

## **J.C. Ryle, "One Thing"**

A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies, -- whether he has health, or whether he has sickness, -- whether he is rich, or whether he is poor, -- whether he pleases man, or whether he is thought offensive, --whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish, -- whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise, -- whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame, -- for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it, -- he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work which God appointed him.