

things on which our affections are to be set ; but if I let my thoughts go to that which is not of God, He must judge it. If I am keeping Christ's word, the effect is this blessed revelation of the Father's thoughts and mind and joys, and that strengthens the heart and spirit, and gives us discernment of all that is in this poor world.

I would speak of the means of being sustained in the condition to enable us to enjoy these things ; and then a word on the occasion of our losing it.

Hebrews speaks of maintaining us in it. We are in a world where the tendency is to distract us from it. What we have to do is to deliver the testimony of Christ in the world. "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is not of the *Father*, but of the world" (1 John ii. 16). It does not say it is not of *God*. God made the world—not as it is *morally*—but He did not make sin. He made the trees ; but He did not create them for man to make money of. When I see these heavenly things we have spoken of, all this is dross and dung to me ; but it is a constant solicitation to our thoughts and senses, and tends to shut out the Father's world, where the Son is, and that in things where there is no outward harm. Then I get the constant service of Christ. It is a question of communion, and there is grace constantly in exercise toward us. "We obtain mercy"—which we all need every moment—"and find grace to help in time of need." "He was in all points tempted like as we