

must act the buffoon or the enthusiast, to please the other. Christ and him crucified was the theme of the ancients. In every discourse of the apostles which has been preserved we find the great facts of the gospel—Christ's death for our sins and his resurrection for our justification—the chief items. It made but little difference what their text was, these momentous truths made up the discourse. They recognized all men as sinners, unbelievers, infidels. Their main object seemed to be to convince their hearers that Jesus was the true Messiah, the Son of God—that he died a sacrifice for sins, and that he rose to intercede in Heaven as our great high priest; then to present his own sacrifice, through which we might come to God. If the claims of christianity are now plead, many are ready to exclaim—What! do you suppose these people are infidels? Hence the doctrine of the resurrection—the evidences of christianity—the truth of the Bible, and Christ the only foundation—are themes that are seldom agitated in the pulpit. We must go back to primitive preaching and practice if we would see primitive christians.

9. The Word of God was the principal book among the ancient Israelitish saints. The reading of the holy oracles was always a principal part of the worship of the ancient christian churches. The Israelite taught it to his family when in his house, and as he walked by the way: it was written on his door posts; they read it in the synagogue every sabbath; but now one of our greatest blessings is becoming an awful curse. The rapid sale of novel and exciting books has brought thousands into the market. Tales and romances are found in the houses of almost all professors. Even a large majority of "Sunday School" books are novels, "founded on facts" it is said; but yet they are fiction, and beget in the minds of youth a disrelish for the Word of God and books of real worth. Like the appetite of the child living for some time on pastry and confectionary, they lose all relish for that which is really necessary to give health and strength.

Sometimes JAY'S Exercises or some popular Commentary is read at family prayers instead of God's word. And every book in the house must be laid by when the newspaper comes, until that shall have been devoured. We never shall have strong, independent, zealous, uncompromising Christians, until the Bible becomes an every-day book—until it is read regularly and systematically in our closets and in our families every day. We shall be found lean and sickly until we feed more bountifully on the bread of heaven—the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

W. W. E.

STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

No. 2.

IT is presumed that the reader has very carefully read and reviewed the remarks on the narratives of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If he has stored away in his memory these important considerations, he has got something really valuable. The following "Hints to Readers" will prepare them to answer many of the cavils and much of the sophistry of conceited sceptics and superficial thinkers. Most of the intellectual infidelity of the present day springs from consummate ignorance of