

lives. Without this, all outward observances will be as "the sounding brass or the tinkling cymbal." * But still, we *must* have the outward form in our public intercourse with God, to give expression to the inward spirit, with which He imbues our souls, and thus we may "glorify God with our bodies and our spirits which are His." † And now, dear friends, be mindful of the three great things,—Death. Judgment and Eternity,—the greatest that can engage the thoughts of mortal man. Prepare to meet them! To this end watch and pray, ‡ and then you will be ready for anything. What God hath joined together we must not put asunder. Begin, continue, and end each day of this new year, and of all that follow it, with prayer to the Father of lights. You can never prosper, for time or eternity, if you neglect this great privilege, which Christ has purchased for us. God is more ready to give than we are to ask. And pray in your *families*; it will be to them as a morning and evening sermon; it will promote regularity and love in your household; it may influence generations to come; it will bring down the favor of God, who "blesseth the habitation of the just." § At every meal, let that blessing be invoked, and thanks given to the great Provider. Would that every house in this city were an house of prayer. Then "the Lord would keep the city," || and watchmen would be needed no more. And "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." ¶ Search the Scriptures." ¶ In these days of rebuke and blasphemy stick to your Bibles. That book is "given by inspiration of God." 1 It is the charter of all our hopes for eternity. It is our only safeguard through the snares of this sinful world. It is a "light to our feet and as a lamp to our paths." 2 It is TRUE as the God who gave it. It is "more precious than rubies, and all the things that can be named are not to be compared unto it." 3 Its saving truths will outlive the world, and accompany us through eternity; hold it fast; cherish it in your souls; devoutly read it every day of every year; and do this every one of you, "old men and maidens, young men and

* Cor. XIII. 1. † Cor. XI. 1. ‡ Matt. XXVI. 41.

§ Psalm CXXVII. 16. || Col. III. 16. ¶ Prov. II. 33.

(1) II. Tim. III. 16. (2) Prov. III. 15. (3) Psalm CXIX. 105.