

ware of these rocks of fanaticism and antinomianism, while we should equally fear to build our house on the quicksand of cold formality, having the form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. Need we to observe, that a mistake on what is the ground of a sinner's acceptance with God, is fatal in its consequences, and however right we may be in every thing else, if wrong here, all will be wrong; for however stately and fair the edifice may appear, if the foundation be not sure, it shall fall, and great will be the fall thereof. Let us then be careful that we get on the sure foundation, the chief corner stone, sufficient for the support of all God's elect. In fine, let us not trust to our feelings or our fancies, but to the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, being persuaded that in him *only* is God the Father well pleased.

WE would next call your attention to the effects of that Faith, which purifies the heart, and works by love, the Apostle James says—"shew me your faith without your works, and I will shew you my faith by my works;" Know ye not Brethren, that Faith without works is dead, being alone. Practical godliness is we fear, too much neglected among us: can it be said of any of us, we say, and do not, and what do we more than others? Brethren let us cultivate a closer walk with God; let us aim in the first place at personal holiness, remembering it is written, "Be ye holy for I am holy."

To you who are heads of Families we would earnestly recommend, to fill that important trust committed to your charge; have you not in degree to fill the office of a Prophet, to instruct? of a Priest, to offer up sacrifice on the great Altar that sanctifieth the gift? and of a King, to see that the commands of him, in whom the whole family in Heaven and earth are named be observed? Let it not be said that the Baptist people neglect to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: what though we durst not prostitute any ordinance of the Gospel, though we refuse to comply with the Antiscriptural example of other professing denominations of Christians, shall we not be careful both by precept and example to instruct those committed to our charge? let it rather be our determination through grace, like good old Joshua, let others do as they will, as for us and our houses we will serve the Lord.

WE would next call your attention to the duty of reading the Holy Scriptures; let the word of God dwell in you richly, make it the man of your counsel, the guide of your steps: how shall we be able to give to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is within us, *if ignorant of the Scriptures of Truth*? This is that sword of the spirit, which when rightly wielded, will put our enemies to silence and to flight; remember that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly finished unto every good work.

THERE is another evil that we can by no means sanction among us, as being pernicious and demoralizing in its practice; equally opposed to the Laws of our Country, and our God, that is *Smuggling*. Surely our Brethren need not be informed, that a person carrying on such an illicit practice, is as absolutely a subject for discipline in a Church of Christ as the openly profane.

THERE is yet another evil too apparent among us, and which gives us considerable pain to be under the necessity of taking notice of, that is *neglect in supporting the Gospel*; are not many of your Ministers in such straitened circumstances as to be obliged to entangle themselves too much with the affairs of this world, in order to provide for the temporal wants of themselves and families, thereby greatly hindering their usefulness, paralyzing their exertions, and preventing them from devoting that time to the important work in which they are engaged, as often overwhelms them with anguish, seeing they cannot give themselves wholly to the work, that their profiting may appear unto all men. Surely Brethren we need not remind you, that God has ordained, that those who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel.

WE would just observe as it respects the Deacon's Office, that their business is not merely to attend to the spiritual wants of the Churches, but ra-