

many loud in profession for a time, have fallen away, their characters have become ruined, and their families and themselves plunged into wretchedness. Heads of Families—you that profess the Religion of Jesus, think of the example of Abraham, of Joshua, of Job, and other Bible worthies. Oh, teach your children by spirit, by precept, and above all by example to hate sin! Yea, to shun the very appearance of evil.

Be careful to attend all the meetings instituted by the Church for prayer—and also the stated and special meetings appointed for Confession. Let nothing (except God in his providence prevents) keep you from filling your places in the House of the Lord on his holy Sabbath. Be regular in communing with the Church at the Holy Table, and cheerfully bear your part with your brethren in supporting the Gospel, and in all necessary charges for maintaining the worship of the Lord's house. This is emphatically called in the Holy Scriptures, an ordinance of God. If any of these duties are wilfully neglected, we see no reason to hope, indeed no possibility that you can prosper in personal religion—in holiness of heart and life—in communion with a holy, just, and righteous God. We might mention many other duties enjoined on believers in Christ, and many other evils that are incident to us, while sojourning in this vale of tears,—but we forbear, and refer you to the Sacred Oracles for council. “May the Lord give you understanding in all things.”

Fourthly,—We notice the benefits resulting from union with God through Christ, and from attending to the means of grace, as briefly stated above.

The individual that hath been made sensible of the necessity of personal religion or communion with God, and who hath found a remedy suited to his necessities, and enjoys in holy duties in his individual case, ‘Peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end, walking in all the commands and ordinances of the Lord blameless,’ such an one must be a happy person, and the fruits of his faith will more or less appear in every department in life.

The head of a family that maintains the worship of God steadily, and faithfully, under all circumstances, will most likely see his household becoming truly pious—an honour to themselves, to their parents, to the church of God, and to the world. The individual that possesses personal religion, and enjoys communion with God in secret, in the domestic circle, and in the church, will be, in every sense of the word, a valuable character. He will be the friend of the widow and the orphan, and, by his liberality, cause their hearts to sing for joy,—he will be ready with heart and hand to engage in every good work. He will not forget the poor—and he will also be ready, as far as means are put into his hands, to assist in carrying forward those benevolent institutions which are now in operation for the moral and spiritual renovation of our race.

Dear Brethren, the age of the world in which we live is an age of wonders, of the marvellous working of the great God,—so is it, indeed, also an age of terror and alarm. Who can think of the wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, fires, murders, and the wicked conduct in ten thousand forms, of ungodly men, but must tremble with fearful apprehension lest the powers of darkness are being let loose to do their