

P. You will find, Acts ii, 38, where a vast number inquired what they should do, and where the inspired Apostles answered them. Read the case for yourself and the whole book of Acts through, against I see you again, and you can tell yourself what they were required to do as well as any preacher in this city.

READING THE ORACLES.

The instruction and improvement to be derived from the perusal of the Bible, depend upon the *manner* in which it is read. It cannot be doubted, that much of the benefit which a correct reading of this sacred book is calculated to impart, is often lost, in consequence of the faulty and incorrect manner in which it is read. It is more than probable that if it were read aright by the great body of Christians, the ignorance of its contents, and the divisions arising from that ignorance which prevail, would be to a great degree removed. All admit that there are no contradictions in the Bible—no discordance in its sacred contents—but, that it contains a grand and harmonious system of religious truth, framed by the infinite wisdom of God. In God's material system—the Universe—we behold endless variety combined with perfect unity and harmony: it is constructed upon a vast plan, in which there is not a single jar. As in a sublime and perfect musical composition,—even the apparent discords only complete the harmony of the whole. The same observation is true of God's religious system—the Bible. It follows, therefore, that the discords of religious opinion, which divide the professors of Christianity, are not derived from the Bible, correctly read and understood; but from its defective and erroneous interpretation.

It ought ever to be remembered, that, while as respect its author, and the ideas which it reveals, the Bible differs from all other books, its language is similar—it is written in the conventional language of men,—and, therefore, must be interpreted like all other books and documents according to the established laws of language. If an acquaintance with the customs, the ideas and history of ages and countries far remote, be necessary to the correct interpretation of any ancient document, the same knowledge is necessary in interpreting the Bible, some portions of which are the most ancient writings which have survived the wrecks of time. And all the aids, geographical, historical, and literary, which