

**SELF-DENIAL THE  
PREPARATION  
FOR EASTER**

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Self-Denial the Preparation for Easter by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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SELF-DENIAL

THE

PREPARATION FOR EASTER.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"LETTERS TO MY UNKNOWN FRIENDS."

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"It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with Him,  
we shall also live with Him: if we suffer, we shall also  
reign with Him." — 2 Timothy, ii. 11, 12.

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# SELF-DENIAL

THE PREPARATION FOR EASTER.

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## INTRODUCTION.

To the readers of the little work on "Discipline," it has already been suggested that great assistance may be given towards the attainment of self-knowledge, and in the improvement of Christian practice, by fixing the attention to a certain degree exclusively on one feature of the character during a given time. This has been frequently found to check the continuance of that vague and unprogressive personal religion, which through early habits and through natural indolence is too often sufficient to quiet though it cannot satisfy the minds of

the greater number of professing Christians. Satisfaction indeed it cannot give, for our nature is so constituted that it cannot ever be *satisfied* with remaining stationary. A yearning after progress there always is, oftentimes unconscious, but always in proportion to the superiority of the nature of the individual. Those who are lowest on the scale of creation are those who least desire to rise.

Mistaken views as to the duty or the efficacy of human effort are probably one great cause of the want of progress visible in the spiritual and moral condition of apparently sincere and earnest Christians. How few there are, at this returning season of Lent, who can trace in themselves, or (far safer test) in whom others can trace, any change in the lukewarm, self-indulgent, unsubdued spirit they have professed to mourn over during many a Lent that has passed. Yet such seasons, if employed aright, could not have

been passed in vain, and if not employed aright it is not alone in vain that they are passed: those who are partakers of the privileges of seasons such as these, must be either far better or far worse at their close—their ear more dull to future warnings, their heart more cold to spiritual things, their habits more self-indulgent, and their worldliness more confirmed. The appeal made to each individual by the coming season of Lent is therefore not simply to improve its responsibilities, but to strive to avoid deterioration by its neglected opportunities. One or the other must certainly befall. But past opportunities, though never to be recalled, are not altogether lost if regret and repentance accompany their memory. Then the former error will serve as a stimulus to future effort, and the recollection of the unprofitable Lenten seasons hitherto passed may, by God's grace, lead to redoubled exertion that the responsibilities of the