

just what we should have expected. We believe that one of the greatest hindrance to souls is their being so taken up with desire for worldly prosperity. The consequence is that the Lord hath not got His rightful place in their hearts; and, however many excuses they may make, the question really is, "Am I seeking earthly gain, or the enjoyment of the Lord's presence?"

"Is communion with Him the uppermost desire of my heart?"

Perhaps no point is of more importance for us really to settle in the presence of God. If worldly advantage, to say nothing of the accumulation of wealth, has the *first* consideration, let it not surprise us if such go further and further away from the Lord; but if we are willing to suffer loss, and to lay aside everything that hinders our enjoyment of His sweet company, then we may be sure that He will not forsake us as to food and raiment.

We believe the Scripture is as true as ever, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." We do well to remember that to the believer it is said, "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ. not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." (Matt. vi. 33; Phil. i. 29.)

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LIVING to God inwardly is the only possible means of living to Him outwardly. . . . I dread great activity without great communion; but I believe that where the heart is with Christ, it will live to Him.