

receiving visits from your friends, or reading newspapers. On the contrary, you will eagerly embrace every opportunity of meeting with God in that house which he has established on earth, and yours will be the language of the Psalmist, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." "Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth."

V. Remember your Pastor in your prayers, at a Throne of Grace. Even the Apostle Paul, with all his powers and endowments, felt his need of the prayers of those among whom he labored. Your Pastor has no miraculous gifts; he is encompassed with many infirmities; he is engaged in a work which is unspeakably arduous; the office to which you have called him involves a heavy responsibility, and he is entirely dependent on divine aid, that he may be enabled to discharge with success his various and important duties. Let these considerations excite you to pray daily for his personal welfare and his public usefulness. Sustain him by your continual importunity at a throne of grace, that he may come to you in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of peace. This exercise will also prepare you for waiting on his ministry with pleasure and with profit. Your kindly feelings towards his person, his character, and station, will then be fostered; and also those religious sentiments, under the influence of which his instructions, his exhortations, and warnings should be received. This exercise will increase your love to his public ministrations, his official and friendly visits, his expressions of joy on your progress in the divine life, and even the reproofs which he administers when you are surprised into sin, or overtaken in a fault. To know that he labors among a praying people, is also a great encouragement and consolation to a minister of the gospel. This will spur him on to diligence in his private studies, and in his public labors. It will refresh his spirit amid his difficulties and under his sorrows. And should he at any time meet with ingratitude or unkindness elsewhere, the supplications of his own attached flock, to God, in his behalf, will support and soothe him. You may, then, suppose him at this moment addressing to you, through me, the request, "Now, I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; that I may be delivered from them that do not believe; and that my service may be accepted of the saints; that I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed." "And for