

further still. She had not yet found rest, the seeking soul will not have true rest and enjoy that peace of God that passeth understanding, until there is close union with Christ; and this will only be obtained and enjoyed as we follow the truth to be gathered from the opening verses of the third chapter. The washing, anointing, putting on of raiment, waiting until the barley was winnowed, lying down meekly at the feet of Boaz, here seems to show, in a type, how ready Ruth was to prepare herself for her kinsman's blessing, or an entire willingness to surrender herself to him; what may be also expressed in the words 'true repentance' of soul. To a believer this communion with Christ is a fellowship that is the beginning of heaven upon earth, even now, while we are in the flesh; but this will only be obtained, and retained, as we are willing to wash ourselves with water by the Word of God (see *Ephesians* v. 26); a constant washing and judging of ourselves, a constant confession of sin to our Lord. Many are content to ask daily for *forgiveness* of sin, but forget the confession of it,—a very different, and far more difficult and heart-searching effort. The true child of God needs not to ask for forgiveness of sins, he has God's Word for his authority for knowing them to be already blotted out. If he has once passed under the blood of Christ, then he is purged for ever—there is no more *conscience* of sin, there is no *condemnation* (see *Psalms* ciii. 12; *Romans* viii. 1; *Hebrews* x. 2, 14; *1 John* ii. 12; etc.). But if we do not confess our daily sins, then that blessed communion with our God will be broken, as it is