

that have walked in them, we are to learn our duty and the call of God in this respect.

The total or partial neglect in this respect, may arise from different sources—such as want of investigating the subject—want of some of the means; or, lastly a fear that children will lay too much stress upon a religious education, and take such acquirements for gracious qualifications. The first objectors, we wish by this address to point to the word of God, to shew the importance thereof;—to the second, we would say, improve the means you have, pray for, and use endeavors for obtaining other means:—to the last, we would say, your fear appear to us groundless; although there is a kind of instruction that build people up in self-righteousness; but we cannot be alarmed at the danger of Godly instruction, which is like a sharp sword to cut them off from their own doings—perhaps that sentence, Eph. 6. 4. contains as much of our duty in that respect, as could be expressed in so many words, “*And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*” plainly intimating that our childrens minds stood in as much need of nutriment from proper instruction, as the Body does from daily food. The object of those hints, are to direct our dear Brethren unto, and assist them in the discharge of this duty which they owe to those, God hath committed to their charge; the first we would name is prayer for them and with them—when you cannot hope to benefit them by instruction, you may hope, by the prayer, of Faith to pull down blessings on them. We have great encouragement from God’s promises when we cry, that he will answer, Let it rest deep on our spirit, that we are under an awful responsibility on their account and then we shall seize the earliest opportunity to impress their minds with the same. Abraham prayed for Ishmael—Noah made an altar to the name of the Lord—Job was an eminent example of daily family religion, and God’s answer was a remarkable and is a special encouragement to go and do likewise. We know not what Providence or occurrences are at the door, but well know our children need religion in life and death and none but God can bestow it upon them. *As to the time when to begin instruction it is not easy to fix, as some are capable of receiving instruction much sooner than others;*