

ration to the Divine favor, through the atoning sufferings and death of the Lamb of God—the Lord Jesus Christ. Being thus, and only thus, reconciled to God and become a christian, he must “walk circumspectly” in the christian course, as described and enjoined in the scriptures; must take the whole spiritual armour divinely provided, and therein offered for his use; must constantly “watch and pray, that he does not enter into temptation, redeem time” for good purposes only; “fight the good fight of faith; abstain from all appearance of evil; must “not be slothful in business;” but be “fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;” be “patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer;” be *upright* and *honest* in all the transactions of life; doing “good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith;” thus endeavoring to “work out his own salvation,” while a gracious “God worketh in him, to will and to do of His good pleasure;” and ever giving “all diligence to make his calling and election sure.” If he bears in mind, and obeys all these inspired precepts and exhortations, as he is under the most solemn responsibilities to do, he will inevitably find that he will have no time to spare for any merely sensual diversions or amusements.

Now my reader, if you are one who pleads for such diversions, and indulges in them, whether you are a member of a church, or merely one of a congregation, do not begin to say, what is the use of arraying all these texts for my perusal? I believe they are all contained in the scriptures, and therefore all they declare is true. But the personally important question is, are you earnestly regarding them, and endeavoring to act in accordance with them? These are the purposes for which they have been given, and not merely forming parts of a religious scheme or system for examination and belief, or as branches of scriptural knowledge. You profess a belief in christianity as a Divine revelation contained in the scriptures; and these are as fully binding on you, as they were on those to whom they were first given; for they declare, that “whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning,” and “for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” The Divine Judge, who will assign to all their eternal state, either of happiness or misery, according to their doings on this earth, has Himself declared: “He that receiveth