

Christ's commandments, without the life of Christ dwelling in us, whatsoever opinions we entertain of him, Christ is but only named by us, he is not known.

I speak not here against a free and ingenuous enquiry into all truth, according to our several abilities and opportunities ; I plead not for the captivating and intralling of our judgments to the dictates of men ; I do not disparage the natural improvement of our understanding faculties by true knowledge, which is so noble and gallant a perfection of the mind ; but the thing which I aim against is, the dispiriting of the life and vigour of our religion by dry speculations, and making it nothing but a mere dead skeleton of opinions, a few dry bones without any flesh and sinews tied up together, and the misplacing of all our zeal upon an eager prosecution of these, which should be spent to better purpose upon other objects.

Knowledge indeed is a thing far more excellent than riches, outward pleasures, worldly dignities, or any thing else in the world besides holiness, and the conformity of our wills to the will of God : but yet our happiness consisteth not in it, but in a certain divine temper and constitution of a soul which is far above it.

But it is a piece of that corruption that runneth through human nature, that we naturally prize truth more than goodness; knowledge more than holiness. We think it a gallant thing to be fluttering up to heaven with our wings of knowledge and speculation : whereas the highest mystery of a divine life here, and of perfect happiness hereafter, consisteth in nothing but mere obedience to the divine will. Happiness is nothing but that inward sweet delight that will arise from the harmonious agreement between our wills and God's will.