Esther  
says concerning Artaxerxes, Put a word  
into my mouth *before the lion*.’ Whitby:  
—or, seeing that according to the chronology adopted by some, Nero was not in  
Rome at the time [see Introd. to Pastoral  
Epistles, § ii. 33], of his *locum tenens*,  
*Ælius Cæsareanus*,—or of the *Jewish  
accuser*. But these are hardly probable:  
nor again is it, that the Apostle was literally in danger of being thrown to wild  
beasts, and established his right as a  
Roman citizen to be exempted from that  
punishment: nor again is the idea, that  
the expression is figurative for *great  
danger,—the jaws of death*, or the like:  
for the Apostle *did not fear* death, but:  
looked forward to it as the end of his  
course, and certainly would not have  
spoken of it under this image. The *context* seems to me to demand another and  
very different interpretation. None stood  
with him—all forsook him: but the Lord  
stood by him and strengthened him: *for  
what*? that he might *witness a good confession*, and that the *preaching* might be  
expanded to the utmost. The result of  
this strengthening was, that he was delivered *from the mouth of the lion*: he was  
strengthened, w*itnessed a good confession,  
in spite of desertion and discouragement.*  
Then let us pass on to his confidence for  
the future, the expression of which is  
bound on to this sentence by the same  
verb, **shall deliver me**, indicating the  
identity of God’s deliverance, —and “**from  
every** evil work,” indicating the *generalization of the danger of which this  
was a particular case*. And how is the  
danger generally described? as “every  
**evil work**:” and it is implied that the falling into such danger would preclude him  
from enduring to Christ’s heavenly kingdom. It was then an *evil work* from  
which he was on this occasion delivered.  
What *evil work*? *The falling into the  
power of the tempter*; the giving way, in  
his own weakness and the desertion of all,  
and betraying the Gospel for which he was.  
sent as a witness. The *lion* then is the  
*devil* ; “who goeth about as a roaring lion,  
seeking whom he may devour,” 1 Pet.v. 8).

**18.**] **The Lord** (Jesus) **shall deliver  
me from every evil work** (see above: from  
every danger of faint-heartedness, and  
apostasy. The meaning adopted by some,  
that the *evil works* are the *works of his  
adversaries* plotting against him, is totally  
beside the purpose: he had no such confidence (ver. 6), nor would his conservation  
to Christ’s heavenly kingdom depend in  
the least upon such deliverance. Besides  
which, the correspondence of this declaration of confidence to the concluding petition of the Lord’s Prayer cannot surely be  
fortuitous, and then *evil*, here joined to  
*work* as neuter, must be subjective, evil  
resulting from our *falling* into temptation,  
not evil happening to us from without),  
**and shall preserve me safe** (shall **save**  
*me*: but in its not uncommon, pregnant  
sense of ‘bring safe’) **unto his kingdom in  
heaven** (though it may be conceded to De  
Wette that this expression is not otherwise  
found in St. Paul, it is one to which his  
existing expressions easily lead on: e.g.