

rendered useful as it respects conversion.

My dear brother, your progress in sanctification is an object of paramount importance: the news of it to me will always afford gratification; the opposite would furnish a source of real regret. When a man is first convinced of his sin, and led under the impression to cry—"How shall I escape the wrath which is to come?" to such a question we reply—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. We invite men to return to God, we entreat them to be reconciled through Christ Jesus, and to partake of all the blessings contained in the Gospel. This we do according to the authority of God, and if Jehovah authorizes us thus to plead with men, we may rest assured he will cast out none who come unto him. The force of these entreaties I hope you have felt—and not with a harsh, but pleasing violence, have been constrained to follow Christ. You have made a public profession of his name; and as such you are now a witness of God. It is of the utmost moment to bear an honourable testimony; and how shall we do this? By maintaining a holy conduct.

Says Paul—"God hath predestinated us to be conformed to the image of his Son." Now, if we can point out some of the most prominent features of the Redeemer's character, and embody them in our's, then we shall know what it is to be "conformed to the image of God's Son." With some fine and lovely lineaments of his image we are presented in Heb. vii. 26—"Holy, harmless, undefiled, and separated from sinners." By his being holy, we may understand his great compassion, or his eternally untainted nature; by his being harmless, we may understand his innocence, that he would injure no one, but do good on all occasions; by undefiled, we may understand that, though in this world he lived in the midst of

sinners and sin, yet he remained uncontaminated—he tempted no man, nor was he capable of being overcome by temptation; his being separated from sinners, shews that though he lived among them, and tried to do them good, yet he made them not as such his companions—he stood at a distance from their practices. Now, my very dear friend, if you wish to be happy—to be an honourable member of Christian society—to resemble Jesus Christ, think on these things, pray over these things, strive to exemplify these things.

Allow me here to observe, that there appear to be two means which God has appointed to effect our sanctification; and let me farther say, that if I know any thing of progress in the ways of God, they have happily contributed to it. 1. The diligent perusal of the word of God, and 2. Earnest prayer. In the volume of inspiration, God tells us what we should do, and how we should do it; and by prayer we acknowledge our insufficiency, and implore his aid; and he is always attentive to the voice of our supplication, and affords us the requisite strength or influence of his Divine Spirit, and hereby enables us to perform what he has commanded. This is beautifully pointed out in the 19th Psalm from the 7th to the 12th verse. The Psalmist dwells on the excellencies of the word of God, and it served as a kind of mirror in which he beheld his moral deformities or sinfulness, and hence at the 12th verse, "Who can understand his errors, &c.," and then in the 13th and 14th verses, earnestly implores God's assistance. Many other places may be pointed out, but let this suffice on the present occasion; and let me ask you to ponder attentively that Psalm, and pray over it. You will sometimes, no doubt, feel a more than ordinary softness of mind, when