

still not withstanding the fact that it is obscure and ~~xxx~~ hence all the evil and misery that comes into the world, the principle of conduct remains. that the sensible man, the ^{2-8^{3/4} (Gr. word) pseudai?}, governs himself by a remote objective. He puts ~~sits~~ before himself a standard and he aims at that standard. This would be a suitable illustration. You are about to sit for an examination. I believe that torture is inflicted in this torture chamber as it was in mine. You ^{are} asked [^] to go out for an evening party. You would very much like to go out for an evening party. In fact, you have a remote objective there, too. You have to decide and you say, "No, I'm awfully sorry but my work is so much in arrears that I can't. I must deny myself that pleasure to secure a very remote pleasure, the satisfaction of passing the examination and the qualifications that determine my future life." But here is an idea that goes far beyond any ordinary dictates of reason of fallen man.--"Approved unto God." Here is a motion which seems fantastic to the ordinary man, but God is looking down at my life. God will examine my product. Take pains. Show yourself approved unto God. 'I do set the Lord ever before me," said the Psalmist, "therefore I shall not be moved."

Now sometimes you can be approved to men and approved to God. Don't run away with the idea that you achieve this by making yourself unpopular. You can make yourself a nuisance and be just as far away from the kingdom of God as you were before you were a nuisance. You must not take that view. Many people do. Many people have a kind of persecution mania. When people rebuke them for real stupidity ~~for~~ they say, "Well, praise the Lord. They that live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." That is not the idea. But the idea is this that I make my standard God's Word. If it means the sympathy and support of the multitude, well, then I'm thankful for that. If it means the rejection and hostility, the imprisonment and execution of the apostle, well, I'm thankful for that. My standard is--What does God think? What does God demand? At all hazards I set my life by that measure. It is not easy but it is magnificent. ~~Real goes~~