

attended to this, and if they neglect it, on themselves is the sin." This apology would not have been sustained. We can imagine the venerable man calling for the letter he had written to them and in the tone of apostolic authority, and with an apostolic frown sitting upon his brows reading the first part of it: "Paul called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ unto *the Church of God* which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." He would no doubt here remind him, that it was to the Church at large,—the body of believers, that this command was given, that every one was interested in seeing it obeyed, and that no one could be considered as free from blame, who by the influence of his example countenanced what he was convinced was a plain violation of the authority of an apostle of Christ. These remarks are submitted to the attention of all who reverence the authority of the word of God and profess to act on the truly correct principle that it is in the Bible their religion is to be found. The promiscuous admission of persons of all descriptions to the peculiar ordinances of Christianity tends to deceive and ruin the souls of thousands. The great day of trial alone will discover the multitudes who have been lulled asleep in the most false and fatal security, by being thus treated as disciples of Christ; who by a different treatment might have been awakened to a sense of their danger, and led to flee for refuge to the hope set before them. Who would not tremble at the thought of having any share, nay, even the most indirect influence in administering to such a delusion?

Let every one carefully examine the word of God for himself, and as much as possible, unbiassed by any human authority, conscientiously follow what he conceives to be its dictates in the prospect of the second coming of the Lord.